

Christ Church Parish

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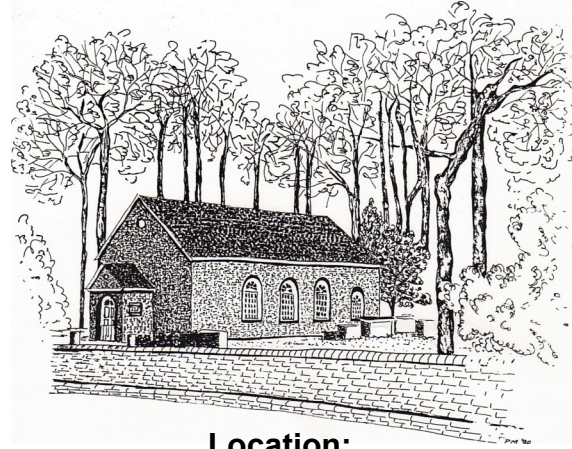
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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May
2023

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 May 2023

Message From Our Rector



Alleluia, Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

As I sit here writing this, I am aware that Easter was only two weeks ago and yet it is quickly fading into an ancient memory. It was an exciting and meaningful day with **108** people at the main service and 23 at the early vigil service; the music, the flowers, the energy and effort that went into planning and bringing forth such a joyous day gives credit to what we can accomplish when we all work together.

This past week the annual Parochial Report to the Diocese and National Church was completed and approved by the Vestry. It can be a tedious and cumbersome job for our Parish Administrator, Treasurer, and Rector and it is often filled with numbers that mean little to us. One number that I want to share was the answer to this question: *“Anyone of any age who is active in the congregation regardless of baptism or membership status.”* The answer that I came up with was **136**. With that number in mind, I figure that on an average Sunday we have almost 50% attendance. That is a lot better than many other congregations, but this isn’t a competition. I want to challenge you by asking why isn’t this 75 or 80%. We need each other and I look forward to seeing you whenever you can be here. The sharing of God’s love and forgiveness, the joy of the resurrection, and the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup is no less important on the other 51 Sundays of the Church Year.

Our ministry committees and vestry are working hard at identifying ways that we can reach out to those who aren’t as active and to those in our community that haven’t found a church home. Our goal isn’t to steal sheep from other congregations, but it to let God’s light shine out into the world as a beacon of hope and a safe place where we can support one another through worship, prayer, learning, and fellowship.

Continued on next page

I would like to highlight two ministries that really need your support. The first one is a ministry of hospitality, of welcoming people to worship with a smile, a sincere “welcome to Christ Church”, and a bulletin. Yes, I am talking about being an usher. We need people to step up and help us with this important ministry. It isn’t hard. What does it require? Signing up, getting to church 20 to 25 minutes early so that you’re there to greet people, taking up the offering, directing people to communion, and counting the loose offering after the service, and carrying it to the parish hall office. If you feel called to offer a Sunday or a month, please talk to me.

And the second ministry is the choir. We have a wonderful group of people who sing in the choir, but due to travel and family duties, they cannot always be there. I can’t help but notice that some Sundays there is no one and other Sundays there are only two or three. We have some wonderful voices out there in our congregation and our choir needs you. If you have any desire to sing the Lord’s praises, please talk to Libby Boyer our organist. I know that she would be thrilled to have additional members in our choir.

I offer these thoughts in the name of our risen Lord.

God Bless,

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 will be celebrated in the Chapel in the Parish Hall.

THE “ELEPHANTS” and VESTRY

“Stay Tuned – Continued”

Last month, the “Elephants” put an article in the newsletter entitled *STAY TUNED* where they asked each of us, as members of Christ Church Parish, to **TUNE IN!** So, this month’s article, from both the VESTRY and the “Elephants” is to let you know just how and when to **TUNE IN!**

To review, our “Elephant in the Room” is our declining Sunday attendance at our church where the reality is that we will average four fewer people each year due to a very natural but real attrition. And as we saw with the church closing in West Point, this attrition can lead to the closing of a church.

In our case, however, that does not need to happen. We are a very vibrant parish that is recognizing that we must act to overcome this attrition, and we are in a county where there is a large population of new people who may be looking for a church home. So, if we recognize this, and recognize that our strengths of having great members, and great facilities and staff, we can not only stop the attrition but actually grow in numbers while growing in our discipleship.

Then “**How do we tune in?**”

First, we start thinking about what we as *individuals* can do to stop the attrition and to actually grow.

Secondly, we start thinking about what we as a *church* can do to stop the attrition and to actually grow.

And finally, we get together at 9:00 AM on Sunday, May 7th, and possibly again on May 21st. in the Parish Hall to share those ideas and build on each other’s ideas.

This should lead to some lively discussion and no doubt, some great ideas!

Also, this is not a breakfast! It is a discussion! We will provide coffee, however!

(Please note, last month we spoke about three meetings and some different dates. Due to other events and schedules, we have had to change those to the 7th and 21st of May.)

From the Elephants and Vestry – We look forward to seeing you on the 7th!!!



From the Deacon's Bench

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We need **YOU!!!!** Volunteers are needed to help with:

Creation Care Garden (Raised beds are in place)

Fine Arts Camp

There are many ways to help. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall.

Diocesan Deacon Day, Saturday, May 13

via Zoom, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Office of Vocational Ministry will host a Diocesan Deacon Day to raise awareness of the ministry of deacons in the Diocese of Virginia. This Zoom meeting is the perfect way to encourage people who are interested in finding out what it means to be a deacon, learning more about formation for diaconal ministry, and hearing about the ministry of deacons in the Diocese of Virginia.

Bishop Stevenson will begin our time together by sharing his vision for deacons in the Diocese of Virginia. Presenters will offer insights about discerning a call to be a deacon; the vocational process for deacons; deacon formation through St. Phoebe School; and a day in the life of a deacon. Following the presentations, smaller breakout rooms will allow for deeper conversation and Q&A about the ministry of deacons. This event is a great starting point for those who might be stirred to consider diaconal ministry.

If you are interested in this special event, please contact me and I will let you know how to register. 804-869-3867 or peggy_moncure@live.com

◀ April	May 2023						June ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2 Fellowship Committee 9:30 am 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 Cinco de Mayo Pot Luck Dinner 5:30 pm-7:30 pm	6	
7 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am "Parish to Build a Great Parish" Conference 9:00 am	8	9 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	10 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Outreach Committee 10:15 am	11 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm ECW Set up 1:30 pm-4:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	12 YOGA 10:00 am ECW Luncheon, Fashion Show, and Games 11:00 am-4:00pm	13	
14 Mother's Day Brotherhood Mother's Day Breakfast for all 9:00 am Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	15 Elephant Committee 9:30 am	16 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Finance Committee 9:30 am Tech Team 11:30 am Vestry 1:30 pm	17 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Worship Ministry 10:15 am	18 Fellowship Committee 9:30 am 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 "Parish to Build a Great Parish" Conference 9:00 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 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	30 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	31 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel				



from the Junior Warden's Workbench

Creation Care Project

We are excited that this project is well underway and planting has started. The boxes have been built and there will be many opportunities to participate in this project. Please notice the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for ways that you can contribute to our community effort. You can call me to talk about ways that you would like to be involved.

Maintenance Activities Around the Church

During the month of May, several trees will be removed from outside the north cemetery wall. We will also be painting the handrails on the north side of the Parish Hall as well as the handrails by the kitchen door.

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

Scott Holt
804-814-8126

CATECHISM



CORNER

Eastertide Earthquake Education

Matthew introduces an earthquake's role in the resurrection:

And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descended from heaven, approached, and rolled back the stone...Matthew uses the earthquake as a sign of God's life-giving, saving power: Jesus' loud voice, as he gave up his spirit split the veil of the sanctuary in two. Likewise "earth quaked rocks were split and tombs opened up" (Matthew 27). Just as the earthquake opened tombs and released holy ones from death, so are we released from our sins. Think about it.... With thanks to Abbot John Klassen, Saint John's Abby

Miles Libby



Organ Music in Worship

Voluntary – adj. spontaneous, free; without compulsion or obligation; a piece of music played before, during, or after a church service; an unwarranted fall from a horse. (The Chambers Dictionary, 2003 ed, p.1706).

You will note in the bulletin that the prelude is now called the “Opening Voluntary”. That is the English way of designating organ music in worship. It reinforces that the opening music is just that - the beginning, not a prelude to anything.

This is a time for people to become quiet, to meditate and pray, and to prepare their hearts and minds for worship... Its function is to induce a serious, worshipful mood, to give tone to the rest of the service. It is often based on the opening hymn and sets the theme for the day.

I suggest we are ever mindful of the differences of individual worshipers and to allow an introspective time during the prelude for those who wish it.

The musical culture of congregations varies greatly from one another. Some sit quietly until the end of the postlude. Christ Church is not one of those congregations. We “go out with joy” and that is perfectly fine. So going forward, there will be no postlude. The closing hymn will be followed by a very brief recap of the hymn tune. You may go out as joyfully as you wish.

Let’s just hope my voluntary is always an offering to God and never a fall from a horse - or an organ bench!

Libby Boyer

Music Director

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



The Fellowship Committee welcomes you to our first annual celebration of Mexican 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.

Outreach Ministry



It was just announced that the annual multi-congregational worship service, One Community Under God, will be Sunday, October 1. The service will be at 11 AM at the Urbanna Fire Hall. As in the past, we are called to participate and volunteer for several functions.

Coming up next month we will be delivering and presenting baskets of goodies for Teacher Appreciation Week to our Middlesex schools.

CHRIST CHURCH ECW GAME DAY WITH FASHION SHOW AND LUNCH

Friday, 12 May 11:00 - 4:00 \$30.00

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING SPRING, SEEING THE LATEST
FASHIONS, AND A FUN EVENT WITH FRIENDS!**

RSVP by Tuesday, May 8th to

Sharon Colston. sncathome@yahoo.com or 540-809-9900

Mail checks payable to **CCP ECW** to Sharon
at 89 Waterford Ct. Urbanna, 23175

Put together your table of four for the game of your choice
We welcome those who can only join us for
the fashion show and lunch.

Please note this is Christ Church at 56 Christchurch Lane, Saluda

Online Donations from the Tech Team and Vestry

After a year of wrestling with more technical details than expected, the Tech Team is pleased to announce that donating online to CCP is finally a reality. Buttons for donations using PayPal have been installed on the Christ Church Parish website both on the Homepage and on the "Offering Plate" menu selection on the Homepage.

The Vestry approved both the concept and text that appears on the website. Appropriate messages and a QR code were created to appear on slides shown during our online services, enabling viewers to have instant access to the Christ Church Parish Donate page while watching the service.

This effort is being made to increase stewardship awareness and giving opportunities for our online viewers and visitors to our website. PayPal charges a small fee plus a percentage of the donation for processing online donations. To avoid the fees and to facilitate tracking of your pledges and donations, parishioners are encouraged to use personal checks and other traditional payment options to pay their pledges, other large donations, and other miscellaneous offerings like altar flowers for Christmas and Easter. The objective here is to make it easy for online viewers and visitors to our website to support Christ Church Parish's ministries.



The Brotherhood of Christ Church Parish (Episcopal)



The May Men's Brotherhood Breakfast will take place at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall on Sunday, May 14th, **Mother's Day**. All of the men and women of the Church are invited. Come and celebrate Mother's Day.

Spotlight on Virginia Miller



Virginia is quiet, kind, dependable, and faithful. These are four words that come to mind when I think of this Lady. Not always out front leading the way, but steadfast in her dedication to our Lord and Christ Church Parish.

Virginia is originally from Ivy, Virginia, and moved to Deltaville approximately 25 years ago. She has been a member of CCP since that time. She has a son and a daughter who also live in Middlesex County. She works part-time for her brother's tax firm – W. M. Woodson. As she put it, "I help out when I can and we're especially busy during tax season."

Virginia's knowledge of numbers has been a great asset to the ECW for many years taking on the office of Treasurer. In addition, she has been a Teller for the church. And...has been responsible for getting the Newsletter ready for mailing each month. She also is an Altar Guild Team member.

We are pleased to recognize and thank Virginia Miller.

JOINT ORGAN RECITAL

By

Libby Boyer

Daniel Corneliusen

Coleman Tyler

JUNE 25, 2023 4:00 PM

KINGSTON CHAPEL

370 MAIN STREET

MATHEWS, VA

PLEASE OBSERVE MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 29th



"Mansions of the Lord"

hymn written by Randall Wallace

To fallen soldiers let us sing
Where no rockets fly nor bullets wing
Our broken brothers let us bring
To the Mansions of the Lord

No more bleeding, no more fight
No prayers pleading through the night
Just divine embrace, Eternal light
In the Mansions of the Lord

Where no mothers cry and no children weep
We will stand and guard though the angels sleep
All through the ages safely keep
The Mansions of the Lord

Special May Celebrations

Anniversaries

14 Sharon N. Colston and Miles A. Libbey

15 Mike and Harriette Floyd

19 James "Jim" and Jean Hill

20 Scott and Alyson Holt

22 Jeannette and Charles Adkins

25 Charles G. "Gibbie" and Mavis R. Mangum

26 Howard W. and Joyce M. Reisinger, Jr.

Gibbie and Mavis Mangum

27 The Rev. Dr. Robert W. and Marcia Prichard

28 James A. "Jim" and Ann T. Padgett

30 Jack and Helen Tarran



Birthdays

1 Judith W. "Judy" Mansfield

12 Suzette "Suzi" Hutchens

14 Mary Jo Atterholt

The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Prichard

Victoria Rosendahl

17 Helen Tarran

22 The Rev. Elisa Wheeler

25 The Rev. Robert "Bob" Phipps

28 Cean Cawthorn

Ginny Gale

31 Barbara Gill



Ever wonder



A Verger is a member of a church who works under the direction of their rector, vicar, or priest-in-charge, to assist with the organization and operation of worship services in the Episcopal Church in the United States, the Anglican Church of Canada, the Church of England, and world-wide throughout the Anglican Communion.

Editor: Grace Parker certainly performs those duties to the letter!

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>
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.