

THE ANGELUS

Volume 67 Number 7

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

March 2017

Rector's Message

Dear People of Christ Church,

I rarely find such a clear calendar designation for our liturgical calendar, but we have it in spades this year. We will end February by cleaning out the pantry February 28 with our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. March then kicks off with Ash Wednesday services and then it's Lent all month long. So, you're thinking that March might not be that fun? Not so fast... We have our annual St Patrick's Day Pilgrimage Party and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 11. This event is a fundraiser to help our youth go on their pilgrimage to England this summer. There will be music, hors d'oeuvres & dessert, and great items to bid on in the Silent Auction. This mid-March fun, fellowship and the opportunity to help the youth gives a brief hiatus during "Lent month."

I have a favor to ask of you as we get ready for this event and Easter in April: ***Please invite people to join you.*** This time of year offers some wonderful bridges to encourage people to come to church. People who grew up around the church but no longer attend sometimes want to come back to a church, but are not sure how. The key for them might be as simple as an invitation from you. It can be an invitation to an event like our St. Patrick's Day Party, or an invitation to come on a Sunday for a service. People who grew up in churches which observe seasons such as Lent and Easter are familiar with the pattern of worship, and your invitation to them may help reconnect them to their own faith experience. We have the best of both worlds right now! If you have neighbors or friends who might be tepid to the idea of church, but open to the idea of fellowship, give them a call. If your neighbor wonders when is a good time to come and worship at Christ Church, Lent and the approach of Easter may be that opportunity.

For all of the resources and programs available on ways to grow the faith community of people who are disciples of Jesus, there is still no better way than a personal invitation. The personal element helps establish real connections, gives a good place on which to build trust, and it makes the most sense. We have good news to offer and we are fortunate to have a variety of resources and ministries to give witness to God's love.

Faithfully,



The Very Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
rector@christchurchwinchester.org



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From the Vestry

Highlights from the February Vestry Meeting

The Vestry is pleased to welcome the newest class of members elected to serve as the class of 2019. They are Neile Martin, Robb Russell, Marty Tabaka and Betsy Young. We appreciate their willingness to serve at Christ Church. We also want to thank Wilborn Roberson, Kathi Adams, and Bryan Gray for their service as they complete their term on the Vestry. The Vestry recently received the resignation of Chris Northrup who is not able to complete his final year on the Vestry. The Vestry asked Chris Ferguson to serve that final year, as is allowed in the canons of the Episcopal Church, and fortunately, Chris Ferguson agreed to help.

Every year, among the first orders of business with a new Vestry, we elect our officers and also appoint representatives to our committees, all of which fall under the responsibility of the Vestry. We are pleased to have Pete Gronauer as Treasurer, Ken Bradley as Register, Barry Schnoor as Junior Warden and Martha Griffin as Senior Warden. The Vestry representatives who make sure the committees and Vestry are in clear communication with each other were appointed for most of the committees. They are as follows:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Current Chair</u>	<u>2017 Vestry Representative</u>
Communications	Ann Harrison Wallinger	Ken Bradley
Education	Mary Margaret Applin	Betsy Young
Finance	Pete Gronauer	Chris Ferguson
Outreach	Jeremy Becker-Welts	Robb Russell/Chris Ferguson
Parish Life (Hospitality)	Martha Roberson	Jody Wall/Joan Bronson
Personnel	Rector and Sr. Warden	Neile Martin
Properties	James Baden	Barry Schnoor/Bill Pifer
Stewardship	Marty Tabaka	Marty Tabaka
Worship	Webster Gibson	Martha Griffin

We still need to appoint a representative to Pastoral Care. If you have questions about the committees and want to know who to contact, the committee chairs and Vestry representatives are a good place to start.

With so much work done on appointments, another question came up: If a person wants to help serve in an area of ministry or with a project, do they have to be on a committee? The answer is no. The committees help to make sure that the different ministries and projects are organized and happen. The parishioners share their gifts and talents serving in the ministries or projects. Some better known examples of this might be Altar Guild, various projects organized by the Outreach Committee, Keep Day (organized by the Properties Committee), and youth/children's formation programs.

This year, the Vestry will be working on our committee structure. We have lost key leaders in the parish over the past years due to death or moving away. We also have new people interested in serving on the various committees. Any time there is a change in people and their gifts and abilities, the Vestry wants to make sure that our committees are working efficiently and maximizing the gifts of those involved. Your Vestry encourages you to talk with the committee chairs or Vestry members if you would like to be involved in the committees. The Vestry will also continue to communicate with you about changes or new opportunities for ministries which may come up in the next year.

From the Assistant Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday with a solemn, somber reminder, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” Remember that what you were formed out of is the very same substance that you will eventually return to. In the days leading up to the beginning of Lent, I always find people asking one another what they are giving up for Lent, people discussing their Lenten disciplines and how often they feel like failures when they do not stick to them 100%. The simple truth, my friends, is that we are human and prone to failure. We are human, and unable to make of ourselves anything else. Dust reminds us of the messes we make in life, the messes we sometimes make of life. No matter how hard we try not to we leave bits of dust, of mess, behind us wherever we go. That is why the Ash Wednesday liturgy has within the long confession. It is an invitation for us to own up to the inevitable messiness of our lives.

But, it is important for us to remember that confession always ends with absolution, with a declaration of forgiveness, with a word of grace and wholeness. Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. These words themselves contain both confession and absolution, law and gospel in equal measure. They echo the story in Genesis in which God took a lump of clay, a bit of dust, and breathed life into it, into us. We are dust, but we are very special dust, we are dust filled with the breath, the spirit, the very life of the creator God. And when we die, we in all our dirty dustiness will return to our maker, to God. Far from being rejected for our dustiness, we will be gathered back to the one who gave our dust, who gave us, our very lives.

In the meantime, between birth and death, between dust and dust, we live in the world as imperfect human beings, as fractured angels, as what Luther called being a saint and sinner at the same time. All too often we see ourselves and our God at one end or the other of the holiness spectrum. Either we see God as a stern and unbending judge and ourselves as miserable sinners or we see God as an indulgent grandparent who excuses our every mistake on the strength of great love and ourselves as sweet, harmless, and innocent little saints. And the truth lies somewhere in the vast empty space in the middle, both for God and for us.

Yes, God is righteous and holy. Yes, God does hate sin and demands justice and obedience. Yes, we do often fail to measure up. And yes, God does love us with a complete and unconditional love, a love that casts our sin deep into the sea, as far from us as the east is from the west. And the problem is we can't find a nice middling image for God, halfway between these two extremes; there is no middle position, God is not either/or; God is both/and. God is both judge and savior just as we are both saint and sinner.

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. We are dust beneath God's holy feet and we are dust that has had holiness breathed into it. The God who condemns us also the God who saves, both, at the same time. Our Lenten journey is a journey to the cross, to the place where the ultimate mystery of God's eternal love is revealed. The cross is the place where God's judgment of sin and God's forgiveness of sin merge into the form of the crucified Christ. Luther said that there is only one place we can look and be certain that we are seeing God. There is only one place where God's justice and God's steadfast love can be clearly seen together. That place is Christ upon the cross.

Lent is a season that summons us to focus on the fullness of the Christian faith as we prepare to celebrate the Paschal mystery of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. So, please, please, remember that you are dust. And please, please remember, to dust you shall return. We are dust, holy messy dust, filled with the breath of our Creator, called by that same Creator into a life-giving relationship.

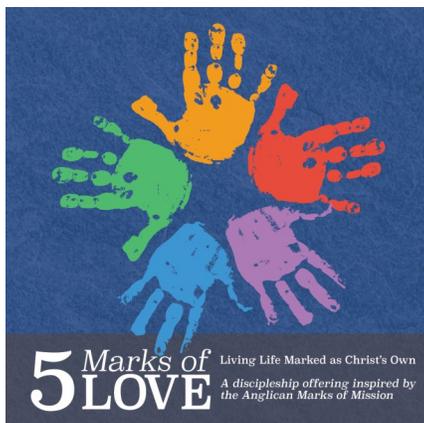
Blessings,



The Rev. Bridget Coffey, Assistant Rector
bcoffey@christchurchwinchester.org

Christian Formation

Adult Forum in March



This Lent, we encourage you to participate in an online series created by the Society of Saint John the Evangelist and the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at the Virginia Theological Seminary called, *5 Marks of Love: Living Life Marked as Christ's Own*. Each morning of Lent, you'll receive an email with a short video featuring one of the brothers of SSJE discussing the ways in which God's Life and God's Mission express themselves in and through us. Using the free downloadable workbook, over the course of Lent, you will explore the Anglican "Marks of Mission" through thought-provoking questions and activities.

This program will shape our Adult Forum during Lent as it offers a space for prayerful discussions as we collectively reflect.

Subscribe to the daily videos here: <http://ssje.org/ssje/5marksoflove/>

Adult Forum meets at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings in the Tilford Room. Please join us!

Pilgrimage Fundraiser

St. Patrick's Day Party & Silent Auction

Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Proceeds support the 2017 Youth Pilgrimage to England

Tickets On Sale Now!

\$10 - adults/ \$5 - children 10 and under/ \$40 maximum per family

See youth for tickets or call the Church Office (540-662-5843).

***Please invite friends and neighbors to join us for the fun and fellowship.
Hors d'oeuvres & dessert provided. Please bring your own beverages!***



This fun annual event is the largest fundraiser our youth program hosts to help make our pilgrimage program happen! And, we need your help:

Donations of items for the auction

In the past, donations have included: gift baskets of items from local stores, church committees, and even Sunday School classes, art work, donations such as timeshares, and even meals prepared for your family by the Rector of Christ Church, tickets to shows, sports events, ways to get away or spend an evening out at local venues. All creative donations to help support our event are welcome! To make donations, please call Kim Pifer (540-662-1007).

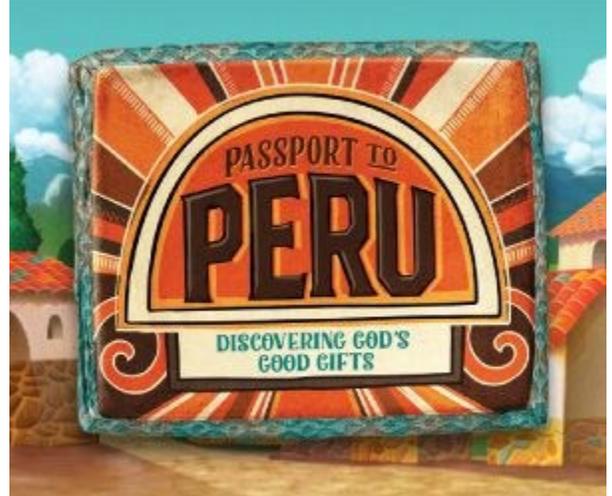
Christian Formation

Sunday School News

Vacation Bible School is coming July 10-14, 2017!

Mark your calendars now for Passport to Peru VBS 2017: Discovering God's Good Gifts, a multicultural VBS. Look forward to tons of learning and fun in our yearly program and its outreach to our community's children.

Do you often think you would like to work with our children's program but don't aren't able to take a role during the regular program year? VBS is for you! We need lots of help in many ways and virtually everything is provided including plans, materials, all kinds of support and lots of fun. Call or text Margery Wingenbach (540-667-0386) to see how you could be a part.



Lenten Mite Box Offering

Our individual preschool, primary and elementary classes begin their offering on March 5th. This year, in addition to reviewing the information about their project; consider helping them make a daily offering in conjunction with the Lent To-Go activities provided to the congregation. If you missed receiving one, we have more!

We will again encourage children to bring their offering in weekly so they can measure how they are progressing toward their goals. The offering will conclude the Sunday after Easter. Please help your children remember their offering each week!



As always, you don't have to be a child to participate! Make a dollar-a-day part of your Lenten practice. Like the widow's two mites, it doesn't seem like much and will make a huge contribution to our effort.

Adult Daytime Faith Study

We continue to explore the Old Testament using the Great Courses DVD, "The Old Testament." The study meets in the Commons (all the way upstairs in the Parish Hall) at 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. In March, we will meet March 9 and 23. All are welcome to join us! Questions? Please call the Church Office (540-662-5843) or email Webster at rector@christchurchwinchester.org.

Calendar and Upcoming Events

Church Services

Sunday

Holy Communion Rite I 8:00 am
Holy Communion Rite II 10:30 am

Wednesday

12:00 pm Pilgrim's Chapel
(Healing Service 3rd Wed)

Second Monday

6:30 pm Special Needs—Sanctuary

March

- 1 Ash Wednesday
- 7 Region 14 Clericus
- 11 Men's Fellowship,
St. Patrick's Day Party & Silent Auction
- 17-19 Youth Retreat
- 21 Knit Unto Others at 2:00 pm
- 22 Salvation Army Dinner

Committee & Group Meetings

Adult Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Alleluia Singers	Sun: 8:45 am
Daytime Faith Study	2nd/4th Thurs: 10:00 am
Knit Unto Others	3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
Lectionary Bible Study	Wed: 10:30 am
Men's Fellowship	2nd Sat: 7:30 am
Outreach Committee	4th Tues: 7:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
Treasure Box	Wed & Fri: 10 am-4 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Women's Bible Studies	Tues: 10:45 - Noon Thurs: 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm
Youth Group	2nd/4th Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm

Children's Chapel

Join us on the 2nd floor of the Parish Hall from 10:30 am until the Peace. We welcome children ages 3-7. No registration is required. The service is child-sized and allows our young parishioners to explore the same Gospel we hear in the Sanctuary but with more opportunity to wiggle and talk! Our Children's Chapel leaders always welcome an extra pair of hands if you would like to join them!



**Look for
Christ Episcopal Church Winchester
and like us to stay up-to-date on the latest news!**

**The Rector's day off is Friday.
The Assistant Rector's day off is Monday.
Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843**

March Birthdays

- 1 Janie Mohn, Kamran Dastjerdi,
Brandi Vicchio, Lindsay Fairbanks,
Joan Carlson
- 2 Sandra Armstrong
- 3 Gwendolyn Conrad, Michael Roberson
- 4 Daniel Rupert
- 6 George Glass, Mark Pennypacker, Jr.
- 8 Dreusilla Koonce
- 9 Bo Brown, Robin Northrup
- 11 Susan Sheppard, John Dastjerdi
- 12 David Lewis, Sam Flotz
- 13 Steve Cluss
- 16 Ellen Ford
- 18 Kevin Pettit
- 19 Eddie Richard
- 20 Isabella Vicchio
- 21 Richard Lewis, III, Webster Gibson
- 24 Ned Browning
- 25 Sam DeBergh, Haley Jacobsen
- 27 Lori Ellington, Jack Nelson
- 28 Ann Thomas
- 30 Margaret Trueblood
- 31 Deanna Stouffer



Please Note:

We will publish birthday and anniversary information only with explicit permission. Please contact the Church Office if you wish to be added to or deleted from these lists. Please keep the Church Office informed of any changes to your address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Please let the office know the school addresses of our college students.

Wedding Anniversaries

- 16 Jim & Rebekah Wiedower
- 27 Doug & Terry Ewell

celebrate!

Palm Sunday • April 9, 2017

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I

Procession of Palms to the downtown mall

10:45 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Holy Week Services

Holy Week Noonday Eucharist:

Monday, April 10—Wednesday, April 12
in the Pilgrim's Chapel

Maundy Thursday Service—April 13 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Ecumenical Service

—April 14 at Noon at Grace Lutheran Church

Good Friday Liturgy—April 14 at 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil — April 15 at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday Services • April 16, 2017

Ecumenical Service at 6:30 am

at Mt. Hebron Cemetery

Services at 7:30 am, 9:00 am and 11:15 am
in the Sanctuary



Finance Committee

Financial Report

Budget Performance:

Well, the first month of 2017 is in the books and we are *very close* to budget in total.

- Actual revenues were about \$1,315 less than budgeted. (Pledged and All Other Revenue were both below budget while Unpledged was above budget.)
- Actual expenses were about \$640 under budget in total.
- This resulted in the Net Total being about \$675 worse than budget.

	Through January 31, 2017		
	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenues	\$ 44,192.96	\$ 45,507.00	\$ (1,314.04)
Expenses	\$ 47,288.43	\$ 47,926.94	\$ (638.51)
Net Total (Rev-Exp)	\$ (3,095.47)	\$ (2,419.94)	\$ (675.53)

NOTE: At the Annual Meeting, there was a very brief overview of Christ Church's Investment Funds and their values. In an effort to better inform the congregation about these investment funds, a new section has been added below. Over the next few months, this **Investment Funds** section will have a brief description of one or more of Christ Church's investment funds.

Investment Funds:

Unrestricted Endowment

Established: Prior to 1953

Restrictions: Unrestricted

Purpose: To use interest and principal as needed

Recent Contributions: Bequest gifts without any restrictions have been deposited into this account.

Recent Uses: Annual draw (\$7800) to help pay for Rector Housing. Self-loan of \$300,000 for "Bell Tower" Project (paid back in full as of mid-2016). \$6925 for painting project 2016.

Market Value: \$890,330.94 on 12/31/16

Restricted Endowment

Established: 2016

Restrictions: Corpus must attain a minimum threshold value of \$300,000 or not later than five years (2021) from creation of this fund prior to any use. Use is restricted to income and principal up to a limit of 4.5 % per year to be used for ministry and outreach.

Purpose: To collect funds that will remain in corpus and provide interest income annually

Recent Contributions: \$300

Recent Uses: None until 2021 or threshold met

Market Value: \$300.00 on 12/31/16

Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont

Join us for Mother's Day

Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont will be May 12-14—Mother's Day weekend. More details will be available soon about the program planned for the weekend, but in the coming weeks, the Shrine Mont Committee will be talking with us about why we should all take advantage of this opportunity to visit this beautiful camp and spend time together.

Not only is the weekend known for fun and fellowship, but Shrine Mont is also famous for their home-cooking—fried chicken, meatloaf, roast beef, and all the fixings. Plus, there's Shrine Mont's own Apple Butter! Shrine Mont's website is www.shrinemont.com. On the site, you can learn about The Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration, an open-air cathedral of the Diocese of Virginia, that was consecrated in 1925. Plus, there are maps of the facilities and information about on-site and local activities.

If you'd like to learn more about parish weekend, please talk with Jack & Polly Nelson, Martha & Wilborn Roberson, Kirk & Linda Gibson, Alice Lees, Barry & Diane Schnoor, Webster or Bridget. Or, call the Church Office at 540-662-5843. If you would like to help with the weekend, please contact Webster or Bridget.



The 2017 Parish Directory is now available!

If you did not pick one up in church, please visit the Church Office for a copy. If you have additions or corrections for the next update of the directory, please email Noelle at communications@christchurchwinchester.org

Parish News

Easter Flowers

If you would like to help adorn our Easter altar in thanksgiving for or in memory of someone special, please take an envelope from one of the tables in the rear of the Sanctuary, complete it, and include your check made payable to Christ Church with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line.

Minimum donation for Easter flowers will be \$12 EACH. You may put the envelope in the offering plate or bring it to the Church Office. **All envelopes must be received by Monday, April 3, 2017.**

Please contact the Church Office (540-662-5843) with any questions.



New Name for Stop Hunger Now



Please note that the Stop Hunger Now program is now Rise Against Hunger. A press release in January explained, "Stop Hunger Now, a global nonprofit organization based in Raleigh dedicated to ending hunger, announced its new name and brand: Rise Against Hunger. The new name speaks to how the organization's approach to ending hunger is evolving." The website is www.riseagainsthunger.org.

Our meal-packing date for this spring is April 22, 2017.

Save the date!

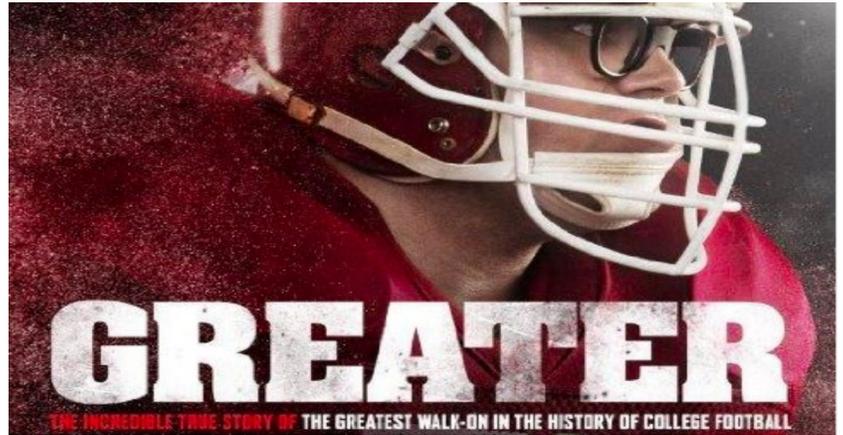
CCAP Collection for March

In March, we will continue to collect **blue plastic tarps and plain backpacks**. CCAP (Congregational Community Action Project) is a ministry of 46 worshipping communities in Winchester and Frederick County that have come together to support our neighbors in need with financial, material, and other assistance. There is a bookshelf in the foyer of the Parish Hall marked CCAP. Please leave items there and thank you for your generosity!

Parish News

Men's Fellowship Meets

The Men's Fellowship meets Saturday, March 11, at 7:30 am, in the Tilford Room where we watch the faith-based movie, *Greater*, covering the life of Arkansas University walk-on football player, Brandon Burlsworth.



Brandon Burlsworth is perhaps the greatest walk-on in the history of college football. Brandon dreamed of playing for the Arkansas Razorbacks, but was told he wasn't good enough to play Division I ball. Undeterred, Brandon took a risk and walked on in 1994. Written off by fellow teammates and coaches, Brandon displayed dogged determination in the face of staggering odds. The awkward kid who once was an embarrassment to his teammates and an annoyance to his coaches, ended up becoming the most respected player in the history of the program, changing the lives of all he touched.

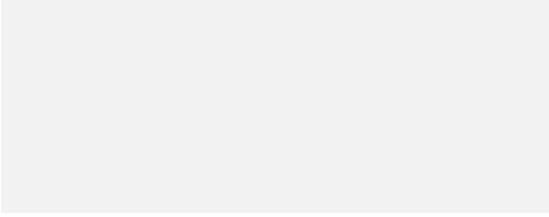
Breakfast will be provided. All men are welcome to join us!



Christ Church youth and families made sandwiches for WATTS guests in February.

THE ANGELUS
Christ Episcopal Church
114 West Boscawen St.
Winchester, VA 22601-4116

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Parish Nurse Musings

I have been reading several articles about dementia and spirituality. Yesterday, I read a huge article about Alzheimer's and spirituality. Authorities are recommending that as you work with anyone with memory loss, but especially dementia and Alzheimer's, that if possible try to involve them in something with spirituality. That may mean taking them to church, reading the Bible or other religious material, or having religious music played for them. A theme that we see in these people is disconnection from self and others. Including religious material or events helps to bring them back to what they might have experienced in their traditional role in the family.

Now, on a lighter subject: It's WALK to Jerusalem time again! Hope you will join us during Lent and we will all walk together until Easter. Sign-up sheets will be available at the back of the Tilford Room after each service or you can e-mail me at 1pnbutterfly@comcast.net. See you in church and on our walk!

Your Parish Nurse, Helen

