

Christ Church Parish

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Post Office Box 476, Saluda, VA 23149



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

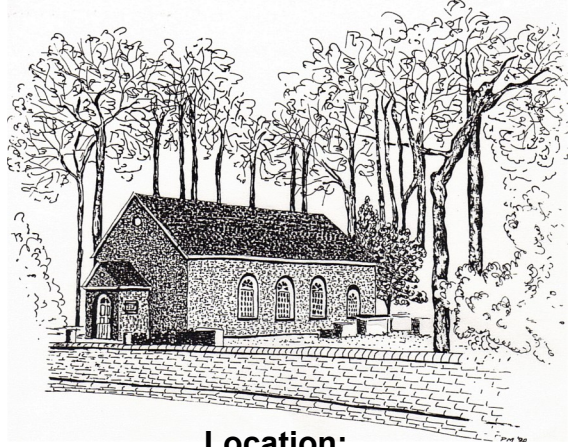
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URBANNA, VA

PERMIT No. 6

September
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 September 2023

Message From Our Rector



Almighty God, you have entrusted to your Church a share in the ministry of your Son our great high priest: inspire by your Holy Spirit the hearts of many to offer themselves for the ministry of your Church, that, strengthened by his power, they may work for the increase of your kingdom and set forward the eternal praise of your name; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (Taken from Common Worship: Times and Seasons)

This inspirational prayer should encourage each one of us to find ways in which to offer ourselves for ministry. As we enter September, we find that life takes on more activities and opportunities for ministry that we may get involved in. If you haven't heard, I have been asked to be the interim chaplain at Christchurch School, which will mainly involve leading their Wednesday chapel services. Our organist, Libby Boyer, has also become their accompanist for chapel services and their choir programs. This will hopefully open up opportunities for us to support the youth attending one of our Diocesan Schools and to build a renewed relationship between us.

Prior to the pandemic, we had been making headway in this regard by having ice cream socials for some of the teams, preparing and handing out goodie bags before exams, showing our support by attending some of the home games, and including the faculty with teacher appreciation gift baskets.

Our church campus continues to open up opportunities for community ministry. AA members are frequently thanking us for offering space for their meetings. They recently had a special Saturday event in which 75 people attended. The Scouting programs continue to thrive in this place. And one of the new school faculty has approached us about using the large classroom each weekday in the late afternoon for one of her classes.

Continued on the next page

As part of the Diocese of Virginia, the Trustees of the Funds will be our guests for their annual meeting on September 13th. This will be an all-day event with the bishop being present at the morning session.

We are all interconnected, diocese, church, school, and community. Christ Church Parish makes a difference in the lives of those who come in contact with our ministries. Your gifts of time, talent, and tithes make this a place where God's love and presence is felt by many. May the God of love continue to bless us and inspire us in all that we do.

Faithfully,

Fr. Stuart

TRUSTEE NEWS

The Vestry wishes to thank Jim Hill for serving as one of Christ Church Parish's Trustees. As a trustee, Jim was involved in signing the legal documents during the sale of the former rectory and also in signing the easements that the Water Authority needed when bringing the water lines across church property to the school.

The Vestry has recently elected Betsy Evans as Jim's replacement and we thank her for her willingness to serve the parish in this capacity.

We have three trustees and the other two are Marilyn South and Jeff Shaw. Trustees are appointed according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia to hold title to the property of the Church and this in turn is held in trust for The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Virginia.



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 Deacon's Bench

“Go in peace to love and serve the Lord”

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Hopefully, those words are familiar to you. Each of us is called in some way to serve Him and to serve others in His name. There are many ways to serve in this parish and the community beyond our walls. I am thankful to be serving in a place where so many people work so hard to follow through with this mission.

Please find some time to go out and take a look at our Creation Care Garden. Things there are changing every day. More new things will be happening in the future. There are benches and you can take a few moments to have a little quiet time in a very special place. We can also use more volunteers. There are lots of jobs, big and small, and we can really use your help.

Planning will soon begin for our 4th Annual Fine Arts Camp. On August 21st, The Urbanna Kiwanis Club invited me to speak at their meeting. They were very interested in what we have been doing as they focused on what can be done to help children in our community. I think they will be willing to help us by telling others about our camp and volunteering to work at camp. They were very kind and welcoming. We will soon be meeting to make plans for 2024.

I will be away from Christ Church on October 1st as I will be attending a required Deacon Retreat at Shrine Mont. I will also be away the following Sunday. I have been called to serve on a Cursillo Weekend in The Diocese of Southern Virginia. When I was in that diocese, I served on many teams and am excited to be called again. In the past, I have served on the music and kitchen teams and have been a warden. This will be very different for me as it will be my first time serving as a Spiritual Director. I have a special request for any of you who have made a Cursillo. There are some ways in which you can help, and it would be greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you are interested.

Thanks to all of you for the many ways you serve others in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.”

Peace, Peg+

ELEPHANTS *and* **VES** **RY**

QUESTION FOUR and THE RESULTS OF TUNING-IN!

As the title implies, this article will review the results of Question Four, and more importantly, look at the answers to all four of the questions posed to the attendees of our May 7th meeting that focused on “IT TAKES A PARISH TO GROW A PARISH”.

Question Four was “Is there a practice or program from our history that you would like to see revived or a new initiative that you would like to see begun? What role are you willing to play in that practice or program? The answers were many but all of them focused on three main themes. First, host community events that will attract people to Christ Church. Next, host a religious study that offers a deeper understanding of our faith and what it means to be an Episcopalian. And finally, invite people to church!

As we look at our latest activities as a Parish, we are already taking these answers to heart and implementing many of them. For community events, our Fellowship Committee just held a very successful Ice Cream Social that proved to be loads of fun and included many folks from different churches. Our Creation Care Garden is proving to be very successful and contributes fresh vegetables to our community. Other events are planned to include a Technical Day that will be open to the public where community members can come to the Parish Hall and receive technical help for all their “electronic devices”. Interestingly, there have been a growing number of requests for religious study.

So, when we say, “It Takes a Parish to Grow a Parish”, what does the Parish have to do? From our answers and what we’re witnessing, we need to do exactly what we’ve been trying to do over the past year or two, which has seen us come alive in this post-pandemic era, as a vibrant Parish within our Middlesex County community. We have emphasized our Accepting, Warm, and Welcoming congregation. We have initiated or re-initiated several community involving activities including our Creation Care Garden, the Veteran’s Day Luncheon and the Summer Arts Camp, the Game Day and Fashion Show, along with the Trash and Treasures sale. Many activities involve almost all our members. As a result, we have seen several new members join us! And don’t forget to INVITE new friends and neighbors!

So, thank God for each one of us as we continue to meet the mission of Christ Church Parish which reads “We are a family of faith, growing in Christ through learning, worship, and service who strive to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves.” Thank You and God Bless! The Elephants and the Vestry

◀ August	September 2023						October ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1 YOGA 10:00 am	2	
3 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	4	5 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	6 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	7 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	8 YOGA 10:00 am	9	
10 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Brotherhood Breakfast 9:00 am	11	12 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	13 Diocese of Virginia Trustees All Day Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Outreach Committee 10:15 am	14 Worship Committee 9:30 am AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	15 YOGA 10:00 am Endowment Board 1:30 pm	16	
17 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	18	19 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Finance Committee 9:30 am Tech Team 11:30 am Vestry 1:30 pm	20 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel ECW Meeting 4:00 pm	21 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	22 YOGA 10:00 am ECW Luncheon and Fashion Show 11:00am - 4:00 pm	23	
24 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Stewardship Sunday 9:00 am	25	26 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	27 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	28 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	29 YOGA 10:00 am	30	

OUTREACH MINISTRIES



Once again, we asked and CCP came through with our successful school supply drive for Middlesex students. Donations were given to the YMCA to help fill backpacks for their “Bright Beginnings” program. A Big Thank you to all!

Beginning in September, the Visitation Singers will be back. This ministry along with other churches will be visiting the two nursing homes in the area and providing residents with a sing-a-long. This will happen the 2nd Monday of each month starting Monday, September 11th. More details with times and where to meet will be forthcoming. We invite your participation in providing this meaningful visit to the residents of Riverside and Dockside Health & Rehab facilities.

On Sunday, October 1st we will once again be participating in the One Community Under God service at the Firehouse in Urbanna. Christ Church Parish is one of many churches participating in the area. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m. This ministry will be providing lunches for 50 people. We are looking for volunteers to help park cars, and greet attendees. We also need help transporting 6 – 8 tables and chairs to and from the service. Please contact Clayton Neal or Judy Quilter if you can help.



Funding Your 2024 Pledge Contributions

Our 2024 Annual Giving Campaign is fast approaching, and the Finance Committee is busy identifying next year's financial needs. It is much easier preparing the budget knowing the funds available. As you prepare your pledge card and consider how your generosity will be funded, we hope those eligible will consider utilizing this year's required minimum distribution (RMD).

Required Minimum Distribution

A required minimum distribution (RMD) is the amount of money that must be withdrawn from an employer-sponsored retirement plan, traditional IRA, SEP, or SIMPLE individual retirement account (IRA) by owners and qualified retirement plan participants of retirement age. The required minimum distribution is the amount you must take out of your account to avoid tax consequences.

In 2023, the age at which you must begin taking RMDs changed to 73 years. Another significant change from Secure 2.0: Starting in 2024, holders of designated Roth 401(k) accounts will no longer be required to take RMDs from them (during their lifetime). This rule is already true for Roth IRAs.

Reminder - Qualified charitable distributions may reduce your taxable income

What many retirees don't know is they can donate all, or a portion of, their RMD directly to charity. It's called a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD.

A QCD can be a very tax-effective way to support a charity, such as Christ Church Parish. However, it's important to first understand the details and limitations. Qualified charitable distributions do *not* provide a charitable deduction for taxpayers. Instead, with a qualified charitable distribution, a check is sent directly from an IRA to charity. This allows the donor to exclude the amount from taxable income. Should you have questions, contact your IRA administrator to facilitate this pledge/gift. Christ Church does not offer tax advice.

With gratitude, grace and peace,

Stewardship Committee

Father Stuart, Garry Clay, Jack Hellems, Jim Knupp



Catechism Corner

Last month we examined the specialized word incarnate; here are three other words from the Bible that some laypeople might need help understanding:

Sanctification: refers to the process of becoming holy or set apart for God. It is often used in the Bible to describe the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

Justification: This word refers to the act of being declared righteous by God. It is based on the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, who took the punishment for our sins so that we could be forgiven and made right with God.

Regeneration: This refers to the new birth, or the spiritual transformation that takes place when a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ. It is a work of the Holy Spirit that transforms a person's heart and nature.

In Faith,

Miles Libbey

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Some have asked me why we don't sing from the Worship and Rejoice hymnal anymore. The answer is simple: it is not an authorized hymnal of the Episcopal Church. The hymnals approved for use are the Hymnal 1982 (the blue book), Wonder Love and Praise (WLP), a book of more contemporary music, Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) containing gospel songs and spirituals, and Voices Found (VF) with hymns by, for and about women. Two older supplements are no longer in print. You will see us using more hymns from those supplemental hymnals over the coming year. We have licensing agreements that allow us to do that as inserts in your bulletin.

Do you like to sing? If even half those who can sing would join the choir, oh what great things we could do! I have been slowly building up the music library files, but when there are not enough people to sing on Sunday, it is disappointing and discouraging for those who do come. We do not have a midweek rehearsal, so you only need to show up at 9:15 on Sunday. Please join us and help keep a music program alive at Christ Church.

Libby Boyer



None of us know the day nor the hour

Most of you know that my sister, my little sister, had a stroke on August 7th. She went to work that Monday morning, with a headache, but that was just what she thought. Her co-workers immediately realized that all wasn't well as she was confused by simple tasks. She was taken to the hospital and they discovered that she had bleeding in her brain that had caused her stroke. She has been in ICU, unresponsive, since then.

That isn't the way she thought her week was going to be. She thought she had plenty of time to do the kind of planning that accompanies illnesses and beyond. She has no will. She has no power of attorney prepared. She has no written instructions left to allow us to know her wishes. Life support? Limited recovery? What does/did she want? The only thing she had said was that she wanted a Viking funeral...you know, a raft set afire and out to sea...very funny.

As Verger, I've been witness to the uncertainty and agony of delayed decision-making. If you love your family, don't put them through this. Be the grown-up in the room and put together your will, funeral planning, and directives, and talk to your family and your rector. You do not know when that day or that hour will come. Don't let it come and find you unprepared. Please.

Grace

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee wishes to express our gratitude to all who helped with our Ice Cream Social on 28 July. It was a hot day but the cool ice cream, summer breezes, and Clayton's music kept us all in a mellow summer mood. For many the "cake walk" was a first-time game with mile-wide smiles, as everyone seemed to want to win a cake! The cakes were lovely, homemade, and delicious, so a special thank you for your super donation of time and love.



With the beginning of Autumn, we are making plans for two important military-related events. On 27 October, the Marine Corps Run will take place and the young recruits will sprint to our church. We are happy to serve them snacks/snack bags with soft drinks, coffee, and water. A more somber meeting of the runners takes place at Chesty Puller's gravesite where our clergy tell interesting stories of Chesty's valor and his life in Middlesex County. Good humor and history prevail with an enhanced appreciation of the Puller legend. This year we want to offer some special music to add to the tribute.

The Veteran's Luncheon will take place on Friday, 10 November and we expect a record crowd, good food, cheerful souls exchanging experiences, and good humor. This is a major undertaking, and we are planning now. We will certainly call on the Brotherhood for assistance with parking and the ECW for their hospitality skills. This event is most assuredly the most appreciated and respected program we do as a committee all year. We reach all ranks, backgrounds, social economic levels, religions, and political persuasions with this event that celebrates loving our country and serving the nation. Harmony fills the room and pride in our nation dominates the scene. It is a blessing to see, observe, and feel brotherly love.

A quick note on our Gallery of Heroes!!!! Anyone who is or was a member of Christ Church Parish and was in the military needs to be featured in our Gallery. This includes your relatives and friends in the cemetery!!!! When we say heroes, we do not mean heroic deeds—we translate this to mean you represented all of us in our military whatever battle, war, or campaign. You selfishly gave of your time, energy and family lives to serve a greater purpose. Therefore you, each and every one of you, is a hero. Please fill out our brief template and send a photo to me before 1 October. You are today's heroes to us and tomorrow's legends to the next generations.

Rounding out the season will be ADVENT DINNERS. 29 November kicks off the first Wednesday night Advent dinner and then we celebrate 6, 13, and 20 December. Frosty evenings, a big moon, good food, holiday aromas, and Advent history coupled with cultural stories will make for fine fellowship at this happy time of the year.

Happy Autumn from your Fellowship Committee,

Jeanette Adkins, Clayton Neal, Bill Snider, Miles Libbey, Bev Hart, Ginger Hellems, Mary Lynn Landgraf



**CHRIST CHURCH GAME DAY
WITH FASHION SHOW AND LUNCH**
Friday, 22 September 11:00 - 4:00 \$30.00

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

RSVP by Tuesday, 19 September to Judi Snider,
jhs614@verizon.net
804-402-1624

Mail checks payable to CCP ECW
Mail to Judi Snider at 856 Felton Road, Deltaville, VA 23043

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



Funding Christ Church's Future By Contributing to The Endowment

Millions of Americans make donations of cash and property to the charities of their choice each year. However, many donors are left wishing that they could do more for the charities that they love and support. Life Insurance can be an effective and convenient asset to give. There are various methods for making life insurance donations; each method has unique advantages.

Naming a Charity as Beneficiary

Naming the charity of your choice as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy is the simplest way to provide a charity with the death benefit proceeds from a policy. It doesn't offer the income tax advantages that come with gifting a policy, but it still reduces the donor's estate by the amount of the death benefit.

Donors who aren't completely sure how they want to distribute their assets after death can list a charity as a revocable beneficiary. This gives them flexibility in case their financial situation changes. If the donor chooses to stop paying the premiums, the charitable organization can choose to continue the process or allow the policy to lapse.

Naming the charity as beneficiary also ensures the privacy of the transaction, which can be important for donors who wish to keep their gifting intentions secret from their families or other heirs. Transfer of assets from an insurance contract cannot be contested, making it impossible for anyone to stop the donation from occurring.

If this sounds like a way for you to remember our beautiful church, contact your financial advisor or estate planner for guidance. Christ Church is not in the business of giving financial advice.

What Bible events happened in September?

September 3 – Elul 7

The Death of the Ten Spies is the day that the Ten Spies gave the evil report to the children of Israel and caused the Israelites to rebel against the Lord.

September 20 – Elul 24

The building of the Second Temple Began

September 22 – Elul 25

Jewish history identifies Elul 25 as the [first day of Creation Week. God separated the light from darkness.](#)

The walls and gates of Jerusalem were completed in 52 days.

September 23 – Elul 26

On the second day of the Creation week, God divided the waters above from the waters below.

September 24 – Elul 27

On the third day of the Creation week, God created dry land, plants, and trees.

September 25 – Elul 28

On the fourth day of the Creation week, God created the sun, moon, and stars.

September 26 – Elul 29

On the fifth day of the Creation week, God created fish, sea creatures, and birds.

September 27 – Tishrei 1

On the sixth day of the Creation week, God created Adam, Eve, and land animals.

Feast of Trumpets the first of the three fall feasts is a day of rest and a holy convocation.

Ezra and the Feast: Ezra and the people returned to Jerusalem from Babylon.

Binding of Isaac: This is the day that Abraham bound Isaac to the altar. The Lord tested Abraham's faith and then provided a sacrifice for him to offer.

September 28 – Tishrei 2

On the seventh and final day of the Creation week, God ceased His work and rested.

Days of Awe: The ten days between the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement are a time for introspection, repentance, and restoring broken relationships with one another in preparation for the Day of Atonement.

September 29 – Tishrei 3

Fast of the Seventh Month traditionally is held on the third day of this month.

Special September Celebrations

Anniversaries



2 Jeff and Susie Loustaunau
4 Tom and Kathy Clarke
6 "Bill" Budd and Mary Lynn Landgraf
15 John and Shelia Gammel
Michael and Karen Gorin
28 Jeff and Pam McClelland
Scott and Nancy Campbell

Birthdays

4 Marian W, Goodloe
5 Barbara Shaw
6 Ann de Peyster
Elizabeth R. "Liz" Perkins
7 Margaret "Micki" Clay
10 Alyson Holt
14 Elizabeth "Betty" Evans
17 Theresa Liverman
18 Robert L. "Bob" Montague
22 Sallie H. Wells
24 Janet Lundin
25 Bill Cawthorn
Jeff McClelland
26 Mary Wakefield Buxton
29 Shelia Gammel
30 Cathy Spence





from the Junior Warden's Workbench

Maintenance Activities Around the Church

We have really accomplished so much during August. Thank you to all the parishioners who have helped us!

Gravel in the parking lot has been delivered and spread. I so appreciate those who helped with this important project. On the inside of the church, plaster repair and painting has been completed. There was a water leak under the stage in the Parish Hall and it has been fixed. On the south wall of the church, the brick-and-mortar repair is nearly complete.

We are well on our way to preparing the classroom in the Parish Hall for Christchurch School use.

Creation Care Project

We have planted fall crops in the garden and will continue to provide produce to the Cryer Center when it is available.

Scott Holt

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:

<u>Month Published</u>	<u>Submission Deadline is before 5:00 pm on:</u>
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