

Christ Church Parish

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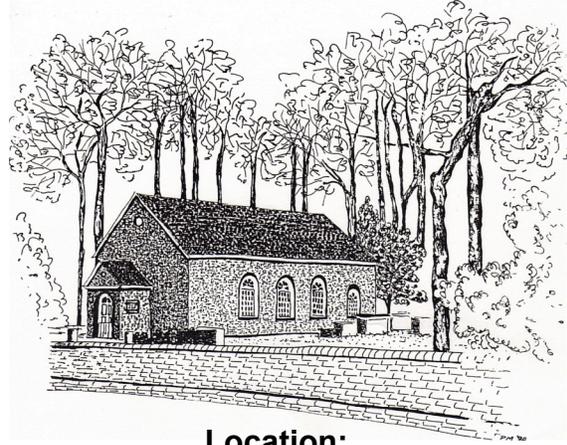
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January
2023

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 January 2023

Message From Our Rector



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and **renew a right spirit within me**. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. (Psalm 51:11-13)

As we enter into this new year of 2023, my thoughts turn to renewal. The psalmist's prayer to God was "**renew a right spirit with me.**" How often do we make New Year's resolutions in the hope of turning over a new leaf and starting off the new year with a clean slate. Maybe we hope to lose those extra pounds that we put on between Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's day; or maybe we resolve to pray more, give more, and be more regular in our church attendance; or possibly we strive to be nicer to those around us and give more time to our family and friends. I could go on, but you get the point, the New Year often encourages us to renew our commitment to some important aspect of our lives.

On the very first Sunday after the Epiphany, we are asked to renew the solemn promises that were made at our baptisms as we recall our Lord's own baptism in the Jordan River. Those who have been married for many years, or who have gone through a period of turmoil in their marriage may wish to renew their marriage vows recommitting their love to each other. And clergy: bishops, priests, and deacons, will often meet for a service during Holy Week to renew their ordination vows.

Renewal comes in many different ways and one of the ways that our Lord modeled it for us is prayer. Throughout the Gospel narrative, we have references to Jesus going up on the mountain by himself, or withdrawing to a lonely place, a quiet place, or a solitary place to pray and be renewed.

This past Fall you all gave me that opportunity to get away for a while during my sabbatical where I could take in the beauty of God's creation, the history of the Church and some of its saints, and to experience beautiful liturgy and singing in new ways on a daily basis. It was truly a renewing experience that tested me physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It allowed me to meet new people and renew old friendships and I was very grateful for the hospitality of strangers in East Sussex, England and Dublin, Ireland for opening up their homes to me. And I am so thankful to our dear friend Nigel and his wife for their generous hospitality during my stay in London. I will never be able to adequately thank everyone for this opportunity because it was truly renewing.

But renewal isn't something that just happens. It takes a desire to change or to recommit. It takes work and planning. And even then, we often fail because we try to do it all on our own. The Psalmist knew what he was talking about when he prayed, "Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit." The Psalmist knew that he couldn't do it on his own but that he needed the aid of God's Spirit to get him to his goal. We need to accept our limitations, not give up, but instead commit to renewal saying, "Yes I can do it, with God's help."

May this New Year of 2023 be a year of renewal for each and every one of you in whatever way you hear God calling you to.

Faithfully,

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.



From the Deacon's Bench

Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing (NRSV, Psalm 100:2)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Please mark your calendars and consider helping us with Fine Arts Camp 2023. The date for that event is **June 19-25**. There are many jobs that we need help with. Some folks help all week and others help for a day or two. **ALL** help is needed and appreciated. I am currently working with my camp staff to make plans. More information to follow and a volunteer sign-up sheet will be made available.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (NIV, Genesis 2:15)

Once again, thanks to all of you who have been so positive and helpful with our Creation Care Project. Plans are in motion to get started soon. **We will have an informational meeting at 9:15 on Sunday, January 22nd** to answer questions about this important project. If you have signed up to help or are interested in helping, please join us for this meeting. If you cannot attend at that time, please contact me with your offers of help or with your questions. (peggy_moncure@live.com or 804-869-3867). You may also fill out the form on the next page and return it to me.

Thanks for all you do,

Peg+

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Name _____

I am interested in helping in the following ways with the Christ Church Parish Creation Care Project: (This is not a commitment. We would just like to know who is interested in this ministry)

- ___ Planting and Gardening Advisor (someone with a green thumb 😊)
- ___ Donate seeds and/or plants
- ___ Donate dirt, mulch, and other supplies
- ___ Help build raised beds
- ___ Water the garden
- ___ Harvesting crops and delivering to Cryer Center
- ___ “Adopt” a raised bed (sponsor in memory or in honor of someone)
- ___ Help scouts (Eagle Scout Projects) and Christchurch students who sign up
- ___ Help construct a fence
- ___ Contact a beekeeper to set up a hive
- ___ Weed garden (not really a lot of work with raised bed)
- ___ Site planning (Where is the best place on our property?)
- ___ Harvest and wrap flowers
- ___ Photography (start to finish for our archives and newspaper articles)
- ___ Flower Garden Advisor (best types of flowers to plant)
- ___ Other Suggestions _____

◀ December	January 2023						February ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	2	3 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	4 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	5 Outreach Committee 9:30 am AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	6 EPHIPHANY YOGA 10:00 am	7	
8 Parish Breakfast 9:00-10:00 am Holy Eucharist Joint Service 10:00 am Congregational Meeting 11:00 am Celtic Service 5:00 pm	9	10 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	11 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	12 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	13 YOGA 10:00 am	14	
15 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Brotherhood Breakfast 9:00 am	16 Elephant Committee 9:30 am	17 Finance Committee 9:30 am Vestry 1:00 pm AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	18 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	19 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	20 YOGA 10:00 am	21	
22 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Creation Care Project Q & A 9:15 am	23	24 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	25 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	26 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	27 YOGA 10:00 am	28	
29 Holy Eucharist Service 800 am Morning Prayer and Eucharist 10:30 am	30	31 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm					

OUTREACH MINISTRY



First, a special thanks for the effort put forth by the many members of the congregation who made this year's Live Nativity a resounding success. From the men who assembled the stable and animal enclosure on a cold windy day to the costumed participants and carolers who braved a chilly (but dry) evening for whom we are very grateful. No doubt, the two charming sheep and the fire pit were big draws, but the engagement with the community really spoke to our mission. We would also like to acknowledge the owners of Bentwaters Farm in Mathews for the loan of "Brillo" and "Loner" who joined us for the evening, and Lower United Methodist Church for the loan of their luminaria. We continue to receive compliments about the event reflecting a meaningful part of the Christmas Season.

December was an outstanding month in other ways. Several members of our church came on short notice to help paint the interior of Habitat for Humanity's newest home. The list of willing parishioners on the Habitat sign up sheet in the Parish Hall is awesome. We understand more notice of specific help wanted and when would be ideal, and we will work with Greg Chambers to try to achieve that. All we can say now is that as of this report the current home is moving along with assistance still need to paint interior trim. Flooring and cabinets are soon to be installed. Call Clayton (804-921-6540) if you have questions about any of this.

Our Adopt a Family Christmas gift program focused on 8-year old twins, a boy and a girl, identified specifically for us by Social Services. Our veteran shoppers always report how enjoyable and meaningful this is for them and for the families. We also responded to an unusual request from Christchurch School to help provide clothing for a new student from Uganda who arrived with very little in her suitcase. We have connected her with the Cryer Center's Clothing Closet. Fr. Stuart has also offered to contribute as necessary toward new clothing.

Deacon Peg will become our Outreach Ministry chair effective January 2023. After two years of chairing Outreach Judy Quilter step back but will continue to remain active in Outreach. If you have any inclination to join us or have any ideas for outreach to our community please do not hesitate to contact Peg or anyone else in this Ministry. We look forward to another good year for this Ministry.



“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.”

The last Vestry meeting of the year was today. The 2022 Vestry did a fabulous job of leading us out of the Covid shutdown. They did this with a spirit of fellowship, concern, and enthusiasm. They handled each problem and project with an upbeat “can do” attitude. I personally want to thank each member for their leadership this year. I have never been part of a more cohesive group that never lost track of the goal of making our church a place of joyful worship, service, and fellowship.

As my tenure as Senior Warden draws to an end, I want to thank all of you who serve on the committees and ministries. As I prepare the Annual Senior Warden report, it is almost impossible to believe that we have accomplished so many things this year. From the Fine Arts Camp to the Oyster Festival Booth, we have had fun while serving our community. I have had the support of so many great people around me, too many to name individually. However, I must thank a great Junior Warden, a fabulous Parish administrator, the most supportive Deacon, and our wonderful Rector. So many of you have been there at every turn and every project and I cannot thank you enough. I have truly enjoyed every day of my tenure on the Vestry and as Senior Warden. I look forward to remaining active in other ways in the future.

This last newsletter article would not be complete without a review of a very busy December and a few upcoming events. We began December with several members of the congregation attending and participating in the consecration of Bishop Mark Stevenson. The very next day we celebrated together the dedication of our new sign, our first annual Homecoming service, and the return of Father Stuart from his sabbatical and ended with a wonderful potluck lunch. We had a wonderful Live Nativity with caroling around a fire. It was a huge success with so many members of the local community attending. We prepared for Christmas with Advent dinners, Toys for Tots, Habitat for Humanity and providing for a family through Christmas

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Friends. We finish the month with our beautiful Christmas Eve service and Christmas Day service. In January mark your calendar. On January 8th we will have a congregational breakfast at 9 AM, our service at 10 AM followed by the annual congregational meeting. Please plan on attending. Later that night we will have a Celtic Service at 5:00 PM. This is always a beautiful and moving service.

Last month, I mentioned that the new director of Shrine Mont was from Middlesex County. I did not realize that James Williams not only is from Middlesex but was a longtime acolyte at Christ Church along with his twin brother. James and John also attended our Homecoming service in December. We are so proud of James and John Williams. I am so glad that I now know the whole story.

In closing, thank you for letting me serve as your Senior Warden. It was a great year concluding a wonderful three years on the Vestry.

Faithfully,
Jeannette



from the Junior Warden's Workbench

Reflecting back on 2022 as Jr Warden was a great opportunity and experience to learn about the inner workings of the Church and our Parish Hall. The majority of this newly acquired knowledge is because of my mentor, John Quilter, and our Building and Grounds team. Thanks, everyone!

With New Year's blessings to all.

Betsy



Catechism Corner

Mission: A small corner of faith, understanding and education

Worship Leaders Wear Vestments

Clergy, choirs, and acolytes usually wear special clothes called vestments. Clergy typically wear a white robe -an alb -for the service of the Eucharist. White represents purity. Some wear a chasuble (similar to a cape) over the alb. Other times, service leaders wear a white vestment, called a surplice, worn over a darker-colored robe, called a cassock. Clergy stoles (a long scarf draped around the neck and over the shoulders) and altar hangings (textiles covering the altar) reflect the color of the church seasons.

These colors offer a visual reminder of what we are experiencing spiritually. For instance, during Advent, purple or blue altar hangings are used to symbolize royalty, as we await the King of Kings. Red is used at Pentecost to symbolize the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Vestments can help bring order to worship by keeping us from being distracted by what service participants are wearing. The personalities of the clergy, choir members, acolytes, and other ministers are, in effect, submerged behind vestments so that the congregation focuses on God, not the service participants. In faith, Miles Libbey (Adapted from www.forwardmovement.org)

VESTRY CANDIDATES

Biography William Alan Budd

PO Box 10, 35 Wares Bridge Road, Church View, VA 23032

Cell – 571-332-9259 budd2006@comcast.net

Over 45 years of experience in conducting international business, marketing, and promotion for domestic and international strategic metals and graphite applications. Conceived, developed, and executed domestic and global sales strategies/promotions from conceptual stages to final development of operational sales organization. Extensive domestic and international travel experience in over 40 countries promoting United States mills' metals products, casting services, and graphite applications by opening new markets and establishing domestic and international distributorships. Excellent communication skills, successful manager of international agents, and a skilled negotiator in closing the deal.

I have worked for SGL Carbon Technic as a North American Sales Manager, Today's Metals LLC as an International Consultant (company owned by myself) Hi-Tech Welding and Forming as a Vice President of Marketing/Sales and ATI (Allegheny Technologies Inc) as International Sales Director of Titanium and Zirconium Casting Applications. I have authored numerous technical papers and have presented at many conferences, seminars, and exhibitions

I am retired from the industrial world however my wife Mary Lynn and myself are co-owners of a Bed and Breakfast located in Church View named Southern Sighs Inn.

To be considered as a member of the Vestry of Christ Church Parish is indeed an honor and a responsibility not to be taken lightly. I believe I have the skills that would be required to ensure that Christ Church Parish continues to grow, is properly managed, and is properly positioned for many years to come. It is not just important to be a good manager, have a good knowledge of fiscal responsibility, and to be able to be flexible and face situations as they arise. I believe I have these traits, I am fiscally responsible, have led numerous divisions of large and small companies, I understand the operations of large and small operations, and feel I would be a very good candidate for the Vestry. There are other not normally seen traits that would also make me a good candidate and probably these are the traits that I feel are most important. I am a good communicator, but more importantly a good listener. I am a self-starter and am not afraid to get my hands dirty and I am compassionate and enjoy the company of our

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parishioners and Clergy. I have no set agenda and will have to be trusted that I will perform to the best of my abilities facing each situation straightforward with Christs' guiding hand. I am excited and anxiously looking forward to this new challenge should I be confirmed as a new Vestry member.

Scott Holt

Coming to Christ Church has been a great blessing to me. I have shared with many of you that getting to know people and helping them has been my life's passion. I look forward to bringing forward the vision of this parish and helping to connect people in our community to our parish.

While working in engineering throughout my career, I was primarily involved in helping people work together for a common purpose. I often had the task of completing projects to "get the job done." I believe these skills will be important and I look forward to being a part of the Vestry at CCP. I am thankful and honored to be asked to serve on the Vestry.

Henry Moncure

I was born and raised in Fredericksburg, VA. While growing up, I was a member of Aquia Episcopal Church. I joined Christ Church last year having transferred from Ware Episcopal Church. While at Ware Church, I was on Vestry for 6 years serving as Junior Warden for 5 of those years. I am currently Treasurer of the Episcopal Upper Tidewater Region Council.

In May 1974, I graduated from Virginia Military Institute, and I became a registered Structural Engineer in April of 1978. I worked for various engineering consultant firms until 1990 when I became a project manager for Philip Morris USA. I retired from there in 2007. In 2009, I started a structural consulting business.

Peggy and I purchased our home in Ware Neck in August of 2006. We moved to Gloucester full-time in 2009.

I have also served on the Ware Academy Board of Trustees as chair of the facilities committee. I have been a member of Rotary since 1987 and am currently President of Gloucester Rotary Club.

“Unsung Heroes”



Marilyn South is one of those tireless, behind-the-scenes workers that keep Christ Church a beautiful place to worship. For years, she has scheduled and guided the Altar Guild (which requires great attention to detail) and she regularly fills in when members are away. She does all of this with a great sense of humor, laughing when odd things happen, and keeping spirits light. Here you see her doing deep dusting of chandeliers, so spider webs and dust do not fall on your heads! Thank you, Marilyn!

THE VERGERS VIEW

The view is different!



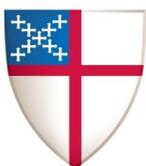
I had the pleasure of worshipping at another Episcopal church this past Sunday, really just as a way of refreshing myself and remembering what it is like to be in the pews and have no other role than a worshipper of Christ. I'd have to say that was pretty wonderful! It's been a long time since I've done that, and perhaps I've grown into the idea that I must be a server every Sunday. It certainly isn't so, and I gained a renewed appreciation of what it means to "let go and let God!"

As we enter the new calendar year, I might have to look at more opportunities to worship without duties. One learns so much in the flow and in experiencing the differences.

However, I don't want to be the one encouraging you to wander far afield, and hope that you will reflect on what I asked last month...do think about taking on a role in service, in any area that suits you. It has real, heartfelt rewards.

Merry Christmas and joy in the New Year.

Verger Grace



THE BROTHERHOOD
OF
CHRIST CHURCH PARISH (EPISCOPAL)



Special January Celebrations

Anniversaries



1 Pete & Judy Mansfield

8 Garry & Micki Clay

16 Robin & Sallie Wells

Birthdays

1 Lurene Samuel

3 Lee Davis

5 Bill Brown

7 Leigh Cros

10 Stuart Wood

13 Garry Clay

Jim Knupp

16 Donna Gates

17 Jerry May

20 Steve Richardson

21 John Hawkins

21 Page Wittkamp

24 Christopher Hamlett

26 Byron Parker

28 Charles Adkins





Special Guests who made an appearance was made at our Live Nativity.

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 2023 are:

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

February 2023	Friday January 27, 2023
March 2023	Monday February 20, 2023
April 2023	Friday March 24, 2023
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
Pictures may also be submitted and will be used on a “space available” basis.