

# THE ANGELUS

Volume 71 Number 4

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

December 2020

Dear People of Christ Church,

What is the difference between Evening Prayer and Evensong? It is a great question and a great reminder that part of our current worship experience is offering us new ways to experience traditional ways that we worship. With new technology and wonderful people helping me learn and explore ways to enhance our "livestream" worship, we are trying to keep as much of what you might encounter in our in-person worship. However, it is also obviously a different experience.

Martin came up with a new title for our music-techno-guru, Phil Sargent, who also lends his tremendous vocal skills to worship. We call him our "digital verger." Some of you may know of large parishes with a verger who is an appointed lay leader often directing the acolytes, choirs, Eucharistic ministers, and clergy so they know where to go as they process into the sanctuary. For us, Phil lets us know when the bell is ringing online for the service to start and then when we are live on the stream, and which cameras (yes, we have four cameras) are on which scene. Hence, our "digital verger."

As we go through Advent and have Christmas services, you will notice additional people singing or playing instruments in the service. No, we do not have ten or fifteen people in the church. These parts of the service are actually pre-recorded, as much as two to three weeks in advance. At the appropriate moment in the live-stream service, we pause and Phil plays those video files. At best, it should all seem to be part of the live service. When the video is done, Phil lets us know and we continue with the service. This technique allows us to include more of the music we appreciate as part of our worship, while keeping everyone safe and apart until we are through this difficult time.

All of this takes a good bit of time and effort for the parish staff, musicians, and our digital verger. However, our worship of our Lord is important to us, and we continue working to offer ways for you to worship. We will try each Sunday to have an outdoor service at 2:00 pm through the winter, whenever the weather permits. We will also always have livestream service at 10:00 am. We are already working on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services. And, we will have Advent Evensong again on December 9 and 16.

I miss all of you being with us in our worship. I could not have imagined a year ago that we would be dropping pre-recorded video into a livestream service, but here we are. I can also say that I am grateful for the staff and parishioners who share their gifts to help present creative offerings of service in this time apart.

From your clergy and staff at Christ Church, we wish you a blessed and safe Merry Christmas.

BTW (By the way in today's language), the difference between Evening Prayer and Evensong is we use chant for many parts of the service.

Faithfully,



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



## From the Clergy

Dear Friends in Christ,

I've been trying to spend some time praying and meditating on the collects for Advent this year. (If you want to do this with me, you can find them on page 211 of the Prayer Book). So many of the traditions that I normally look forward to in Advent have been disrupted this year, and it's been hard for me to be excited about Advent and Christmas in the way I normally do. All of us are preparing for Christmas in a way that feels profoundly different than it usually does - we don't have the same kind of events to go to, we may be changing plans to go and see family, and even our chances to sing have had to be set aside. However we're preparing for Christmas this year, it is not the same as the way we do it.

So when I look at the collects, and I notice the emphasis on preparation, I wonder what that means for us this year. What does it look like to respond and prepare for the signs of Jesus's coming this year, in 2020? My hope is that one thing we might take some time to remember and reflect on this year is the way Advent points us to our need for God's presence. The readings and collects for Advent focus on the difficult realities of the world for just this reason - that we can be reminded of all the ways in which we are in need of God's redemption. The collect for the third week of Advent asks God to come among us with great might, and that has been an especially significant part of my own prayers this season. Advent is a time where we look with confidence at the difficulties we face - because we trust in God's presence and the hope God is bringing into the world.

The other thing I hope we might remember in this season of preparation is about what we are preparing. In many years it is easy for us to focus primarily on the external things we prepare - food and decorations and presents. But the Advent collects remind us that the most important preparation we do is to prepare ourselves to remember Jesus's birth. We prepare our hearts and minds and consciences so that we can be "a mansion prepared" for Jesus's presence. Whatever decorating and cooking and shopping we may be doing this year, my hope is that it can be a sign for us of that inward sort of preparation. Advent calls us to that work of prayer, of focusing on the needs of others, of repentance and forgiveness. And we are called to that work so that we are truly ready to welcome Jesus into our own lives - that we have made space for him.

We may not be welcoming guests into our homes this year, or preparing for dinner for the whole family in one place, but Advent still gives us so many ways to prepare. In the words of one of my favorite carols, "Love the Guest is on the way!" May we be ready to welcome him when He arrives!

Faithfully,



The Rev. Martin Geiger, Assistant Rector  
mgeiger@christchurchwinchester.org  
540-662-5843, Ext. 2, or direct 540-773-5564

**Join us for Advent Evensong on  
Wednesdays in December at 7:00 pm.  
See the website ([christchurchwinchester.org](http://christchurchwinchester.org))  
for the link to the livestream.**

# Worship

## Report from Annual Convention



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

The Diocese of Virginia Annual Convention was held virtually on November 14, 2020 with 450 people participating online. Larry Pettinger and Sandy White were the lay delegates participating from Christ Church. You can read their full report on our website, but here is a summary:

Bishop Goff presented her pastoral address, covering Covid-19, activities within and outside of the church, the killing of George Floyd and others, the race riots, and taking care of each other. She mentioned that we still have the four priorities from last year: healing across differences, resourcing God's mission, care of God's creation, and evangelism. She also shared the happy news that she is now cancer free after treatment for breast cancer.

The following people were quickly elected to the Diocesan Standing Committee, which, among other responsibilities, serves as the council of advice to the Bishop: The Rev. Laura Minnich Lockey (James Madison University Campus Ministry), The Rev. B. Cayce Ramey (All Saints Sharon Chapel, Alexandria), Jessica Atkinson (St. George's, Fredericksburg) and Margaret Arnette Woody (St. Thomas, Richmond).

Usually, there are a number of resolutions to be debated and decided at convention. This year, the group easily passed a resolution to begin the search process to select a new Diocesan Bishop, with election and consecration to occur in 2022. There were discussions on two other resolutions that were adopted with amendments. Guidelines were established for parishes to provide parental leave to clergy and lay staff for the birth or adoption of a child, and a task force was established that will recommend policies and procedures to provide equitable access to online church governance meetings such as this annual conference.

There was much discussion on the budget, as presented. The proposed budget included reductions to many programs, and some diocesan staff positions were eliminated. Funding for Episcopal college ministries was reduced from last year's amount, and no additional funding was proposed for the work of race relations and reconciliation in the Diocese. Concern was raised at the budget hearing and at Convention that funding for these two important Diocesan priority areas had been reduced through a process that appeared not to acknowledge their significance. There was considerable discussion about a budget amendment to restore funding to college ministries by reducing our giving to the national Episcopal Church. This would be achieved by requesting a waiver to our required giving amount. The budget amendment was approved, but Convention then failed to approve the budget. Thus, it was referred back to the Executive Board.

Convention received a report from the task force on "Resourcing God's Mission in the Diocese of Virginia," that had been tasked with studying patterns of giving in our Diocese compared to other dioceses, and exploring ways to increase our parish giving. It has been recognized for a long time that, without some new policy for giving, the Diocese will continue to lack the funds to support the vision of expanded ministries.

A report of this year's Convention, including links to Bishop Goff's address, is at: <http://www.thediocese.net/news/highlights-of-the-226th-annual-convention/>.

And details of the Convention are at: <http://www.thediocese.net/who-we-are/governance/annual-convention/226th-annual-convention-2020-/pre-convention-information-and-forms/>

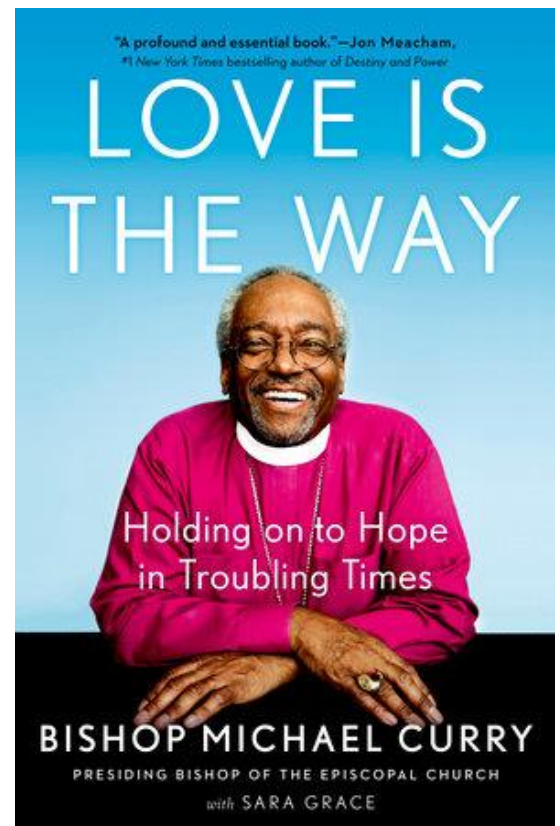
# Christian Formation

## Advent Book Study

For the season of Advent, we will discuss The Most Rt. Rev. Michael Curry's most recent book, *Love Is the Way*. We will meet online using Zoom from 10:00 am to 11:00 am on the Tuesdays of Advent (December 1, 8, 15, 22) for our clergy-led discussion. Please feel free to join in any week if you cannot make them all. You can find the book at any bookstore or online. To register, please email Noelle at [communications@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:communications@christchurchwinchester.org) and she will send you the link.

*"As the descendant of slaves and the son of a civil rights activist, Bishop Michael Curry's life illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, Love Is the Way shows us how America came this far and, more important, how to go a whole lot further.*

*The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, competing claims to speak for God. This book will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity."*



## in' with the Men of Christ Church

On Saturday, December 12, 2020 from 8:00 am until 9:00 am, all men of Christ Church are welcome to join our first Zoom online version of the Saturday Men's Fellowship. Webster and Martin will host this time for touching base and talking about a different December experience at Christ Church. Sorry, no virtual breakfast with grits, but please grab a cup of coffee, dress comfortably, and join us Saturday morning to catch up.

Please email Noelle in the Church Office ([communications@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:communications@christchurchwinchester.org)) to RSVP, ask any questions about Zoom, and receive the meeting link.

# Christian Formation

## Advent for the Kids

Our Children's Time videos have been going great and we hope the families of Christ Church, and some faithful grownups too, have enjoyed learning with us each week. Thanks to the many folks who have contributed to the series. It's great to see familiar faces from Sunday School!

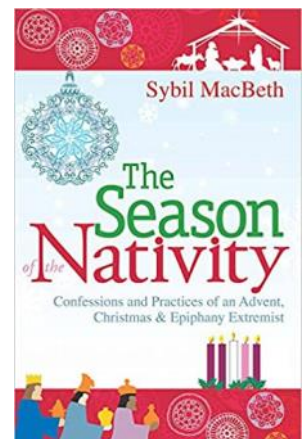
Our Children's Time videos for Advent will feature many of the elements that the children have been accustomed to experiencing each year at Sunday School. St. Nicholas will visit as his story is related online on December 6, and we will expect St. Lucy on December 13. Although we will not be able to participate in the annual Christmas Eve pageant this year, there will be an online lesson with a family setting up their Nativity at home.

Also look forward to Sunday School kids receiving a small packet in the mail with materials to create a mini Advent wreath. If you don't received yours soon, let Margery Wingenbach know ([wingenbach@comcast.net](mailto:wingenbach@comcast.net)).



### Resources for Children shared from the Diocese of Washington (edow.org)

- Take time each Sunday to get ready to enter the mystery of Christmas with these [Godly Play videos](https://youtu.be/w-6vPR7ZJzc) (<https://youtu.be/w-6vPR7ZJzc>).
- Give households a way to celebrate Advent and Christmas at home with BuildFaith's [Advent in a Box](#) or Traci Smith's [Advent in a Box](#). Home faith practices are the number one contributor to children's faith development. Support parents as they nurture the faith of their children and an understanding that sacred spaces are everywhere.
- Favorite books to read with your children during Advent include:
  - Mary: Mother of Jesus* by Mary Joslin and Alison Wisenfeld
  - The Nativity*, illustrated by Julie Vivas
  - Probity Jones and the Fear Not Angel* by Walter Wangerin, illustrated by Tim Ladwig
- *All Through the Day, All through the Year* by David B. Batchilder provides prayers and celebrations for households to mark the entire church year.
- *The Season of the Nativity* by Sybil MacBeth offers plenty of ideas for celebrating Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Sybil also offers [free Advent calendars](#) to color.
- Episcopal Relief and Development has produced an [Advent Toolkit](#) full of ideas and resources as part of their 1,000 Days of Love Campaign.



# Church Calendar

## Sundays @ Christ Church

Indoor worship still suspended.

10:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
See [www.christchurchwinchester.org](http://www.christchurchwinchester.org) for link.

2:00 pm Holy Eucharist  
In-person in the Courtyard  
Reservations Required

Advent Evensong Online  
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm



Please watch for announcements via email, website, Facebook, or church bulletin on services, meetings, and events at Christ Church.

Many committees and groups are meeting using Zoom online. Please check with your group to see if they have anything scheduled!

## Committee & Group Meetings

Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Alleluia Singers	Sun: 8:45 am
Online Bible Study	Wed: 10:00 am
Knit Unto Others	3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
Men's Fellowship	2nd Sat: 7:30 am
Outreach Committee	4th Tues: 7:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
Women's Lunch Group	1st Thurs: 11:30 am
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Women's Book Studies	Tues: 10:30 - Noon Thurs: 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm
Youth Group	2nd/4th Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm



**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**

*The Angelus* is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

[ChristChurchWinchester.org](http://ChristChurchWinchester.org)

# Church Calendar

## December Birthdays

- 1 Mary Margaret Applin, Jamie Eppes
- 4 Betty Futral
- 5 Bill Armstrong
- 6 Pam Friestad, Peggy Dowd
- 7 Harry Poling
- 8 Lelia Wingenbach
- 10 Rob Ross, Gary Sheppard
- 12 Linda Gibson
- 14 Penny Byler
- 17 Terri Cluss, Fritz Trumbore
- 19 Eleanor Thomson
- 21 Bill Pifer
- 26 Christopher Turnbull
- 27 Charles Casey
- 28 Ashley Futral, Jr.
- 29 Carole Ann King
- 30 Sarah Roberson, Sam Worsley
- 31 Rob Boyd



## December Anniversaries

- 4 James & Marsha Baden
- 5 Jeremy & Katy Schain
- 8 Stephen & Suzanne Pettit
- 18 Bill & Gail Walsh
- 18 Steve & Ashley Haines
- 21 Kevin & Pam Kennedy

celebrate!

### 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.

## Altar Flowers for December 2020

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and...

December 6 In loving memory of & thanksgiving for the lives of Joseph A. Massie, Jr. & Teresa J. Massie by their daughters & sons-in-law, Lindsey & David Huddle & Elizabeth & Peter Wyeth

December 13 In loving memory of Dr. Joseph & Katherine Casey by Joyce Larrick Casey & Charles Casey

December 20 In loving memory of Minota Ruebush; Rick Fernandez; Robert, Helen & Robin Pifer by Deanna Pifer & Laura Fernandez Harris

December 27 (Christmas Poinsettias)



# From the Outreach Committee

## Updates

One of the things the Outreach Committee has been doing as the end of the year approaches is figuring out how to use the operating budget to support the outreach missions and ministry we participate in this year. The Outreach Committee and Vestry have approved a number of gifts to help support local ministries. Several of them are going to support the costs of our own ministries in the year ahead. Those are our Panda Pantry funding of food through Bright Futures, support for Christ Church to purchase presents for any leftover angels on our Angel Tree, and support for us to continue provide dinners for the Rescue Mission. Additionally, we are giving directly to the Salvation Army and CCAP for their needs to offer support over the holidays, and to First Presbyterian for this year's Community Thanksgiving dinner, for a total of \$8,683.87 of the \$140,000 budget. The Committee is grateful for the generosity of Christ Church giving, which is the source of the Outreach Committee budget. The Outreach Committee is continuing to figure out how the remainder of our budget can be used to support the needs of the world this year and will announce those gifts as they are approved by the Vestry.

## Collecting Items for CCAP's Christmas Dinner Giveaway

Christ Church continues to collect just one item for CCAP's Christmas dinner giveaway held on December 12. CCAP has asked Christ Church to bring 200 boxes of **CHICKEN STUFFING** to the table—Stove Top Stuffing mix or the store brand will fill the need nicely! We will follow the same routine with your donations. Place the boxes of stuffing mix on the table in the Parish Hall foyer each Wednesday between 9:00 am and noon through Wednesday, December 9, or bring to a service.

Thank you for helping to provide holiday meals for those in need in and around Winchester!

## First Night Winchester Plans

First Night Winchester, a New Year's Eve Tradition in its 34<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, brings you an exciting new look! We continue to highlight the visual and performing arts all day on December 31 - **free to everyone!**

There will not be any performances at Christ Church in the sanctuary or Tilford Room to close out 2020. However, ALL DAY December 31, everyone will be able to view the entertainment virtually through Facebook, as several cherished entertainers want to continue to participate with First Night Winchester. Watch for such local talent as Robbie Limon, Tracey Wygal, and the Jack Dunlap Band. They will be joined by the always interesting Reptile World and 20 additional artists from all parts of the country. Stay tuned for Joyce Kwon who brings the year to a warm finale from Los Angeles, California! Winchester's illuminated apple will be on the Old Town walking mall near El Centro and the Water Street Kitchen that evening.

First Night Winchester began on December 31, 1987 through the efforts of Winchester resident and Christ Church member, Kathy Nerangis. She felt that First Night could be a fun and safe alcohol-free way to ring in the New Year. First Night Winchester has become a well-respected family-friendly event for our entire community. However, Kathy could not have foreseen the changes necessary for this year's celebration!

Let your entire family know that they, too, can watch our First Night Winchester Celebration on December 31 on Facebook, even though they do not live in the Shenandoah Valley. They can see how Winchester celebrates the New Year!



## From the Outreach Committee

### Angel Tree Underway



Many of you have already been contacted and have your Angels to shop for! If you have not and would like to participate in Angel Tree this year, please call Ann or Jim Taylor to join in the fun of gift giving!

It is suggested that each child receive some new warm clothing and a few toys--board games, books, riding toys, doll babies or trucks. Please do not think poorly of the children if their toy requests are "pricy items." Remember the effect of television advertising! The suggestions are just that—guidelines—and you may purchase what makes you happy. The Salvation Army has discouraged bicycles as gifts this year due to the shortage of available inventory.

#### **There are new directions for returning gifts this year!**

We have furnished a large red plastic bag to fill with the requested toys, electronic pads, shoes, boots, and clothing items. You have received the printed Angel divided into three parts. Separate the lowest perforated section from the Angel to keep for your tax deduction records. The top two portions of the angel must be stapled to the inside of the red bag with the readable information facing into the open bag. ***This is different from the previous years.*** You will then deliver the filled bags of gifts to the Salvation Army distribution center at 2640 Valley Avenue, which is inside the Blue & Gray Mall. They will begin receiving gift bags on **December 2, 2020** during the hours of 10:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Deliveries will be accepted until **Friday, December 11**. Once again, please do

not wrap the gift items, however, you may furnish rolls of Christmas wrapping paper for the volunteer staff at the Salvation Army to use.

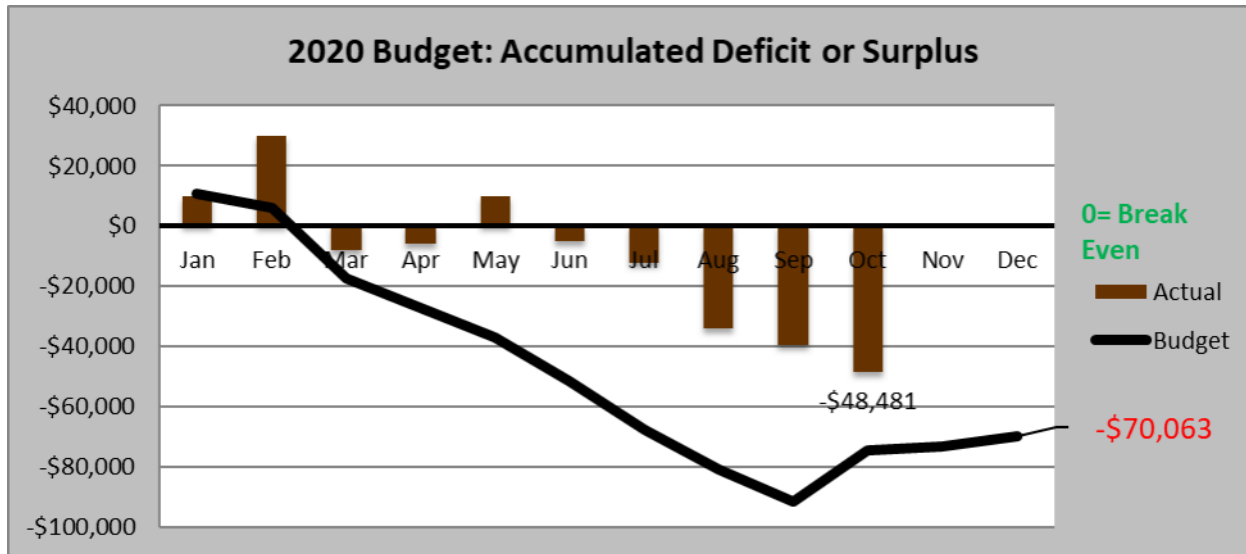
It is still possible for you to send a check to the Church Office to allow others to shop for you if that's what you prefer this year. Simply write "Angel Tree" in the memo line on your check. More good news is that the Salvation Army has arranged with Walmart to have a link which you can utilize to shop for items that the Salvation Army has asked for (it works like a wedding registry) where you can purchase items online and Walmart will deliver to the Angel Tree distribution center.

Here is the link: <https://www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood/8959BA23-706D-434F-8983-8119F762BC2F>

If you have not been contacted by anyone offering you the opportunity to share in the joy of making a child smile, phone or text Ann Taylor (703-622-7059) or Jim Taylor (703-403-5264) or email us at [annjimtaylor@verizon.net](mailto:annjimtaylor@verizon.net). Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

# From the Treasurer

## 2020 Vision



Unfortunately, the “Net Position” downward trend has continued through October.

During normal years, with summer vacations over, with Church attendance picking back up in the fall, and with third quarter pledge reminders being sent out in early October, we budget for October revenues to be greater than October expenses. This year, October actual revenue was down and actual expenses were greater than actual revenues by about \$8,900.

The summary table below shows October and the YTD results for 2020:

2020	Oct Actual	Oct Budget	Oct Diff	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Diff
Revenues	\$36,742	\$63,000	(\$26,258)	\$432,538	\$431,100	\$1,438
Expenses	\$45,639	\$45,653	(\$14)	\$481,018	\$505,627	(\$24,609)
Net Position	(\$8,897)	\$17,347	(\$26,244)	(\$48,480)	(\$74,527)	\$26,047

### Year-To-Date

Looking at the year-to-date values you can see that we are actually doing better than budget! Actual Revenue is about \$1,400 greater than budget and actual Expenses are about \$24,600 less than budget. The Actual YTD net position is much better than budget as well – unfortunately it is still quite negative!

### Other Notes

- Thank You to all who have kept their pledges current and to those who have even paid ahead/early!
- Strong Finish to 2020—We are hoping to finish the year with strong revenues in both November and December the way we have for the past several years.
- Stewardship for 2021 – If you have sent in your 2021 pledge, thank you for doing so. If you are still deciding on your pledge, PLEASE send it in before year end! **The Pledge portion of our revenue is the real backbone of our annual budget and will help us plan well for 2021.**

## From the Treasurer

### 2021 Pledge Envelopes have arrived.

There are two options to pick up your envelopes. You **MUST CALL** Theresa Seitz, Bookkeeper at 540-773-5566 to arrange for your pickup.

1. For no-contact pickup, your envelopes will be available in the front foyer of the Smith Building at 114 W. Boscawen St. **ONLY** after you call ahead and let us know what date you plan to pick up your envelopes.
2. If you register to attend an outdoor service, please call Theresa, and she will arrange to have your envelopes available for pickup at the service.

We are working on an option to get envelope books delivered to those living at Westminster-Canterbury. More information will be forthcoming on this option.



### *Donate by check*

Mail to:  
Christ Church  
114 W. Boscawen St.  
Winchester, VA 22601

## From the Stewardship Committee



As we look to 2021, we have learned so much about community and how our parish works. We look forward, whatever 2021 holds, to being an active worshipping community, supporting each other and our ministries, and making a difference in our community.

**As in all other years, we ask you to prayerfully consider a pledge to Christ Church in the coming year. Our budget for 2021 is based on the pledges made this fall. Pledge cards have been mailed and are also available on the website to print/mail or submit electronically. ([www.ChristChurchWinchester.org/stewardship](http://www.ChristChurchWinchester.org/stewardship))**

We hope you watched our video presentations from parishioners talking about how we are ONE TOGETHER. As we all navigate the challenges of 2020, we realize that while we may not be physically together, we share so much. Your pledge does not support one thing; it supports ALL Christ Church is and does. The parish is comprised of many parts that all function as a whole—just like you are one member of the parish and help form the community.

## From the Parish Nurses

### What's the difference between Isolation & Quarantine?

Isolation is the separation of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 from others. People in isolation need to stay home and separate themselves from others in the home as much as possible.

Quarantine is the separation of people who were in close contact with a person with COVID-19 and may have been exposed to the disease. People in quarantine should stay home as much as possible, limit their contact with other people, and monitor their health closely in case they become ill.

The CDC has, this week, changed the timelines for isolation and quarantine. Please visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for the most current information. Other great sources are:

- [Information from Valley Health about COVID-19](http://www.valleyhealthlink.com/patients-visitors/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/) [www.valleyhealthlink.com/patients-visitors/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/](http://www.valleyhealthlink.com/patients-visitors/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/)
- [Local resources from the City of Winchester](http://www.winchesterva.gov/emergency-management/coronavirus) [www.winchesterva.gov/emergency-management/coronavirus](http://www.winchesterva.gov/emergency-management/coronavirus)
- [Information from the state](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/) [www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/)

If you need to speak with a parish nurse during this time, please call 540-662-5843, Ext. 3, and leave a message for Helen or Rosalie.

Parish Nurses are committed to meeting the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of the whole person, and to promoting wellness through a healing ministry of the parish. They are volunteers member of the church staff who develop health and wellness programs benefiting the congregational body and surrounding community and a lay leader who assists the congregation to identify, interpret, rediscover, and reclaim its historic role in the area of health/wellness. The Parish Nurses serve as a health educator and counselor and as a referral source and liaison to community resources and services. Helen Zearth and Rosalie Lewis are our parish nurses.

*We congratulate all the nurses who worked with us this semester on their graduation!*