

Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex

Monthly Newsletter January 2024

Message From Our Rector



As I sit here wondering what I should write about, I ask myself the question, “Do I write about Christmas because you will receive this newsletter during the Christmas season, or do I write about Epiphany because that begins on January 6th?” The answer is, “I write about what both of those two seasons mean for us as Christians.”

One morning I was watching the “Today Show” when one of the hosts made reference to the carol, The Twelve Days of Christmas, and inferred that the Twelfth Day of Christmas was Christmas Day. For many people, the Christmas season ends on the 26th of December though some may stretch it out to the 31st. But that means that the poor Wise Men and camels are snugly packed away with the rest of the Nativity set before they should have even appeared at the stable in Bethlehem which is observed on January 6th.

Christmas Day, The Holy Innocents on December 28th, The Holy Name of Our Lord (previously known as the Feast of the Circumcision) on January 1st, and The Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6th all tell the story of our Lord’s incarnation. They point us not only to the redeeming work of our Lord Jesus Christ, but they remind us that the work that this newborn child began has been passed on to each and every one of us.

It wasn’t until Deacon Peg’s last sermon that I remember ever hearing anything written by Howard Washington Thurman. Well, two days later, I heard another poem written by him quoted during the lunch devotion at Christchurch School. So, I looked him up and used his poem “The Work of Christmas” in my chapel meditation on Wednesday morning.

Thurman’s poem goes like this:

“When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.”

The work of Christmas and the seasons that follow all encourage us to embody the good news that the angels sang about and that the Epiphany star illuminated. We are to become the good news that is announced with the birth of Christ. As followers of Christ, we are reminded over and over again that we should always do something to carry forward Jesus’ imperatives.

Too often we shrink back from doing anything because we don’t think our contribution will help anyone, but it does. We may not see it, but someone may be having a better day because you said or did the right thing at the right time, and unbeknownst to you that person was the recipient of your gift.

For example, back in 1816, a Catholic priest in Austria wrote the words to a song. He didn’t write it for us. He wrote it for the people in his parish. He wasn’t trying to do something great. He just wanted to share the peace of Christmas with his parishioners. That song is “Silent Night” or “Stille Nacht.” Think about it, that song is now sung in multiple languages all over the world. A simple gift to his parishioners became a great gift to the world. Joseph Mohr was doing the work of Christmas and unbeknownst to him, we are the recipients of that gift.

As we move through the seasons this year may the Work of Christmas be always in your heart, mind, and actions.

God Bless you,
Stuart +

The Annual Congregational meeting is on January 14. There will be a joint service at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Congregational meeting in the parish hall. There will not be a breakfast before the service and there **will not be** an 8:00 a.m. service

The Discernment Committee will be formally installed by the Wardens at the 10:00 a.m. service.



From the Deacon's Bench

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” 1 Peter 4:10

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you to everyone who donated books to Middlesex Social Services. They will be given to those they serve. Given the fact that many people were very busy during the holidays, we are going to continue collecting them during January. All types of books are appreciated.... fiction, nonfiction, books for children, cookbooks, etc. Books may be new or used and we would especially like to have some more books for children. They may be placed by my desk, and we will deliver them at the end of this month.

We are going to restart the **ACTS** Ministry (**A**cting and **C**aring as **T**abitha **S**erved). This ministry involves “adopting” someone in a nursing home who needs to have a little TLC. Many have no one to visit them. We will try to serve them by visiting, sending a card, taking them a flower, etc. When we tried this before, we were going to visit people in their homes and some of our members were not comfortable with that idea. This should be easier and more convenient. If you are interested in this type of ministry, please join us for an information meeting on January 14th at 9:15 AM in the Vestry Room. This will be a short meeting to see who may be interested. You do not have to commit at this point.

Peace, Peg+



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 is celebrated in the Chapel in the Parish Hall.



From the Organ Bench

How Does An Organ Work?

Playing the organ is similar to playing the piano but not the same. The technique is very different. Plus, not only are you playing with your hands but you also use your feet on the pedalboard. So an organist is reading three lines of music most of the time.

In addition to the various keyboards, there are also stops. Stops are knobs or tabs that represent the different orchestral sounds of the organ: flutes, strings, trumpets, oboe are just a few. Specialty stops include chimes and tremolo - that one often reminds people of funeral home music!

In addition to playing the keyboards, the organist must understand the various sounds available on the organ and decide which is appropriate for a particular piece of music. It takes many hours each week to select music and then choose the combination of stops for each piece. Pistons are master stop selectors that let you choose a number of stops with the push of one button.

Volume is controlled by the number and type of stops in play at one time and by expression pedals that make each keyboard (or the entire organ) louder or softer. Our organ is a two-manual electronic organ made by Rodgers in the early 1990's. A pipe organ of similar size would be several hundred thousand dollars and require much more space and ongoing maintenance.

Anyone interested is always welcome to come and sit by the organ and watch what goes on during a practice or even a service. Just let me know in advance - space is limited!

Libby Boyer
Music Director

◀ December	January 2024					February ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	3 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	4 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	5 YOGA 10:00 am	6 Epiphany Bonfire 5:30 pm
7 Brotherhood Breakfast 9:00 am Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	8	9 Elephant Committee 10:00 am AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	10 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Outreach Committee 10:15 am	11 Tech Team 9:30 am AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	12 YOGA 10:00 am	13
14 Holy Eucharist Service 10:00 am Annual Congregation Meeting	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Robotics Day 9:00 am—3:00 pm Church Office Closed	16 Finance Com- mittee 9:30 am AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Vestry 1:30 pm	17 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	18 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	19 YOGA 10:00 am	20
21 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	22	23 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	24 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	25 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	26 YOGA 10:00 am	27
28 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	29	30 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	31 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel			



The ECW held our final meeting and Holiday Potluck Luncheon on December 11th, 2023, at Karen Brown's home. The election of the new slate of officers for 2024 took place and includes: President, Ginger Hellems, Vice President, Judy Quilter, and Recording Secretary, Susie Loustaunau.

Karen Brown

Happy New Year! ECW is ready to start a new year Thank you to Karen Brown for a long job well done First things first: every woman at Christ church is a member of the ECW. There will be a general winter meeting on Wednesday, January 10th at 10:15 in the Church Hall Please plan to attend.

Ginger Hellems gingerhellems@gmail.com

**A Great Big “Thank You” to All Who Contributed to the Christ Church Parish
Endowment in 2023**

Our family faith is looking forward to your generosity during 2024 toward fostering our family of faith’s future.

Merry Christmas.....Happy New Year

Endowment Board

Fr Stuart

Garry Clay

Jack Hellems

Grace Parker

Jeanette Adkins

Jim Knupp



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee starts the year arcing and sparking with our January 6 (12th day of Christmas) Epiphany Bonfire. It is the perfect opportunity to rid the home of all your holiday greens and even the tree for a big bonfire. The bonfire will be in front of the new garden area. Bring your greens etc. to stoke the fire. Join us after the flames subside for fellowship, Glühwein, and cookies. The festivities begin at 5:30 pm.

We will have fire prevention folks on standby at the event.

Happy New Year!

Mary Lynn Landgraf



MEET THE VESTRY NOMINEES

Tom Clarke

I wanted to share that I am excited to serve on Vestry and will promise to do my best to uplift and follow the Church's Mission: *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.*

I started attending Christ Church in 1959 and I have been able to recapture a part of my youth as an Acolyte/Crucifer carrying the same cross as I did in my teens. Through family weddings, funerals, and special occasions, Christ Church has always been part of my life and I am looking forward to continuing my spiritual growth.

Just a little about myself.

I grew up in Urbanna and Christ Church Parish. I attended Christchurch School, and after serving in the U.S. Coast Guard and graduating from Virginia Tech, I found my career in municipal government. I worked for the Town of Blacksburg and the City of Roanoke in Parks and Recreation, leading adventure-based trips and teaching environmental education. After being away from Middlesex County for 39 years, upon retirement in 2011, Kathy and I moved to Urbanna.

Kathy and I married in 1976, we have two daughters and six grandchildren! We like to travel, camp, visit the children, and enjoy small-town life. We've been blessed.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to be a member of Christ Church as we work together to fulfill the Church's Mission.

Richard Allen (Rick) Smith

I was born in Tidewater Virginia in 1951, I was baptized in the Methodist church. In 1969 I joined the Naval Reserves and served in communications aboard a Destroyer based in Norfolk.

Later in life, I obtained my private pilot's license and enjoyed flying aerobatic Biplanes.

In 1975 I purchased an Art and Picture Framing business in Newport News that manufactured wholesale and retail framed art and did custom picture framing.

I enjoyed a healthy business for 35 years until I sold it to my employees.

In what seemed a twist of fate in 2011, I switched from being a sole proprietor to working for one of the largest holding companies in America, Berkshire Hathaway and its subsidiary Larson Juhl based in Atlanta. In that role, I traveled globally to build a new manufacturing division and Sales.

One of the highlights of my tenure at Larson Juhl was meeting and talking with Warren Buffett.

In the 1990's I started attending St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newport News and was confirmed by the Right Reverend Walter Dennis. My wife DeLois and I were married at Historic Christ Church in Weems Virginia in 2006. We have two daughters; Ryan, 44 and Erin 34 and a grandson Spencer who is 9. Last year DeLois and I left the Atlanta area to return to our home state of Virginia and retire in Urbanna.

On Ash Wednesday 2023, DeLois and I attended the service at Christ Church and have felt at home ever since. It's my pleasure being part of the choir and offering my voice to the Sunday service. It gives me immense pride and is an honor to be a member of Christ Church.

Anne G. Wilcox (Mrs. David T. Wilcox)

I was a member and attended St. Martin's Episcopal Church before becoming a member of Christ Church Parish. Dave and I met at St. Martin's and were married there June 23, 1978.

Dave and I were very active at St. Martin's. I served on the Vestry twice and represented St. Martin's at the Diocesan Council as a delegate and alternate several times. I also served on church committees and in organizations that included the Cemetery Committee, Education Committee for Region XII, Canterbury Book Store Board, Diocese of Virginia at St. Martin's, a youth group leader, choir member, and active in and Past President of the ECW.

I attended Westhampton College 1956-57 as a freshman and later graduated from VCU in 1984 with a degree in Art Education.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Reflecting on community outreach accomplishments of our Parish in 2023, one thing's for certain: Although CCP's congregation is relatively small we are mighty! All of us can be proud of the time, effort, and other resources we offer our community. This includes not only our Outreach Ministry efforts specifically but also our generous clergy through their discretionary funds and other collaborative endeavors with other groups such as Fellowship, the ECW, and the Brotherhood. We are also grateful for the knowledge that many at CCP independently belong to service clubs and volunteer with and donate to other community organizations including the Cryer Center, our museums, and public libraries.



December's calendar was especially full. We enthusiastically acknowledge all of the active participation of many parishioners fulfilling Christmas wishes of a deserving needy family; singing carols with the Visitation Singers at Dockside; making our Live Nativity even better than ever, due in part to the guest appearance of Earl the Donkey seen in the photo hanging out with two of our Kings; providing healthy snacks for St. Clare Walker students choosing the Fellowship of

Christian Athletes as a school club membership; and hosting receptions at Christchurch School in conjunction with their Lessons and Carols services.

Looking ahead to another active year, we want everyone to know that new members are always welcome. We are very pleased to announce that DeLois Greenwood has joined the Outreach Ministry. We thank Judi Snider as she rotates off our Ministry for all that she has done and continues to do for our community. Susie Loustaunau and Pam McClelland will co-chair the Ministry in 2024. Everyone should feel free to bring new ideas for outreach to our attention.

Christian Education



Starting on January 24th, following the Wednesday morning chapel service, we will move to the Great Hall and engage with a series of video presentations from the Great Courses. We are beginning with Lost Christianity's, a course that "considers the varieties of belief and practice in the early days of Christianity, before the church had decided what was theologically acceptable and determined which books should be included in its canon of Scripture."

This topic is certain to be eye-opening, giving us insight into what we now consider "gospel" but was not always so! For example, one of the early topics included whether you needed to be a Jew to be a Christian. No reservation is required...just come (even to chapel first) watch the video and participate in what is sure to be a lively discussion. We are expecting these to be not more than 1-hour sessions. All are welcome.

Volunteers needed!

As you make your New Year's resolutions, I ask that you consider joining our servers as an acolyte/crucifer, Eucharistic Minister, or Lector. As people have moved away, or grown up and gone to college and careers elsewhere, our ranks have thinned somewhat. I especially need to add to those who so beautifully lead our processions with the cross. This is an important position. Training is always provided.

Similarly, although not under my verger duties, we do need someone to take on the role of scheduling ushers for the 10:30 services. This, too, is not very difficult but is very important.

We all know that those who are involved get the greatest satisfaction from whatever the endeavor, and that includes your church life. When I examine my own life, I believe I was put here to serve, to be an active participant in doing Christ's work here in this place. Do you feel that too? Come join us!

VR, Grace

WHO WERE THE WISE MEN (KINGS)



Were there three Kings in the Bible? The three Kings, or Magi, are mentioned only in the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12. Scripture does not say how many wise men there were, but it is generally assumed there were three since they brought three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Names suggested of the Magi, while not stated in the bible, are generally accepted as Gaspar (or Caspar), Melchior, and Balthasar. Later versions of the story identified their lands of origin: Melchior hailed from Persia, Gaspar from India, and Balthazar from Arabia.

Were the three Kings black? Balthasar, King of Ethiopia or Saba, land of spices, is traditionally depicted as black. Caspar according to late medieval depictions was an African king. He is frequently depicted with a reddish beard.

The Bible states that there was a "fourth" wise man (based on the acceptance that there were three), a priest of the Magi named Artaban, a Mede from Persia. Like the other Magi, he also saw signs in the heavens proclaiming that a King had been born among the Jews.

It has been suggested, based on Matthew 2:1-12, that the Wise Men did not arrive until Jesus was two years of age, and living in a house in Nazareth. This passage states, that the Wise Men "came into the house and saw the young child." That along with the decree of Herod that all children two years old and under should be put to death, has led to the presumption that Jesus was near two years of age when the Wise Men arrived. The translation of "young child" has been frequently questioned.



Build-a-Robot Day

On January 15, 2024, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall members of the Tech Team will offer a one-day fun and educational event for kids interested in exploring the basics of robotics. While building a robot car to learn how robots work they will also gain an appreciation for the increasingly important role robots play in our everyday lives. You may know that robotics has become widely recognized as an effective way to acquire technology, engineering, and math (STEM) knowledge and skills in an entertaining and practical way.

Christ Church Parish has been given this unique opportunity to offer community outreach and education complete with 10 little robot cars to build and operate that day. This event is free to the kids participating and aimed at ages 12 to 15, but even adult kids-at-heart will be welcome—especially if they have some relevant technical knowledge and would like to do more than watch the fun.

Watch for an email with details of how to pre-register so that we can plan for lunch for the participants. You will notice that January 15 is Martin Luther King Day, so kids will have the day off from school. The ability to offer this will be based on sufficient pre-enrollment. We trust that you will share this opportunity with any friends or family members with children who might be interested.

Ann De Peyster



Special January Celebrations

Anniversaries



- 1 Pete & Judy Mansfield*
- 3 Garry & Micki Clay*
- 16 Robin & Sally Wells*

Birthdays

- 1 Lurlene Samuel*
- 3 Lee Davis*
- 7 Lillian "Leigh" Cros Wilson*
- 10 Stuart Wood*
Dina Parry
- 13 Garry Clay*
Jim Knupp
- 16 Donna Gates*
- 20 Charles Nance*
- 21 John Hawkins*
Page Wittkamp
- 24 Christopher Hamlett*
- 26 Byron Parker*
- 28 Charles Adkins*



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 5:00 pm on:</u>
February	January 19, 2024
March	February 23, 2024
April	March 22, 2024
May	April 22, 2024
June	May 24, 2024
July	June 21, 2024
August	July 22, 2024
September	August 23, 2024
October	September 20, 2024
November	October 25, 2024
December	November 22, 2024
January 2025	December 23, 2024

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.

TIME PASSAGES

Time it was...
And what a time it was.
A time of innocence.
A time of confidence.
Long... ago it must be...
I have a memory.
Preserve your memories.
They are all that is you.

J. Jeffrey McClelland

Christ Church Parish

Electronic Service Requested

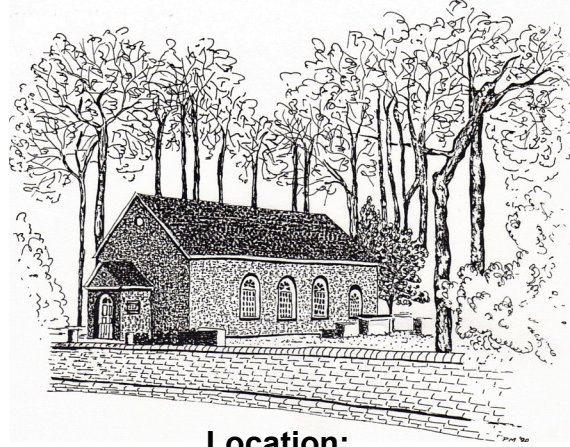
Post Office Box 476, Saluda, VA 23149



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January
2024

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



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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