

THE ANGELUS

Volume 73 Number 12

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

August 2023

Dear People of Christ Church,

I thank all of you for joining me and the Vestry as we thank Martin on Sunday, August 6th, for his four years of service to Christ Church. It is remarkable to look back at our Vestry retreat notes in February of 2020 where we laid out our action plans for the next year only to see none of that happen, literally. As one retired clergy colleague said to me, "Webster, I am sorry I don't have any advice for you with this. They did not teach anything about pandemics in seminary and I never saw this before." It is a challenge to serve under these circumstances at any time, but Martin helped us work through this. I am grateful for that.

As we have approached this moment of departure, the Vestry and clergy have also talked about the importance of the continued involvement of people in the parish. The clergy do not do the ministries of the parish on behalf of the people. The people of the parish do the ministries. In the same way with the Vestry and the committees, they meet and setup the ministries, so that the people of the parish can then come and participate in the ministries. The clergy and Vestry lead and work with the people so that together, our worship, our formation, and our service show the world that we are all disciples of Jesus. Together, we keep the love of Christ at the center of what we are about as the community of Christ Church.

Over the next two months, we will start the church program year in what will hopefully seem a more "normal" way. We regroup in August, kickoff in September, and head through the fall. You will see many ways to participate and I hope you will. With there being various ways to serve in the parish, I would encourage you to be sure to look at all parts of the parish ministries and not just the ones you are already familiar with, to be sure you get the full scope of ministries at Christ Church. As the Stewardship campaign this fall will demonstrate, all of these ministries are connected and together compose the church.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
rector@christchurchwinchester.org
540-662-5843, Ext 1 or 540-773-5562



From the Clergy

Dear people of Christ Church,

After four years of wonderful, life-giving ministry here with you, it is time for me to move on and seek out where God is calling me to serve next. My last Sunday with you is August 6th. While I do not know yet where or what my next call will be, I look forward to that news being shared with all of you once I can share it.

I have been deeply grateful for the chance to serve God with all of you over the last four years, and for your support as I grew into the work of ministry. We have weathered some hard challenges over the last four years, and had some moments of deep and real joy together. For every chance to preach, teach, visit, and just be with you, I give you thanks. It has been a privilege and a joy to serve with you, and I cannot have imagined a better place to be in my first call.

While I am sad to be leaving you, I am also confident that your ministry and care for one another will continue to serve you well. The work of leadership that Webster and the Vestry and everyone involved in leading ministries at Christ Church will continue to do the work of leading Christ Church in making Jesus's love known. I have trust in God's faithfulness to all of you and your faithfulness as you move into the future.

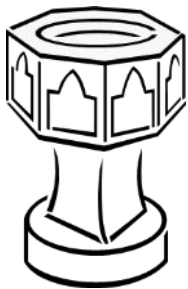
May God's grace and peace be with you all!

Faithfully,



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

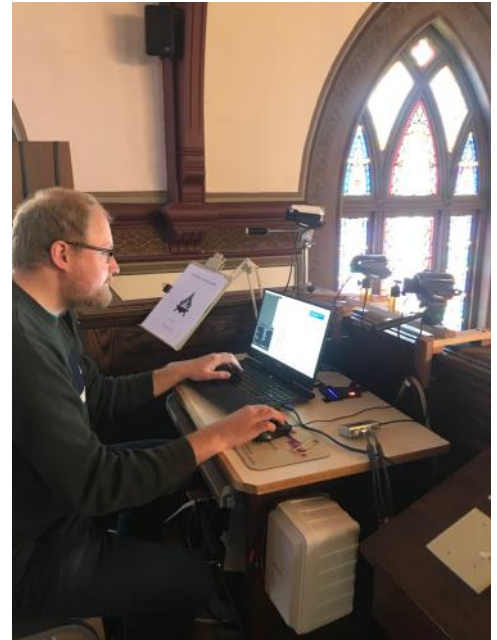
Celebration of Holy Baptism



Christ Church uses the five traditional feast days for Holy Baptism (Baptism of Our Lord, Easter, Pentecost, All Saints, and Bishop Visitation) as our regularly scheduled days to celebrate the sacrament of Baptism. Our next such feast day is All Saints on November 5, 2023. To learn more about Baptism and the Episcopal Church, and our process and requirements for preparation, please contact the Rev. Webster Gibson (rector@christchurchwinchester.org or 540-773-5562).

From the Clergy

Thank you, Martin!



Outreach Committee

Stuff the Bus for Bright Futures

For August, the Outreach Committee wants to highlight Bright Futures. Bright Futures is a Winchester/Frederick County non-profit organization that focuses on the health and welfare of the children of our community. Other than the food pack program that Christ Church regularly supports, other programs they provide are the annual “stuff the bus,” where school supplies are collected to share with the students and teachers; a summer food assistance program, where a school bus delivers family-sized food boxes from the Blue Ridge area food pantry to several locations in the area for students and their families to pick up; a holiday assistance program, where in 2022, just under 1000 kids were sponsored by individuals in the community and given gifts. They are also “on call” to provide needed items for students and their families.

The Vestry and the Outreach Committee are committed to Bright Futures because the congregation has shown that they want to support this ministry. Since 2014, Christ Church has been involved in packing food for the students. Once called Panda Pantry, volunteers packed 30 bags a week. Now under the auspices of Bright Futures, volunteers pack one to two times a month, 500 bags each time. Also, we are the only church that donates money monthly to the packing program. The Outreach Committee uses money from the operating budget, the Marie Cooper Fund, and the sale of the Apple Blossom tickets to help fund this ministry.

Every August, Bright Futures holds their “Stuff the Bus” campaign to collect school supplies as the school year starts. This year you can help by donating **backpacks, highlighters, dry erase markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, and boys’ long jogger pants (or sweatpants)**. These are their highest-need items, and we’ll be receiving them at church throughout August. Donations can be brought to church on Sunday mornings, or dropped off at the Church Office at on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

You can also volunteer for a shift helping Bright Futures collect items on Saturday, August 5th. They need volunteers to cover two hour shifts at Walmart Stephens City, Pleasant Valley, Rt. 50, and Apple Blossom Mall. There is a link to sign up on our website (www.Christchurchwinchester.org).



Thank you for your support of this important ministry!

CCAP Board Positions Available

CCAP is looking for people willing to serve on its Board of Directors. Elections to all positions are coming up in October, and terms would start January 1, 2024. CCAP is especially in need of persons with knowledge of or experience in HR, fundraising, policies and procedures, finance, and insurance. Persons interested in serving, as well as information about what Board positions entail, can be directed to Andrea Cosans, the Executive Director, who will forward the names to CCAP’s Nominations Committee. Andrea’s email is executivedirector@ccapwinchester.com, and her phone number is 540-662-4318.

Christian Formation

It was great to do VBS again!

Our Vacation Bible School, *Rocky Railway*, took place the week of July 10th with great learning and fun for all. Once again, we combined the program with our neighbors at Grace Lutheran Church, serving children from age 2 through 7th grade from both congregations and the community. We shared Bible stories, enjoyed activities based on those stories, learned some great songs, played together, and enjoyed some tasty snacks all five mornings. We hosted 152 children!

When you see any of our volunteers who led us during the week, thank them for their time and energy in making it all possible. They are Barbara Downs, Ann Elwood, Martin Geiger, Webster Gibson, Martha Griffin, Mary Grace LeGrys, Jean Lin, Pam McKinley, Maria Nelson, Jody Wall, Amy Whipkey, Brock Whipkey and the support staff from both churches. A fantastic job well-done, everybody!

Add to your calendar our parish picnic after the 10:30 am service on Sunday, August 27. We'll be getting ready 2023-24 formation opportunities with information about Sunday School, Children's Chapel, children's choirs, and special events for the fall season into Advent. Sunday School, Chapel, and choirs begin on September 10, the Sunday after Labor Day.



Adult Formation: Discipleship

Lectionary Bible Study on Zoom

Beginning Wednesday, September 6, at 10:30 am, we will begin our new session of lectionary-based Bible Study with the clergy via Zoom. This is a one-hour study that looks at the Scripture readings for the following Sunday. We explore the readings in their context, share insights people find in the texts, and discuss questions those texts bring up for the participants. Contact the Church Office for the Zoom link to join us.

Daytime Faith Study

Beginning Monday, September 11, at 10:00 am, we continue our study utilizing different resources to explore our faith. This fall, we will study the book, *Acts of the Apostles*, by Frederick Schmidt. This is part of the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars study series, which helps people new and experienced in reading the Bible. This guide is an important witness to the life of the early church, and the study will walk us through the historical background, who the people were and what it may mean for us today. The study guide can be found on Amazon. You are invited to attend in person in the Smith Building (114 W. Boscawen St.) or via Zoom. If you would like to participate, or if you have questions, please contact Webster at the Church Office.

Sunday Adult Forum

On Sunday, September 10, from 9:30 to 10:15 am, we will have our first adult forum of the program year in the Tilford Room. We will have an introduction to Christ Church's upcoming program year, diocesan events, and preview topics for the Adult Forum in the fall.

Church Calendar

Services at Christ Church

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
in the Sanctuary

Holy Eucharist at Westminster-Canterbury
Every 1st & 3rd Thursday at 10:30 am



Find us on
Facebook

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

The Church Office is open Tuesday—Thursday
from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Call ahead before you visit!

Committee & Group Meetings

Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm (Off for the summer)
Bible Study	Wed: 10:30 am
Outreach Committee	4th Tues: 7:00 pm
Knit Unto Others	3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Daytime Faith Study	2nd & 4th Mon: 10:00 am
Treasure Box	Wed & Fri: 10 am—4 pm Sat: 10 am—1 pm
Women's Book Studies	Tues: 10:30 am Thurs: 5:30 pm Parlors



CHRIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

August Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Brown, Jody Wall
- 2 Margery Wingenbach
- 3 Gail Walsh
- 4 Jim Kriewald
- 6 Thomas Rockwood, Tracy Tilling
- 8 Dick Clarke
- 10 Marsha Baden, Mary Gloster
- 12 Lachlan Truong, Beatrice Elwood
- 14 LaVerne Sargent, Jane Fitz
- 15 Kay Whitworth, Mari Kofalt
- 22 Bob Fitz
- 24 Joan Burgess
- 26 Kay Keely
- 27 Ellen Morgan, Clare Dame
- 29 Nancy Mitchell
- 30 Greg Hutchinson, Judy Pennypacker
- 31 Donna Bennett, Caroline Cooper



August Anniversaries

- 5 Kent & Mary Stevens
- 7 Bob & Jane Fitz
- 14 Roger & Helen Zebarth
- 25 David & Sara Bicking
- 29 Bob & Mary Puttock

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.

celebrate!



Shop at the Treasure Box Thrift Shop!
Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10—4
and Saturdays 10-1
at 114 W. Boscawen St.

Donations accepted during shop hours!

Parish Life

Parish Picnic



The Parish Life and Congregational Development Committees invite the congregation to the annual Parish Picnic on **Sunday, August 27**, following the 10:30 am service. The menu includes hamburgers and hotdogs cooked on the grill in the church courtyard, all the fixings, and picnic-style side dishes served by members of the Parish Life and Congregational Development Committees. **We invite members of the congregation to bring your favorite desserts along with the recipe to share.** Seating will be available both inside and outside.

The parish picnic offers a fantastic opportunity to share our church experience with others within a fun and relaxed social setting. Please consider bringing along a friend, neighbor, co-worker, and/or, of course, extended family members to join us for this special occasion!

Tours of the church and the Sunday School Commons will be offered for guests who may consider joining us for future services, fellowship, and education this fall. Come for both the 10:30 am service and the picnic, or just the picnic, which will begin around 11:45 am.

This is our best attended event of the year and the kick-off to another great church year here at Christ Church!

Coffee Hour

Parish Life is always recruiting coffee hour hosts! This is an important weekly ministry of Christ Church to provide fellowship for the congregation following the 10:30 am service. Many parishioners enjoy socializing with new and old friends over a cup of coffee or tea in a relaxed and informal setting. Church committees can use this opportunity to highlight their ministries and educate parishioners about what's going on at Christ Church.

Coffee Hour is a tradition in our parish life, and we're working hard to sustain it. Because this ministry occurs on a weekly basis, it is necessary to expand the pool of hosts and reach out to our church community to become engaged to keep it going. Please consider hosting! Teresa Jacobsen and Jody Wall are happy to talk to you about how easy and simple it can be. Catch one of us after the 10:30 am service on most Sundays or call or email us. Our contact information can be found in the church directory. To sign up to host, visit the church website and follow the link for coffee hour!



Summer Music Therapy Social Group Celebration

Please join DeLyn Celec and her summer music therapy social group as they celebrate the completion of their program on Thursday, August 17, at 6:30 pm in the Tilford Room. Participants will joyfully demonstrate some of their summery musical vibes!

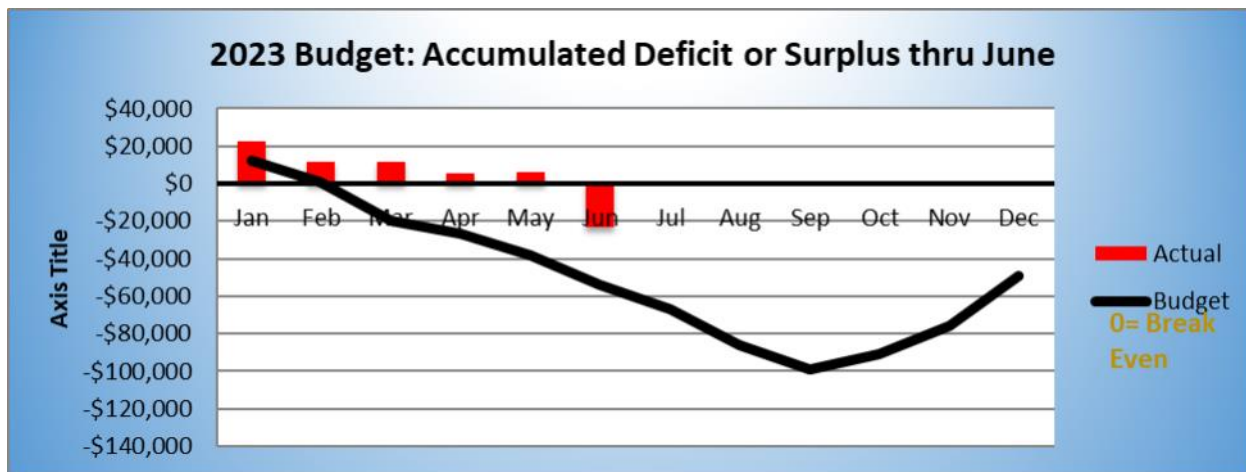
From the Finance Committee

First Half 2023 Update

The first half of 2023 financial picture has been moderately positive for the church. Our revenues through the first six months are better than projected, so thank you to all who have contributed. Overall, revenue is 12% ahead of budget projections.

The graph below reflects the actual year-to-date deficit being less than expected. It also shows us what typically happens during the summer months—our revenues move in a deficit direction, a period of stagnation or slump. While it is expected, it does have a significant impact on our cash flow and our accounting reserves. So, please keep up with your pledges and donations during our slow revenue months!

Final reminder on this: The Employee Retention Credit (ERC) program from the federal government was a program to help organizations to retain their employees during the pandemic. We benefited significantly from this program, receiving \$55,470.51 (not shown in the graph as it is outside our operating budget) this year alone. But the program has ended and we are on our own next year.



The Diocesan canons require an annual audit of the church’s financial records. The audit is underway, and this year, Christopher Francis is chairing the Audit Committee, working with Theresa Seitz, the bookkeeper, and three volunteers. The church is using an internal audit program based on the Diocesan *Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs*. This internal audit program is a usable and proactive process for the audit committee to assure the congregation of their financial position. Results of the audit will be published in a future newsletter.

From the Stewardship Committee

Looking toward the Stewardship Campaign

August is here already, and summer is winding down. Our children will be getting ready for school and fall sports; Halloween candy is already on the shelves; and most of us will be settling into our normal routines. This is a great time to reflect on the summer fun and time we enjoyed with our family and friends. It is also a time to thank God for his generosity and allowing us to benefit from the beauty of all that He has created. We can thank Him by being good stewards of His creation and faithful members of the church.

The body of Christ Church includes, but is not limited, to five ministries: Parish Life, Christian Formation, Pastoral Care, Worship, and Outreach. These ministries are dependent on each other and deeply connected to the work and mission of the church.

- Parish Life – provides opportunities to meet fellow parishioners and learn more about the church and different ministries.
- Christian Formation – helps us to grow in our faith and get a better understanding of God’s word, which enhances our worship.
- Pastoral Care – clergy, parish nurses, and parishioners tend to the spiritual and health needs of members of the Christ Church and its extended family. This ministry is enhanced by formation and worship to carry out its mission.
- Worship – is where we give thanks and praise, are fed, renewed and sent out. It prepares us to take part in parish life, formation, pastoral care and outreach.
- Outreach – is an extension of our worship where we live out God’s commandment to love and serve our neighbor.

In the upcoming months, you will be hearing more about each of these ministries and how they rely, not only on members to support the work, but also on pledged funds to keep up with the costs of providing services. Although we may be back to the “new normal,” our donations and pledged funds are considerably lower than pre-pandemic levels. There is also a need for volunteers to help with these ministries.

We all have different gifts, abilities, and personalities that were designed by God so that we can love and serve Him and others. God is generous and supplies us with everything we need to be generous. Let’s celebrate the gifts each member has by learning more about these ministries, and how we can help support them with our time, talent and treasure to the glory of God.

So, let’s listen to our generous hearts so that we can shape the future of Christ Episcopal Church!

From the Stewardship Committee



Watch for information about the Stewardship Campaign for 2024 in the Angelus, on the website, via our weekly emails, and in services this fall.

What is Stewardship?

Some of us recognize that every fall, Christ Church asks us to pledge a contribution for the following year so that the Finance Committee can make a budget and understand what is supported and what programs may not be. But there is so much more to stewardship than that. Tens is The Episcopal Network for Stewardship and provides valuable resources as congregations develop stewardship campaigns. They say:

*“Stewardship is not just the pledge campaign – it is how we approach our relationship with each other and all of God’s gifts to us all year round. Whatever the resources we have been given is what we must work with to accomplish the mission of the church – **these include our time, our talent, and our treasure, and they work together to grow the Reign of God.**”*

They provide a page of article links that are very insightful as we start to think about stewardship for 2024 at Christ Church—articles about how we think about money and giving, how we tell stories about gratitude and generosity, and even about how we talk with our kids about giving. Check it out here: <https://www.tens.org/resource-library/spirituality-formation/>.



From the Pastoral Care Committee

The Role of the Parish Nurses

In the June/July Angelus issue, the congregation was introduced to our new Parish Nurse, Susan Francis. In this issue, we provide a look into the parish nurses' role at Christ Church.

The parish nurses are registered nurses in the state where they reside and have met many criteria: interviewed by the pastor, have more than two years of experience in nursing, and have had educational preparation in holistic ministry. The nurse assists parishioners in gaining mental, physical, and spiritual health by complementing the ministry provided by the pastor (rector/priest) and lay ministers. This means he/she provides special health promotion services within a given faith community. The parish nurse is someone who wants to work in the faith community, is a good listener, shows compassion, empathy, and is able to make sound health decisions. Other attributes that come to mind: self-starter, independent thinker, and has made a conscious partnering of health issues with the faith of the parishioner and his/her family. The core to this practice is that the parish nurse serves as a bridge to better health in the following roles:

- Health counselor and promoter
- Educator of holistic health (promote understanding of the relationship between lifestyle, attitudes, faith, and well-being)
- Advocate/resource/referral agent---answer questions related to health and care
- Liaison with community services
- Teacher of volunteers/support groups
- Healer of spirit, mind and body (serves as a member of church staff and in partnership with the pastor)

The services provided by the parish nurse are determined by the needs of the faith community in which he/she serves. Some of the services/programs might include:

- Blood pressure screening
- Classes for all ages (nutrition, exercises, elderly parent care, stress management, etc.)
- Hospital, nursing home, or home visits to assist health needs
- Special prayers for healing
- Assist with referrals for appropriate community resources
- Provide health tips

The parish nurse provides support for church members as a partner of the ministerial team. The core to this practice is the intentional care of the spirit. The nurse is familiar with motivational and empowering techniques to encourage lifestyle changes. Parish nurses can make suggestions and encourage progress but, only the parishioner can make those healthy changes.

See you in church!

Your Parish Nurses, Susan, Rosalie, and Helen

