

# Christ Church Parish

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June  
2023

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### 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 June 2023*

### **Message From Our Rector**



#### **“I will with God’s help.”**

This past Sunday the Church celebrated one of the Principle celebrations of the church year; the feast of Pentecost. This feast day comes exactly fifty days after Easter and ten days after the Ascension. It celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to God’s people. It empowered the first Christians to go out into all the world to share the Good News of God’s redeeming work through his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. To heal the sick, care for those in need, restore those who are lost, to give sight to the blind, and to bring new life to the dead.

Pentecost reminds us each year that we too are to go out into all the world and share our faith in Christ to this broken and sinful world. Our journey begins with our Baptism. At that time, we are asked to continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers. We are asked to persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever we fall into sin, to repent and return to the Lord. We are asked to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. To seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves. And finally, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. And the answer to each of those questions is, “I WILL WITH GOD’S HELP.”

We are reminded to do those same things when we stand before a bishop at Confirmation and renew our commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to do those ministries that will bring others to know God’s love in their lives.

We also renew those promises for ourselves along with the candidates and sponsors at every baptism and confirmation that we attend and also at the Great Vigil of Easter each year. And on each occasion, we respond once again, “I WILL WITH GOD’S HELP.”

What are we saying with that response? Are we acknowledging that we know that we can’t be faithful or successful in these promises unless God helps us? I would say the answer to that is “Yes.” Are we making excuses for our failures because we do not feel that God is helping us because we fail to be open to it? Sometimes. Are we one of those individuals that says, “I don’t need anyone’s help including God to get through this life? Possibly, and therefore

we reject God's help and don't say that response with any sincerity. So, what am I trying to say? I'm saying that as we journey through life and try to fulfill the promises we have made to God that we must know and except our limitations and then strive to listen for God's direction in our life, and to stop being stubborn and to embrace God's help when it is being given.

There is a Commission given at the end of the Pentecost service in the Church of England in their worship resource "Common Worship." I believe that it gives us some guidance on how to live into that response, "I will with God's help." It tells us to dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be our guide; to embrace each other and grow together in love, to share our riches in common and minister to each other in need, to pray for each other until our hearts beat with the longings of God, and to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places.

So let the Holy Spirit empower you, embrace you, and guide you. Let it blow you in directions that you may have never dreamt of going, and to bring you to Christ's light and peace.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Fr. Stuart



### **Mid-week Eucharist**

Please remember that we have a mid-week Eucharist here at Christ Church. The service is at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings and is celebrated in the Chapel in the Parish Hall.

# THE ELEPHANTS AND VESTRY

## THE RESULTS OF “TUNING IN”:

As many of us attended our May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, and many more are aware, we had a lot of energy and great discussions around what we can do as a Parish since “IT TAKES A PARISH TO GROW A PARISH”. The discussion was led by Bob Prichard, our Priest Associate, with the active participation of 34 members of our congregation who were split up into five smaller discussion groups.

Bob started us off with thoughts from the Outline of Faith found in our Book of Common Prayer (pages 855-856) that speak to the mission of the Church and how it is carried out through the ministry of its members. These thoughts are summed up nicely in our Mission for Christ Church.

“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.”

He then posed four questions for discussion, which over the next four months, we will address what our discussions revealed, one question at a time. This month’s question is “What brought you to Christ Church Parish and what keeps you coming back?”

The discussion provided very clear input and a call for very specific action. Most of us, especially when new to the area, were looking for a church home, whether we were Episcopalians or not. And most often, we were INVITED by members of the congregation to attend a service or an event. Yes, some of us simply visited the church because we heard of it, but most of us were INVITED. And once here, we found a WARM, FRIENDLY, AND ACCEPTING congregation that we wanted to be a part of.

So, what can we do to “grow a parish”? Continue to be that warm, friendly, and accepting congregation that makes so many of us want to belong here, and invite those new neighbors, who are transitioning to the area for retirement, a second home, or who can now work remotely. To help with that, we have two types of calling cards available to us. The first is the “Random Acts of Kindness” cards that we introduced a few years ago. The second is the All Are Welcome cards that include a QR code. Both types are available in the Parish Hall/Church Office.

Stay tuned for more thoughts next month! And if you have additional ideas, please share them with the Vestry, an Elephant, or any member of the congregation to keep the discussion going!!!

Thank You and God Bless!

The Vestry and the Elephants



## *From the Deacon's Bench*

*"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

*John 13:34-35 NRSV*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Please come and show your love for others by helping with the ministries of Creation Care and Fine Arts Camp. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for both ministries and your help is needed.

There are many ways to help. Some are long and involved and others are short and simple. ALL of them are important.

I have talked with the folks at the Cryer Center, and they are very happy to hear about what they will be receiving from our Creation Care Garden. Crops are starting to come in!

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fine Arts Camp will take place June 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. We have 24 campers signed up. That is an increase from 18 campers last year.

Again, we need volunteers. Also, we invite you to just come by and observe what is happening. Your support is very important to us. We need YOU!

Thanks for all you do,  
Peace, Peg+

◀ May	June 2023						July ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				<b>1</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	<b>2</b> YOGA 10:00 am	<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	<b>7</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	<b>8</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	<b>9</b> YOGA 10:00 am	<b>10</b>	
<b>11</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am  Brotherhood Meeting 9:00 am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	<b>14</b> Flag Day  Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel  Outreach Committee 10:15 am	<b>15</b> Fellowship Committee 10:15 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	<b>16</b> YOGA 10:00 am	<b>17</b> Marine Corp League Chesty Puller Birthday Celebration 11:00 am- 4:00 pm	
<b>18</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	<b>19</b> Fine Arts Camp  Juneteenth Holiday  Church Office Closed	<b>20</b> Fine Arts Camp  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Finance Committee 9:30 am  Tech Team 11:30 am  Vestry 1:30 pm	<b>21</b> Fine Arts Camp  Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	<b>22</b> Fine Arts Camp  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	<b>23</b> Fine Arts Camp  YOGA 10:00 am	<b>24</b> Fine Arts Camp	
<b>25</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am  Fine Arts Camp	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	<b>28</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel  ECW Meeting 10:15 am	<b>29</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	<b>30</b> YOGA 10:00 am		



**from the Junior Warden's Workbench**

### **Creation Care Project**

Plants are growing and with the warm weather coming, we know there will be a harvest in the next few weeks. Thanks to those of you that have signed up to be a part of this project. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. You can call me to talk about ways that you would like to be involved. We will make a schedule soon for watering, weeding, and harvesting!

### **Maintenance Activities Around the Church**

We are planning to add gravel on the east side of the Parish Hall. We will need help with spreading and raking the gravel. Look for an email about this soon.

Please reach out to me if you have any suggestions or recommendations.

Scott Holt

804-814-8126

**CATECHISM**



**CORNER**

### **Pentecost Sunday...why do we wear red?**

The tradition of wearing red on Pentecost is thought to have originated in the early church. Red is the color of fire, and it is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in the form of tongues of red fire.

Pentecost is the 50th day after Easter, and it marks the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early church. It is a time to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to live out our faith in the world.

Miles Libby



### **Joint Organ Recital in Mathews**

On Sunday, June 25 at 4:00 pm, I will present a joint concert with Danny Corneliusen, the organist of Kingston Parish, and Coleman Tyler, organist, composer, and Anglican priest. You will hear Coleman again in July when he substitutes for me during my vacation and trip to Sewanee for the Episcopal Church Music Conference.

The concert will be at Kingston Chapel in the Parish House at 370 Main Street in Mathews. The organ, the same model Rodger's electronic organ we have at Christ Church, has been enhanced with a small number of actual pipes.

*The program, A Celebration of British Music, will include organ and choral music from throughout the British Isles. A combined choir will sing several well-known hymn settings. The audience is invited to join in the singing.*

*I will be playing Elgar's Nimrod, Karl Jenkin's Benedictus, and Vaughan Williams' Rhosymedre. Other selections will include Variations on God Save the King and a hymn written by Coleman that is based on the tune Highland Cathedral.*

I hope you will make the trek down the road and join us. A reception will follow the concert. A freewill offering will benefit Mathews Meals on Wheels and the Kingston Parish Music Program.

Libby Boyer,  
Music Director



## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



The Fellowship Committee is planning an Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social on 28 July from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The event is open to the community and is gratis. We will feature hand-dipped cups of ice cream, toppings, cookies, and cones.

In addition, we are staging “A Cake Walk” and need some bakers to help supply cakes for the fun event. We will sell water, raffle tickets, and Cake Walk tickets at nominal prices.

The major infusion of fun will be music by Clayton Neal and his group. Bring a chair and chill with cool summer tunes, ice cream, and good friends.

The meeting point is the church lawn near our community garden. So, grab your spoon and listen to Clayton croon!

Our next major event will be the Marine Corps Run to Christ Church in honor of Chesty Puller. We will supply the runners with snack bags and beverages. Always a wonderful time to meet and greet a lot of fresh faces as they pay homage to the General.

Put 10 November on your calendar please as that date marks our annual Veteran’s Day luncheon. More details will follow over the next few months. It is a date you will not want to miss.

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Advent dinners will take place on 27 Nov, 4 Dec, 11, and 18 December. We look forward to dining with you during this happy, festive, and pensive season. We will be exploring Advent as it appears in our **Book of Common Prayer**.

For old, dried greens, garlands, trees, wreaths, etc., we offer you the perfect solution. Bring them to our Epiphany Bon Fire on 6 January. As we watch the remnants of the old year burn out, we will celebrate the present, living in the moment, with friends over hot cider and cookies. What a wonderful way to conclude the 12 days of Christmas and kick off the New Year spiritually refreshed with friends and kindred spirits.

Mary Lynn Landgraf



Thanks to the wonderful leadership of Grace Parker, our Ways and Means Chair, Sharon Colston, and help from many, the ECW had a very successful Game Day, with a Fashion Show and Lunch on May 12th. Fun was had by all and we are now planning our future events.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 28th at 10:15 AM (after Holy Eucharist Service in the Chapel). Father Stuart will be our speaker on this occasion and discuss the importance of End of Life Planning. It will primarily focus on the service we wish for. All the women parishioners are considered members of this group and are welcome to this meeting. We will also be discussing exciting future events and other ways to further engage our community.

Karen Brown

President



In last Sunday's sermon, Father Stuart encouraged us to pick up and peruse the Book of Common Prayer. I am very pleased that our little church embraces the full richness of the BCP, not allowing much of it to go unexercised for long. Of course, the Holy Eucharist is celebrated as the "principal act of Christian worship on the Lord's Day" but the opening paragraph of the BCP goes on to add that "Daily Morning and Evening Prayer...are...regular services appointed for public worship in this Church."

I've been an Episcopalian long enough to remember that Morning Prayer was the norm and the Eucharist was a monthly celebration. When I'm asked why we don't use the Apostle's Creed each Sunday as they remember, that is why: that creed is part of Morning and Evening Prayer. Now, with the Eucharist as the principal service, we are beginning to become less familiar with the differences and may fumble a bit when we come to Morning Prayer, switching between Rite I and II in the Eucharist, Morning or Evening Prayer, and Compline. Fortunately, Father Stuart has anticipated this, and when we are embracing a less familiar service, he spells it all out in detail in the bulletin. That is a blessing too!

So...rather than finding discomfort in less used service options, let us examine and enjoy their difference and experience all that we can in this magnificent Book of Common Prayer. Maybe we can even relearn how to do the canticles!

Grace Parker

Vergen

## FROM “ACROSS THE POND”...



Nigel McFall's fifth son, Felix, was at Buckingham Palace two weeks ago for a celebration and reception honoring him as the recipient of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

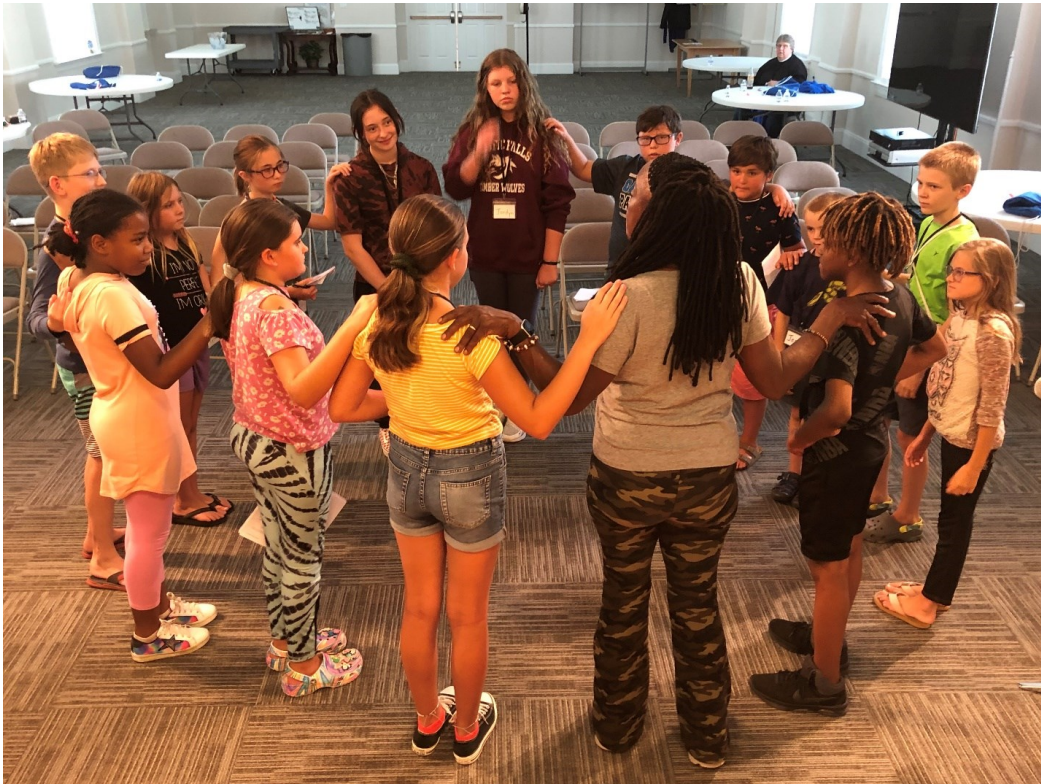
Nigel and Andrea attended where the Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala Nayaka Thera the Sri Lankan Head Monk in the Buddhist Vihara conducted a Blessing Ceremony similar to the one he performed at the Coronation of King Charles III.

Sir Anthony Johnstone Burt, the Master of the Royal Household, cut the beautiful cake



## Outreach Ministries

It's almost here! In June, Outreach will be involved with the Fine Arts Camp. We appreciate the leadership and organizational skills of Deacon Peg. Thankful for all the volunteers, and of course, the campers. We know it will be an exciting week.



### **A Prayer for the Poor and the Neglected**

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget; the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



## **FLAG DAY**

**JUNE 14**



### **"A TOAST TO THE FLAG"**

#### **HERE'S TO THE RED OF IT –**

THERE'S NOT A THREAD OF IT.,  
NO, NOR A SHRED OF IT  
IN ALL THE SPREAD OF IT,  
FROM FOOT TO HEAD  
BUT HEROS BLED FOR IT  
FACED STEEL AND LEAD FOR IT,  
PRECIOUS BLOOD SHED FOR IT,  
**BATHING IT RED!**

#### **HERE'S TO THE WHITE OF IT -**

THRILLED BY THE SIGHT OF IT,  
WHO KNOWS THE RIGHT OF IT  
BUT FEELS THE MIGHT OF IT  
THROUGH DAY AND NIGHT?  
WOMANHOOD'S CARE FOR IT  
MADE MANHOOD FOR IT;  
PURITY'S PRAY'R FOR IT  
**KEEPS IT SO WHITE!**

#### **HERE'S TO THE BLUE OF IT-**

BEAUTEOUS VIEW OF IT,  
HEAVENLT HUE OF IT,  
STAR –SPANGLED DEW OF IT  
CONSTANT AND TRUE  
DIADEMS GLEAM FOR IT,  
STATES STAND SUPREME FOR IT  
LIBERTY'S BEAM FOR IT  
**BRIGHTENS THE BLUE!**

#### **HERE'S TO THE WHOLE OF IT -**

STARS, STRIPES AND POLE OF IT,  
BODY AND SOUL OF IT,  
AND THE ROLL OF IT,  
O, SUN SHINING THROUGH;  
HEARTS IN ACCORD FOR IT  
SWEAR BY THE SWORD FOR IT,  
THANKING THE LORD FOR IT,  
**RED, WHITE AND BLUE!**

# *Special June Celebrations*

## *Anniversaries*



- 2 The Rev. Robert "Bob" and Barbee Phipps*
- 12 Steve and Jackie Gahan*
- 13 Rich and Anne Donoff*
- 15 Rusty and Tonya Spears*  
*Bill & Jackie Brown*
- 17 Fitz and Suzanne Berry*
- 19 James W. and Lydia B. Dudley*
- 20 John and Susan Hilliard*
- 28 Bruce V. and Susan C. DeSimone*  
*William "Chris" and M. Roxie Jones*

## *Birthdays*

- 1 Mike Floyd*
- 11 Pam McClelland*
- 12 Libby Allen*
- 13 Beverly M. Barnhardt*  
*M. Roxie Jones*
- 14 Janie Allen*  
*Judi Snider*  
*Arthur Wilton*
- 16 Amy H. Schacht*
- 21 Sarah Geeson*
- 23 Mike Moore*  
*Virginia "Ginny" Hartung*
- 26 Katy Breuer*
- 30 Mike Gorin*



## The Father of the Abrahamic Religions

Abraham was born in Ur in Chaldea, now modern day Iraq, and his family moved to Haran when he was 70 years old. God called Abraham to leave Haran and journey to an undesignated land to found a new nation. That land was Canaan. At 75 years of age he unquestioningly obeyed God's commands from whom he received a covenant that his "seed" would inherit the land. His journey from Haran to Canaan with "all the family souls and possessions" was made by foot and took him about three months.

Abraham is revered for his faith in one god (monotheism) at a time when polytheism (multiple gods) was adhered to by the Jewish and Muslim faiths. Both of whom now claim him as their ancestor through his two sons Isaac and Ishmael. Christians see him as a spiritual ancestor. Those religions are now known as the three Abrahamic Religions.

### 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>
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](mailto:jeff.of.jamaica@outlook.com)  
Pictures may also be submitted and will be used on a "space available" basis.