

# *Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex*

## *Monthly Newsletter October 2023*

### **Message From Our Rector**



As I sit down to write this, I am aware that the Fall season begins tomorrow. Leaves have already begun to change color and fall to the ground. The mornings are a bit cooler and it won't be too much longer before I find myself driving to church on Sunday mornings in the dark. I usually get here between 6:00 and 6:30 a.m. So, whether we like it or not, the world around us is constantly changing and our lives are also changing. Many of you received an email that was sent out on

September 20<sup>th</sup>, but for those of you who didn't receive that email it was announcing that I will be retiring at the end of June next year. The Vestry has already met with a representative from the Diocese on September 19<sup>th</sup> to begin the transition process. This means that there is time to do it prayerfully and not rushed.

Why do I want to retire next year? Well, besides the fact that I will be 65 in January and have been in full time ordained ministry for almost 36 years, I believe that you all are doing such wonderful things right now and that the search for a new priest can only lead you to new and exciting learnings and growth. The Vestry and the various church ministries are accomplishing so much. You should all feel great about how well stewardship, outreach, your on-line Sunday services, fellowship, worship, and the on-going maintenance and preservation of this historic place of worship is going, because it's going in a positive direction.

The next nine months are important for all of us. It requires serious prayer and planning. This is not a time to slow down. No, the opposite is true. Our stewardship campaign for 2024 is so very important right now. As we continue to fund our regular ministries next year, we will also have some added expenses in the budget related to the transition and search for your next priest.

*Continued on the next page.*

Notice that I have been using “us,” “our,” and “we” in this paragraph and only used “your” at the very end of the last sentence. I am on board with you these next nine months. I am not abandoning ship. I am with you until the mantle is passed from me to whoever God calls to follow me.

I then hope to fill another important ministry that is so needed in this area of the Diocese and that is in the role of a supply priest where I can experience other congregations on Sunday mornings. But this will also allow me more time to spend with family, work on my house, and to hopefully travel.

May our loving and gracious God continue to bless us and guide us through these uncharted waters of life.

Faithfully,

Stuart +

## **PASTORS NOTES**

### **Sunday Services**

October 1st One Community Under God ecumenical service at 11:00 a.m. at the Urbana Fire House.

October 1st Christ Church Parish will be having both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 services but the 10:30 service will be a said service so choir members may participate in the combined choir at One Community Under God service and so that Libby, our organist, may have a Sunday off.

### **THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

On Sunday October 8th, at the 10:30 a.m. service, we will have our annual blessing of the animals service. The service is in the church. Please have dogs on a leash and other animals in appropriate pet carriers.



## from the Junior Warden's Workbench

### Maintenance Activities Around the Church

September has flown by, and we are grateful for all the parishioners that have helped us this month!

### Oyster Festival Volunteers

We have contacted Christchurch School and are starting to line up student volunteers for the Oyster Festival. Like last year, we will be creating gift bags as thank you for each student volunteering. If you would like to contribute to this show of appreciation, please let me know. They really loved the small treats, and we loved their hard work!

### Creation Care Project

Our fall planting is thriving. Come by and see the pumpkin patch that we hope will supply many small pumpkins to the Cryer Center in November. We are excited that several new volunteers have offered their help and support to our garden. We would love more of you to reach out and be a part of this exciting work.

### Updates

The plaster, painting and brick work on the church is now complete. Repair on one of the HVAC units in the Parish Hall is finished. The quick turnaround to prepare the classroom for the students' use has been accomplished.

Scott Holt

804-814-8126

◀ September	October 2023					November ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am  One Community Under God 11:00 am Urbanna Firehouse	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	<b>4</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	<b>5</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	<b>6</b> YOGA 10:00 am	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	<b>9</b> Church Office Closed	<b>10</b> TECH Team 11:30 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	<b>11</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	<b>12</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	<b>13</b> YOGA 10:00 am	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am  Hands Across Middlesex 2:30 pm	<b>16</b> Elephant Committee 9:30 am	<b>17</b> Finance Committee 9:30 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Vestry 1:30 pm	<b>18</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	<b>19</b> Fellowship Committee 9:30 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	<b>20</b> YOGA 10:00 am	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	<b>25</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	<b>26</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	<b>27</b> YOGA 10:00 am	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Holy Eucharist Service 8:00 am  Morning Prayer 10:30 am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm				

# OUTREACH MINISTRIES

## One Community Under God

Mark your calendar for the annual, multi-congregational worship service, One Community Under God (OCUG), to be held at the Urbanna Fire Hall on Sunday, October 1 at 11am. This is an opportunity for the congregation of CCP to join with the congregation of twelve other churches as Middlesex County for worship, song, and fellowship. The service will be followed by a light lunch. If you haven't participated in the OCUG service in the past, please plan to attend this faith-enriching service.

Many thanks to all who are assisting by helping with parking, ushering/greeting, preparing lunches, and singing in the choir. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Clayton Neal, (804) 921-6540. Hope to see everyone on October 1.



## Habitat for Humanity

Steady progress continues in the construction of the 2023 Habitat for Humanity home site. In the next few weeks, members from CCP will be joining others in the community to put the finishing touches on the home site. As in the past we will be asked to assist with interior painting, installation of flooring and general clean up. No experience or skills necessary, just a desire to help others. If you'd like to help, please add your name to the signup sheet on the bulletin board. As soon as a specific date(s) has been identified, you'll be notified.

## In Gratitude we recognize...Alyson & Scott Holt



We've had so many Dynamic Duos at Christ Church Parish over the years. We now add Alyson & Scott Holt to that list. Many new members like to wait before they jump into all that is CCP, but not these two.

Alyson, with her love for flowers and plants continues to WOW us with her talents. She works very hard with the Creation Care Garden. Her work with the Library in Urbanna has led her to work in the Church Library as well, and recently has become one of our Lectors.

If you haven't been approached by Scott with the words "Is there anything I can do for you?" You haven't met this humble man. Not to mention how he took on the job as Junior Warden almost immediately after becoming a new member. Beyond his duties as Junior Warden, he has built the Creation Care Garden and various bridges that lead out to the garden. You just can't hold a good man down!

Yes, there have been many Dynamics Duos at Christ Church, but Alyson & Scott make us proud to say we're blessed to have two more!



The ECW met on September 20th and has now organized a nominating committee for next year's officers. Please consider taking on leadership in this wonderful ministry. There are so many new ideas that we will be considering in the future and need individuals that are willing to help navigate our future. Let me know if you have any interest in serving in some capacity.

Our next exciting event that we will be preparing for in November is the Oyster Festival. We will need your help to prepare our 3500 ham biscuits. Judy Quilter (with the support of our wonderful Betty Evans) has taken the lead on this. We will be meeting to prepare rolls for the upcoming festival on Thursday, November 2nd at 9:00 am. If you have friends that are willing to help, please bring them (they may even be interested in Christ Church). This has always been fun and a lot of camaraderie! There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Grace will also be selling delicious nuts again in October and it is a great ECW fundraiser. More to come.

Karen

Your ECW ALSO gathers nuts in the fall for you! The freshest pecan halves, peanuts, and cashews are available for sale as one of our important ECW fundraisers. These items are delicious and popular as gifts, snacks for football games, or holiday baking. ***Please complete the order form (see next page) and leave it in the Church Office, or mail it to Grace Parker at 15 Bayberry Pointe, Urbana 23175.*** Nut orders will be ready for pick up before Thanksgiving, right after the pecan harvest! Yum!

GOOD NEWS! Our suppliers did NOT increase prices this year, so you benefit from inflation-free same prices as last year...

# ECW 2023 Nut Sales

	Price	Number	TOTAL
	Per Tin	of Tins	Price
<u>Whitley's Salted Peanuts (20 oz. Tin)</u>	\$12.00	_____	_____
<u>Whitley's Jumbo Cashews (12 oz. Tin)</u>	\$12.00	_____	_____
Whitley's "crabby" Chesapeake Bay Peanuts (20 oz. Tin)	\$12.00	_____	_____
<u>Whitley's Dark Chocolate-Covered Peanut Clusters (10 oz. Tin)</u>	\$12.00	_____	_____
<u>Whitley's "Homemade" Peanut Brittle (10 oz Tin)</u>	\$12.00	_____	_____
<u>Pecan Halves (16 oz. Bag)</u>	\$14.00	_____	_____

**TOTAL ORDER**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for Orders October 31,  
2023**

**NAME**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE**

\_\_\_\_\_





Last month I wrote of my sister's stroke and urged everyone to be prepared for the unexpected. Do the legal paperwork and communicate your wishes clearly. At this writing, my sister is still in the hospital in Albany NY, and her future remains uncertain. Her children are going through the agonizing process of trying to create the legal framework to care for her while she cannot make her own decisions. My exhortations remain valid, and if you've let another month go by without progress, please don't wait any longer.

So, that was about Preparation. This month, another powerful P word is uppermost in my mind...Prayer. All of you have prayed for my sister and her survival and progress can only be considered miraculous and only attributed to prayer. Doctors gave her less than 20% chance of survival, and she has not only survived, but is off the ventilator, breathing on her own, and able to speak a few words. So, my friends, thank you and please keep praying. Preparation and Prayer are a Powerful combination.

Grace Parker

The Verger

## OUR LOYAL COMPANIONS



On Sunday, October 8 at the 10:30 service, Christ Church will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals. This is such a special event, and your opportunity to show of the good manners of your beloved pets. All well-behaved, and even medium-well-behaved four-footed creatures are welcome as we remember St. Francis, the patron saint of animals and ecology. Each pet will receive a blessing from Father Stuart (and a treat...). You won't want to miss this service!

# Endowment Board



## Save the Date

You are invited to an Endowment Fund Board Wine and Cheese in the Parish Fellowship Hall on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM

Come, enjoy fellowship, hospitality and learn of ways you and Christ Church may benefit from charitable giving and end of year tax planning from James A. Butts, IV, (Alfie) of Tidewater Trusts and Estates (TT&E), in Irvington, Virginia.

Your Endowment Fund Board recommends keeping abreast with changes in the law and periodic review of your documents and plans. Then once you have done the homework, make an appointment with Fr Stuart for updating the planning your service wishes and to make your wishes for the Parish known,

Come Listen, Learn, Enjoy Wine and Cheese and Fellowship.

Endowment Fund Board

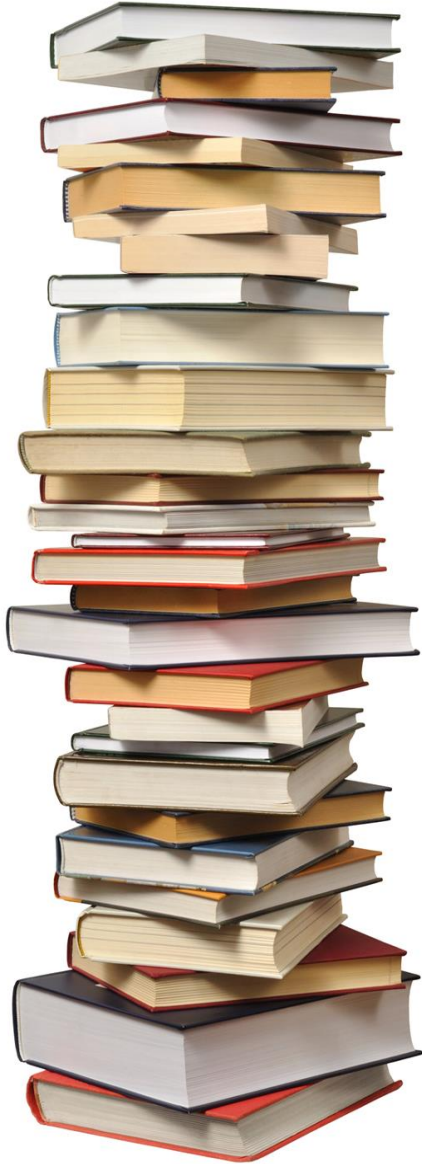
Fr Stuart Wood

Gary Clay

Jack Hellems

Grace Parker

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## Spiritual Book Club

Are you interested in joining a book club focused on our spiritual journey? Books could include biographies, memoirs, and also novels that lead to insightful discussions on various aspects of the spiritual life. Non-fiction books that deal with ethical and religious questions might also be an option. It would be up to the participants to define the scope of the clubs choices.

If interested, please contact Libby Boyer ([boyerlib@gmail.com](mailto:boyerlib@gmail.com)) or Pat Anderson ([patpati17@hotmail.com](mailto:patpati17@hotmail.com)). If there is enough interests, we will schedule an organizational meeting.



## **From the Organ Bench**

“So What Exactly Do You Do?” I am asked occasionally. Some people think I just show up on Sunday morning, open a book and play. It is a bit more involved than that.

Being organist and choir director takes many hours each month. There is time spent reading the upcoming lessons so that appropriate hymns and related choir and organ music can be chosen. Then choosing hymn setting for each Sunday - those are organ arrangements of the hymns that add variety to the verses. I download electronic files of the music to my iPad Pro into a special music program called For Score.

Lots of time is spent communicating. Sending info to Father Stuart for the bulletin and to the Tech Team for the video service. Going online and reporting the music played each Sunday to the licensing website. Preparing weekly emails to the choir with info on all the upcoming music. Attending Worship and planning meetings.

Next comes practicing and more practicing. Sunday morning finds me in the choir room at 9:00 ready to rehearse. Then that walk across the parking lot to the sanctuary and it is go time - my favorite hour of the week. Because to me it is more than just a job: I love what I do. Thank you for letting me do that here.

Libby Boyer

# *Special October Celebrations*

## *Anniversaries*



*9 Catherine D. and Barry L. Spence*

*26 Trent and Sally Austin*

## *Birthdays*

*1 Deborah Cuffee "Debbie" Davis*

*2 Linda Parker*

*9 Dixon Cole*

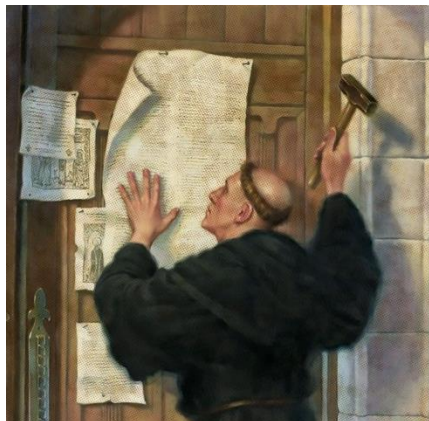
*19 Jody Anglin*

*25 Gordon E. White*

*Tom Clarke*



Halloween and All Hallows' Eve are not the only events that are celebrated on October 31,



In 1517 c.e. Martin Luther posted a belief statement that changed Christianity on the Wittenberg Church door.

### **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 2023 are:

Month Published

Submission Deadline is before 5:00 pm on:

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 set on a "space available" basis.