

Christ Church Parish

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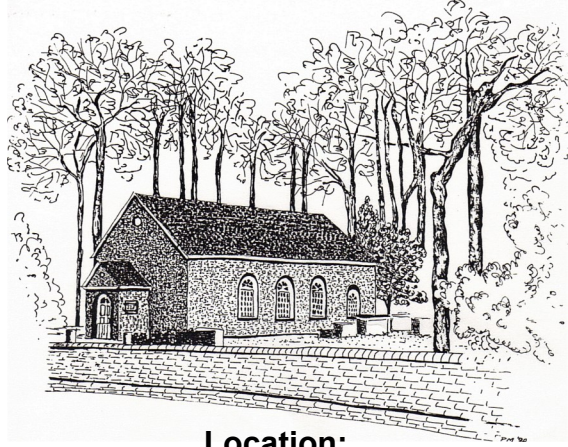
Post Office Box 476, Saluda, VA 23149



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT No. 6

December
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. Randi Hicks Rowe,
Priest in Charge
The Rev. Bob Prichard, Ph.D.,
priest Associate
The Rev. Deacon Peggy Moncure



The Christ Church Parish

Messenger

December 2024



“Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.”

The Lord



be with you.

From Rev. Randi Hicks Rowe, Priest in Charge

We have had a wonderful fall so far. The Oyster Festival booth was a great success, as was the talk by Heath Hardige Lee and all the Veteran’s Day festivities. All the veterans enjoyed the delicious meal and the camaraderie.

The first Taizé service was also successful. The young people from Christchurch School were very engaged and felt comfortable with us. We will do a Taizé on the second Sunday of each month during the school year. The next Taizé service will be on December 8th.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with any of our programs this fall. These programs let others in the community know that we care and support them. The Oyster Festival also provides us with funds that we use for our ministries.

The rest of the fall will continue to be lively. Advent begins right after Than-- on December 1st, this year. I am looking forward to the Live Nativity and the

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Wednesday night Advent dinners. This year, we only have three Wednesdays in Advent because Christmas Day falls on a Wednesday. As you know, Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation for the Coming of Jesus. At the Advent dinners, I will present a modified instructional Eucharist. It is modified in the sense that I will not go through the whole service and explanations in one setting. Rather, I will give an introduction and discuss the Liturgy of the Word at the first session; talk about the components of the Eucharistic prayers at the second session; and then we will do a table Eucharist, with brief explanation, at the last session. I hope to see everyone there.

Randi+

Let us give thanks



Although our esteemed editor notes this as our December newsletter, I think we may be reading this before Thanksgiving. In that light, I was reflecting on all of the people and events for which I give thanks this year. For good friends who will respond in a minute when I have any need. For the opportunity to travel with my son and my friends and delight in new experiences. For pretty good health. For our new priest-in-charge who brings new energy and ideas. For all the beloved family of Christ Church. For this, and so much more, I give thanks.

Respectfully,

Grace
Vergers



Fellow Parishioners,

As I mentioned in my October article in this very newsletter, I was extremely excited and anxious to participate in two Christ Church events in the month of November. The anticipation and planning were coming to a peak in early November for the Urbanna Oyster Festival and later in the month the highly anticipated Veterans Luncheon on Veterans Day in the Parish Hall. Two days before the Oyster Festival, I, along with a few other Brotherhood members were having a few anxious moments having to do with the weather, available volunteers to assist in our booth as well as the attendance at the festival. In hindsight, I can see now that my worries were for naught! I can honestly say that I was surprised and pleased at the wonderful turnout that we had at the Oyster Festival for all types of help. On both days we had ample assistance from our parishioners, Christ Church students, friends, relatives, and the Boy Scouts. It has been said that many hands make the load easier, in this case it was a breeze! This year we expect that we were very successful and once all of our costs are recorded, we will announce the results. From the laughter, smiles, and arduous work that I witnessed, I can honestly say this was an enormous success! Thank you all for your help, great fellowship, and a few days of wholesome fun!

Veterans Day was an enormous success again, thanks to the Fellowship Team led by MaryLynn and Bev. Hart. There were about 104 Veterans that registered for the event and again all enjoyed their time in the Parish Hall. This year author Heath Lee was our guest speaker who discussed her book, *The League of Wives*. A poignant and important story that Ms. Lee authored detailing how a number of the wives of the missing POWS from the Vietnam war, banded together to take

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on the US Government and to demand the release of their husbands, who had been in captivity for so many years. The discussion was brilliant and the veterans in the audience found the topic both interesting and did not hesitate to have an active open discussion. I found myself fully engrossed in the event as the food was great, the comradery was wonderful, and the subject matter was still very fresh in many of our minds. In addition, the patriotic music arranged by Libby Boyer and the wonderful voice of our own Rick Smith made for a great afternoon. I am not sure if we can ever top this event, it was truly a great afternoon. Thank you all for your participation, to the caterers, runners, servers, clean-up crew, car parkers and ticket takers, it was again a great Christ church moment!

Stay tuned for December as we have many events planned for the holidays. Starting with the live Nativity, Advent, Christmas, and many, many more events, as we look forward to sharing the holiday season with our Christ Church family.

Faithfully,

William Budd
Senior Warden



Calling all women of Christ Church Parish!

Please join us for the annual ECW Luncheon
On Tuesday, December 10th at 11:30 a.m.
at the home of Mary Lynn Landgraf. 35 Wares Bridge Rd.
Church View, VA

Our special speaker will be Rev. Randi Rowe! Bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet on the ECW bulletin board.

DIRECTIONS: Traveling north on Rt 17 from Saluda, turn left onto Wares Bridge Dr. Hermitage Baptist Church will be on your right and Mary Lynn's house will be the left. Use the 1st driveway on the left.

◀ November	December 2024					January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am	2	3 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	4 Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 am Christian Education 10:15 am Westminster Canterbury Eucharist 11:00 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Advent Dinner 5:30 pm.	5 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	6 CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm LIVE NATIVITY 5:00 pm — 7:00 pm	7 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am—12 noon
8 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am Brotherhood Breakfast 9:00 am Taizé Service 7:00 pm	9	10 ECW Luncheon 11:30 am Endowment Committee 10:00 am AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm	11 Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 am Outreach 10:15 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Advent Dinner 5:30 pm.	12 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	13 Finance Committee 9:30 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	14
15 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am	16 Elephant Committee 10:00 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	17 Tech Team 11:30 am AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm Vestry 1:30 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	18 Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 am Christian Education 10:15 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Advent Dinner 5:30 pm.	19 Fellowship 9:30 am AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	20	21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice) Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am—12 noon
22 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am	23 Newsletter Submission Deadline	24 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30 pm—Carols 5:00 pm Eucharist	25 CHRISTMAS Eucharist 10:00 am Church Office Closed	26 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	27	28
29 Holy Eucharist 8:00 am Lessons & Carols Services 10:30 am	30	31 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm				



Reverend Randi reports that the first monthly Taizé Service on November 10th was very successful. This service with students and staff of Christchurch School will take place on the second Sunday of every month at 7pm. All Church members are invited to attend.

Alyson Holt continues her work with the Creation Care Garden as part of our Outreach Ministry. She is exploring funding sources for materials to maintain and upgrade the garden. She needs many more volunteers. Please contact Alyson if you can help with this worthwhile project.

Lindsay Atkins reports that the “Young Professionals Group” enjoyed meeting on October 16th in the Fellowship Hall. If you know of any “youngish” (25+) individuals who might be interested in participating, let Lindsay know.

LIVE NATIVITY

Over the past several years, Christ Church has provided a wonderful live Nativity for our church members and the community. This depiction of Bethlehem the night Jesus was born has offered an interactive display where people can observe Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Shepards, Wisemen and Angels surrounded by assorted livestock. We sing carols, enjoy hot cider and cookies and enjoy each other’s company for one evening. After this evening has passed, the stable is illuminated each night, but it sits empty, with nothing to view, until this year....

The Outreach Ministry was fortunate to connect with a local woodworker, Henry Smith, and beginning this year, due to Henry’s efforts, we will have four silhouettes of Jesus in the manger, Mary, Joseph and the Angel Gabriel! Henry is

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also the Boatyard Manager at The Boatyard at Christchurch. He donated his time and materials to make these beautiful silhouettes for all to enjoy so, if you know Henry or meet him one day, please thank him for his time, skills and efforts!

These silhouette figures will be placed in the stable December 1st for Advent and through the Christmas season.

Our Live Nativity this year will be on Friday, December 6th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. (Rain date is December 13th). Join us and bring your friends and neighbors for this joyous evening. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Judy Quilter.

COLLECTIONS

You will notice two collection boxes in the front hallway this year.

” Toys for Tots” is an annual event sponsored by the United States Marine Corps. Please donate some new, unwrapped toys for this very worthwhile project. Toys must be delivered by December 14th.

This year we are supporting Philippi Christian Church in Deltaville with the collection of gently worn shoes of any type (men’s, women’s, children’s) for the Avalon Center that supports victims and survivors of domestic violence in the greater Williamsburg and Middle Peninsula communities. Please donate by December 14th.

COOKIES, COOKIES, AND MORE COOKIES...

We have two final events this year where cookies are needed. The first is the “Live Nativity on December 6th. The second is the Christmas Carol Service at Christchurch School. We are asking for cookies to be medium-sized and packaged in twos. The cookies leftover from the Nativity will be frozen and used for the service at Christchurch School. Please drop off cookies to the Church kitchen by noon on December 6th. As always, we are thankful for All Our Bakers!!!

Susie Loustaunau and Pam McClelland, Co-Chairs

Affiliated article on next page

Advent and Christmas Nativity

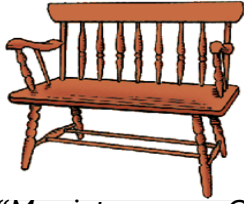
Figures

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Tom Clarke
The Outreach Ministry Team





From the Deacon's Bench

“My sister, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.” (BCP, p544)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The words above were spoken to me at my ordination. I reflect on them often and especially after our recent Diocesan Annual Convention. I and many of my fellow deacons discussed how, given that the ministry of a deacon is still fairly new in this diocese, many who we serve do not know what our ministry is all about and what we as deacons are truly called to do. The above words from our Book of Common Prayer give a good example of that call.

We were told in Deacon's School that we were to go out into the world and find what was needed and then bring those needs back to the church and call others to help. I was not worried about the “go out and find” part. My earliest memories as a child are about how my parents taught me to look for those in need and help them. I was a little concerned about the “call others to help” part. I have been in many places where that was a difficult job. Well, I was soon to find out that it would not be difficult at Christ Church Parish. Y'all are awesome!!! Whenever I have suggested a new diaconal ministry, multitudes of people are right there to serve. Thank you!!!!

Yes, we are ALL called to serve. There are many ways to serve. We are now in the midst of a season where the need is great and presents itself in many different ways.

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Let us each look out into the world and see what we are called to do. Let us help each other to accomplish that call and make the world brighter for those who need our help. Together, with God’s help, we can do this.

Peace, Peg+

“...and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you always;” (Isaiah 10-11, NIV)



ENDOWMENT BOARD

Qualified Charitable Distributions



The Internal Revenue Service reminds individual retirement arrangement (IRA) owners age 70½ and older that they can make up to \$105,000 in tax-free charitable donations during 2024 through qualified charitable distributions. That’s up from \$100,000 in past years.

For those age 73 or older, qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) also count toward the year's required minimum distribution (RMD).

Generally, IRA distributions are taxable, but QCDs remain tax-free if sent directly to a qualified charity by the trustee. To make a QCD for 2024, IRA owners should contact their IRA trustee soon to ensure the transaction completes by year-end.

Each eligible IRA owner can exclude up to \$105,000 in QCDs from taxable income, combined. QCDs don’t require itemizing deductions.

For 2024, QCDs should be reported on the 2024 tax return. Donors must obtain a written acknowledgement from the charity showing the contribution date, amount and confirmation that no goods or services were received.

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

Christ Church Parish Endowment Board

Jack Hellems, Chair

The Reverend Randi Hicks Rowe, Priest In Charge

Bill Budd, Senior Warden, Jeanette Adkins, Jim Knupp



Dear Christ Church Family,

Barbara Cockrell and I, Kathy Clarke, are in the process of pulling together the schedule for Ushers for the 10:30 services for December 2024 and for the year 2025. We have been very fortunate to have had so many wonderful volunteers for this ministry in the past and we hope that many of you will be willing to continue to help this coming year.

If you are already part of this ministry, please be looking at your calendars for dates that are best for you to help. Barbara or I will be in touch in the coming weeks to find out what works for you, or feel free to give either of us a call, **especially** if you can help in December.

We would absolutely love to hear from any of our church family if you think that you might like to join us and be a part of this important service. If you have never ushered before, please don't let that stop you! Barbara and I plan to have a quick training sometime in January. Please contact either Kathy Clarke at 804-466-0678 or Barbara Cockrell at 804-824-4897 if you would like to help or have any questions!

Thank you all so much.

Cathy Clarke



Tidal Wave of Good Vibes and Advent Action

In the final calendar month of 2024, we find ourselves with countless reasons for gratitude and a positive outlook into the New Year! We have been successful thus far in showcasing our CCP as a vibrant, warm and welcoming church home for all residents of Middlesex County and beyond.

Through activities for CCP members, friends and the community at large, we have invited and welcomed many non- parishioners to events at the church. The Southside Sentinel has echoed our efforts through excellent exposure in their weekly newspaper. Events include the new CCP sign dedication, Father Stuart's Farewell dinner and party, The Marine Corps Run, the arrival of the Reverend Randi Rowe and most recently our two-day Veterans Weekend with the lecture by Author and Historian Heath Hardage Lee on Sunday and the ever-popular Veterans Day Luncheon on Monday, November 11th. As you may know, we have created a video of CCP and Middlesex County Veterans in our Gallery of Heroes presentation. Set to music, this continuous loop patriotic archival video will keep alive our heroes names and their valor for decades to come. We will continue to add new faces in profiles of Veterans each year. Forms are available for the 2025 additions!

A resounding hoorah to all the helping hands that made the Veterans Weekend a countywide success. We must mention the tireless work of our Tech team members who made us "wired up and fired up:" Ann de Peyster, Greg Grichtmeier, Mike Floyd, Jack Fackler: Communications team: Lindsay Adkins and Mike Floyd , Clayton Neal and our Fellowship team members Jeanette Adkins and Ann Wilcox; Co-Chair Bev Hart secured substantial funding for the event, 48 door prizes, and worked specifically with our kitchen team staff, Evie Wilton, Ginger Hellems, Judy Quilter, John Quilter, Bill Budd, Grace Parker, Kathy Clarke, Jeannie Alcott and Gail

Butler: also Thanks to Anne Baltrusaitis, Counselor at Middlesex High School , for securing such a competent team of 12 servers and the ROTC Color Guard team. A round of applause to Donna Goodman, owner of Goodman’s Fine Catering, LLC and her team for the rave review meal. The floral touch was offered by Harriette Floyd. Barbara Shaw took reservations and Susie Loustaunau and Pam McClelland handled registration while the Parking Committee, Dave South, Henry Moncure and Charlie Adkins, helped with parking the Vets cars and assistance with mobility issues to the Parish Hall. Libbie Boyer, Parish Music Director, and Vocalist, Rick Smith presented toe tapping, sing along patriotic music. The Reverend Randi Rowe offered a universal prayer for Veterans service and a blessing for the fine meal and camaraderie. Author Heath Lee gave an insightful lecture on “The League of Wives” book followed by a rousing Q&A. Book sales were handled by John Kauffman and Debbie Clevenger. Smiles and good humor were the operative words of the luncheon interspersed with pensive moments and deep reflection. All church parishioners can proudly say that we “gave back to our Veterans with the gift of time, appreciation, respect, admiration and love.”

The first Advent dinner is Wednesday, December 4th at 5:30 in Parish Hall. Our theme this year is Advent and Christmas in Austria. Austrian cuisine and customs will be featured. We will also show the Gallery of Heroes video so all of us can see our friends and loved ones in the video.

Please sign up in advance on the sheet in the hall. We will then know for how many to prepare.

On December 24th immediately after The Christmas Eve service, our committee will serve hot cider and cookies as you exit the church. Hot cider, holiday smiles and good cheer are on the menu. Join us for cheer and good wishes.

Remember we pray where we play!

Happy Holidays from your Fellowship Committee: Ann Wilcox, Clayton Neal, Jeanette Adkins, Bev Hart and Mary Lynn Landgraf



Special December Celebrations

Anniversaries



22 *Ray & Martha Stokes*
29 *Chip & Jean Holt*
31 *Jeff & Barbara Shaw*
George & Sandy Sturgill

Birthdays

3 *Anne Donoff*
Mary Anne Harris-White
4 *Barbee Phipps*
6 *Jean Holt*
Ellie Wilton
7 *Jim Hill*
10 *Marilyn South*
Jackie Gahan
11 *Susan Hilliard*
12 *Don Harris*
15 *Ann Padgett*
19 *Joe Jones*
Mary Lynn Landgraf
24 *Suzanne Berry*
28 *Bill Snider*
29 *Priscilla Johnson*
30 *Darby Lancaster*
31 *John Gammel*





Mid-week Eucharist

Please remember that we have a midweek 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.

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</u>
January 2025	December 23, 2024
February 2025	January 24, 2025
March 2025	February 21, 2025
April 2025	March 21, 2025
May 2025	April 25, 2025
June 2025	May 23, 2025
July 2025	June 20, 2025
August 2025	July 25, 2025
September 2025	August 22, 2025
October 2025	September 19, 2025
November 2025	October 24, 2025
December 2025	November 14, 2025
January 2026	December 26, 2025

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.