

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

May 2021

Dear people of Christ Church,

As we have found ourselves working on the process of re-gathering in community, seeing venues open up and getting ourselves vaccinated, a common question I hear is, "When are we going to get back to normal?" When people ask me that question, I can only say that I don't know. Not only do I not know what the future holds, I also do not know what each person means by "normal." Just within the past nine months, so many things have happened in conflict around economics, elections, race, disease just to name a few. In the tumult, I find it challenging enough just to keep up with what is happening from day to day. Therefore, if normal is a desire to go back to our community and our lives as if the past 12 to 18 months did not happen, I don't think we will have that normalcy. These past months have changed us. And while it is tempting to want normal to mean no more unpredictability in life, I don't think that will happen either.

In so much change and transition, I have seriously reflected on one way to encounter normal in our Christian life and faith being the knowledge of God's love for us (all people), and the knowledge that our work on discipleship is never done because our own successes and failures are helping or hindering our relationship to the risen Lord. Even in the season of Easter, we need to remember that the discovery of God's love and salvation blew the idea of normal out of the water with an empty tomb.

For me, reflecting, learning, owning the past is the reassurance that we are still a work in progress, particularly when it comes to fulfilling the mission of God's Church. Our Book of Common Prayer offers a great conversation starter on the Church's mission:

Q. What is the mission of the Church?

A. The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Q. How does the Church pursue its mission?

A. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

Q. Through whom does the Church carry out its mission?

A. The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

As we regather, get reacquainted, we are in a different place. However, our mission as followers of the risen Lord is still the same. How we go about serving and worshipping and giving may be seen through a different lens now. How we see neighbors, how we understand needs (for ourselves as well as others), and we encounter community may look different. We may or may not like the way a different or new perspective works. With the empty tomb, there is fear and a desire to understand. With the appearance of the Lord we find the hope and courage to be church in a different time.

Perhaps the prayer attributed to Saint Francis gives us that basic guidance:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Faithfully,



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

May 2021

From the Clergy

I'm told that in a normal year of life at Christ Church, we'd be spending May thinking about the end of things. We'd be getting ready for the end of a year of Sunday school, celebrating the end of a program year, and perhaps putting some things on summer vacation. Instead, this May, it feels more to me like things are just getting started, after a very long period in which our church life all took place on Zoom and Youtube. We're asking questions about when particular ministries and gatherings can come back, about what's next in the process of opening up. Along the way, we're trying out new things, new sorts of gatherings, and continuing some things online. I think many of us are going through a similar process in our lives overall, as we make plans to see people we haven't seen, wonder about going back to things we used to do, perhaps think about travel. Even as we continue to do our best to do things safely, many more things seem open to us than a few months ago.

So if the amount of choice and decision-making involved in all this feels overwhelming, know that you are not alone in that. I think we are all going to feel some real pressure to let this summer be a time where we catch up on everything we've missed, where we do as much as we possibly. We may have a sense that we have to make up for all the time we've spent staying home and staying away from other people. It may feel like we have to do everything right this minute, that we have to get back to normal as quickly as possible, that we have to make up for lost time. But instead of focusing on how much we can do, or on trying to make up for what happened in the last year, I think it's helpful to instead focus on discernment. If we take the time for careful prayer and thought about the choices we make, that can be a relief from the pressure to do as much as possible, or to start doing things that may not feel safe to us because other people are doing them.

Taking time for discernment will also help us focus more on the most significant question, which is how we respond to God's call on our lives. How we can be the people God wants us to be. We will have lots of opportunities to do that in new ways this summer, but God does not call us to be overwhelmed, or to wear ourselves out. God asks us to think about how our lives can express our love of God and neighbor most fully - and God calls us to love and care for ourselves as well. So as Christ Church continues to open up, as our lives continue to open up, let's take time to be with God. Let's take time so that the choices we make are choices of love and care for one another, and shape us more deeply as God's people.

Faithfully,



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

Tea & Biscuits

As we ease back into social interactions, we have many stories to share about our life apart this past year - all of us having different experiences. To that end, we're offering a chance to socialize safely in small groups with tea and biscuits in the Christ Church Courtyard. It's a chance to chat with the clergy and each other, and catch up and share stories.

Please join us from 2:00 - 3:00 pm on May 12, 13, 19 or 20. (Please choose just one date so that many can participate!). [Sign up online](#). If you need assistance, call Noelle in the Church Office (540-662-5843, Ext. 4). These will be groups of seven, physically distanced in the courtyard. If needed, we can move just inside the Tilford Room with the doors open. Looking forward to the conversation!



From the Vestry

Worship Update

As we move ahead into May and the summer beyond, the Vestry wanted to give an update on hopes and possibilities in the next few months with our worship.

We will continue our Sunday morning in person worship services at 8, 10 and 1130 for the near future. The 10am service will continue to be our live-stream service for anyone at home. While we have stopped the 2pm outdoor service because of no or minimal sign-ups, we are still looking at occasional outdoor services at different times of the summer. As we move ahead, we will let the congregation know of any further changes to our worship schedule.

With our indoor worship, we are beginning the use of worship ministries such as ushers and lay readers at some of our services. At the same time some things such as number of people in the sanctuary will remain where it is. The biggest part of that conversation will be the guidance from the CDC and what they are learning about virus in relationship to vaccinations and further spread.

As people feel more comfortable with being at in-door worship, there are a couple of areas where we can use help. We are still wiping down the pews between services. If you have 5 minutes after the service to help, please talk with Chris Francis or one of the parish nurses, Helen Zearth or Rosalie Lewis. If you would like to join our lay readers, David Wingenbach helps coordinate and train people. We also need help with ushers at the services. James Baden and Chris Francis coordinate that ministry. You can also contact the church office to find out whom you can talk to for any of these ministries.

We hope to continue to see our communal life of worship be prayerful, life-giving and safe through this current stage. We will keep you up to date with any changes in the future.

Christ Church Vestry

From the Parish Nurses

Easter is over. I was going to write about something profound until I read this in the Virginia Theological Seminary called "News From the Hill". It was written by one of their students and I think it is outstanding. He is Rev. Joel Atong from Mumbasa. Please enjoy! He writes this poem: I went to the Amazing Clinic to have my routine medical check-up and I confirmed that I was ill. When He took my blood pressure, The Great Physician found I was low in tenderness. When He read my temperature, the thermometer registered 110 degrees of anxiety. And when He ran the EKG, He found that I needed several by-passes of Love since my arteries were blocked with loneliness and could not provide for an empty heart. He sent me to the orthopedics and found that I could not walk by my brother's side because I had fractured myself tripping with jealousy. He also found I was short sighted since I could not see beyond my brother's shortcomings. He discovered I was deaf because I stopped listening to the voice of The Great Physician. Imagine! Imagine my brothers and sisters! For all this, The Great Physician gave me free consultations. So I pledged and I pledged my sisters and brothers, that I will follow strictly my prescriptions: *Each morning, I will take a glass full of gratitude; *When going to work I take a spoon full of peace; * Each hour I take one pill of patience, one cup of brotherhood, and one glass of humility; *When going home, I take one dose of Love; *When going to bed, I take two caplets of clear conscience!

Have you been to the Amazing Clinic? It is free! It is free! And fully paid for by the Great Physician. Rush today when it is still day!

Your Parish Nurses, Helen & Rosalie

Church Calendar

Sundays @ Christ Church

Watch Weekly Email Updates for news on in-person worship.
(Sign up on website for email updates.)

10:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
See www.christchurchwinchester.org for link.

Evening Prayer Online
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm



Committee & Group Meetings

Online Bible Study	Wed: 10:00 am
Outreach Committee	4th Tues: 7:00 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Women's Book Study In-person	Thurs: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Daytime Faith Study Online	2nd/4th Mon: 10:00 am



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.
The Church Office is open by appointment only.
Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843

The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

May Birthdays

- 2 Anne Drury, Pam McKinley, Katy Wiley
- 3 Jo Pilette
- 4 Karen Jagiello
- 8 Jackson Stock
- 13 Teresa Jacobsen
- 14 Liz Lindon
- 15 Allison Schain, Kathryn Ellington
- 18 Tom Larsen, Zoe Conrad
- 19 Linda Russell
- 21 Barbara "Bobbie" Gouldthorpe
- 22 Jack Applin, Linda Miles, Bob Puttock
- 24 Wilborn Roberson
- 26 Kay Wise, Greg Jacobson
- 27 Sara Bicking, Tim Waldie
- 28 Alix Cooper
- 29 Bill Drury, Walt McIntosh,
Caroline Wingenbach



May Anniversaries

- 7 Ruben & Mary Rodriguez
- 8 Jim & Ann Taylor
- 14 Rob & Trish Boyd
- 18 Dan & Jody Wall
- 19 Gerald & Cheryl Crowell
- 24 Michael & Janie Mohn
- 25 Charles & Joyce Casey

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 May 2021



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

- May 2 In loving memory of Minota C. Ruebush & to all mothers this coming Mother's Day by her family
- May 9 In loving memory of The Rev. G.K. & Mildred Bergland and Dale & Grace Wise by Kay & Dennis Wise
- May 16 In loving memory of George Humphries and Sylvia MacKinnon by Heather Humphries
- May 23 In loving remembrance of their parents, Ross & Marie Kesser and Margaret & Harry Frank, by Gil & Marge Kesser and family
- May 30 Given by Michael and Janie Mohn

From the Treasurer

Looking at the Year Ahead

Treasurer's Note: I was unable to attend this year's Annual Meeting and asked Bob Puttock to present in my place and I heard he did a wonderful job! Bob, thank you very much.

The Annual meeting Finance presentation covered three major topics:

- 2020 Investment performance
- 2020 Budget Performance and the Budget for 2021, and
- The trend of decreasing pledges

2020 Investment Performance:

The Key Takeaway presented was that investments did well and that some Funds were used in 2020 for some major physical plant projects (2 HVAC projects and a New Security System for all buildings).

2020 Budget Performance and the Budget for 2021:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	Difference	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	Difference	Late
REVENUES							
Pledge	465,000	456,070	(8,930)	465,000	385,000	(80,000)	21,200
Unpledged	57,000	52,110	(4,890)	57,000	75,000	18,000	
Other	39,200	20,077	(19,123)	39,200	19,100	(20,100)	
2020 Carryover				0	6,000	6,000	
PPP	0	85,800	85,800	0	85,800	85,800	
Total Revenue	561,200	614,057	52,857	561,200	570,900	9,700	21,200
EXPENSES							
Personnel	438,863	432,700	(6,163)	438,863	430,997	(7,866)	
Utilities	28,800	21,766	(7,034)	28,800	22,000	(6,800)	
Property	47,600	39,979	(7,621)	47,600	43,596	(4,004)	
Office	25,400	20,938	(4,462)	25,400	20,775	(4,625)	
Christian Ed	10,000	6,468	(3,532)	10,000	1,350	(8,650)	
Music	8,400	2,401	(5,999)	8,400	3,390	(5,010)	
Worship	1,700	927	(773)	1,700	1,100	(600)	
Stewardship	1,200	736	(464)	1,200	700	(500)	
Outreach	63,300	62,509	(791)	63,300	52,450	(10,850)	
Pastoral Care	800	767	(33)	800	800	0	
Parish Life	2,400	1,113	(1,287)	2,400	1,250	(1,150)	
Communications	2,800	1,680	(1,120)	2,800	2,000	(800)	
Total Expenses	631,263	591,985	(39,279)	631,263	580,408	(50,855)	0
YE Balance	(70,063)	22,071		(70,063)	(9,508)		21,200
Without PPP		(85,800)			(85,800)		
Balance No PPP		(63,729)			(95,308)		

From the Treasurer

Key Points:

- 2020: Deficit Budget, of **-\$70,063**
Pledges Down from 2019 by **\$36,136**
Without PPP loan loss of **-\$63,729**
- 2021: Deficit Budget, of **-\$15,508**
Pledges Down from 2020 by **\$69,546**
PPP loan of \$85,800 BUDGETED due to Pledge drop
Late Pledges help balance 2021 – but cuts were made (people & programs)

2020 Key Takeaways:

- Almost every Actual revenue and expense category for 2020 was below Budget (the only exception was the unplanned PPP loan).
- Using an average pledge of \$3,031 (2020 original total / number of pledge) the PPP loan was like getting an additional 28 new pledges!
- The PPP loan turned 2020 from a disaster year into a positive!

2021 VS 2020 Key Takeaways:

- Question asked at the meeting – have you cut expenses? Answer - ALL expense categories were cut (including staff hours/salary) by 8% in total.
- Using an average pledge of \$3,010 (2021 original total / number of pledge) the budgeted PPP loan for 2021 is like getting an additional 29 new pledges!
- Even with the Budgeted 2021 PPP loan the planned budget for 2021 still had a deficit!
- **2020 to 2021 Pledge total decrease is alarming (a net drop of \$80,000)**

The trend of decreasing pledges:

Trends over eight or nine years show there is both a decreasing number of pledges and the average new pledge coming in is less than the average pledge that is leaving.

- Question asked - Why are we dropping in the number of pledges?
Answer – there are many reasons:
 - ◇ people only give if church is open or may be upset that church is not open
 - ◇ people have been uncertain about the Pandemic and are unable/unsure/unwilling to pledge or fulfill their pledge during this difficult time,
 - ◇ Over the years, the two biggest reasons are - people passing away or moving out of the area.
- Question – How do get back to prior levels and even GROW our budget?
Answer – a few things need to happen to “get back” to prior levels and to “grow”
Once the Pandemic is over:
 - ◇ When we can attend church again it is hoped that past pledgers will return to their pledge status

From the Treasurer

- ◇ It is hoped that pledger's confidence in the economy will return and people resume or even increase their pledge amounts
- Some loyal pledge donors will continue to move away and we cannot escape death –
 - ◇ Since the pledges that leave are higher in donation amount than new pledges coming in – we need about two new pledges for every pledge that leaves!
 - ◇ We need to GROW the church in total numbers. We need to really grow in numbers!
 - ◇ We need to encourage our congregation and build enthusiasm about our programs such that ALL donors want to give more and increase support of the church.
- Finally, we need to realize this is an URGENT matter.
 - ◇ We have had PPP loan help for two years now, but we expect there will be no more PPP loans after 2021!
 - ◇ To get back to where we were two years ago (2019, before Covid-19), we need, approximately 56 NEW pledgers, OR we need EACH of our current pledgers to increase their pledge by 26%, BETTER YET a combination of NEW pledgers and INCREASED pledges.

Christian Formation for Children

At long last we are beginning to be able to look forward to worship for our children in outdoor and eventually indoor settings! We will continue with our weekly Children's Time online through August and are planning on some limited outdoor gatherings through the summer as directives and conditions allow. By September and the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, we anticipate a return to weekly Sunday School classes. Please continue to read the special and weekly update postings for any changes in our offerings.

If you are not receiving our emails to young families, please check with the church office (540-662-5843 or communications@christchurchwinchester.org) so we can be sure your information is correct.

From the Outreach Committee

Greetings from your Outreach Committee. We continue to meet on a monthly basis via Zoom so that we can stay abreast of the needs of our ministry partners and discern ways we can best respond to those needs in a safe manner as we continue to await our next "normal."

We have **changed the drop-off location for our CCAP collection**. You can drop off donations on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to noon in the foyer of the Church Office at 114 W. Boscawen St. We continue to collect blue tarps and poly ropes for CCAP through May.

This small change is one way of trying to make our efforts more consolidated, and the committee is working on other ways to involve more of our parish family. Thank you for your continued generosity as we seek to serve Christ in those among us!