

# THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

January 2025

Dear People of Christ Church,

Happy New Year to all of you! What is your New Year's resolution at this point?

In the life of the church, quite often people will set a resolution to have something to do with worship or something to do with Outreach or something to do with Christian Education. And quite often, that resolution is short lived because people do not know what their resolution means in the life of a congregation. The intention is there, but not much direction.

From the parish side of this experience, I often find people's associations with what parishes offer to be kind of like a fishing trip. The parish offers all kinds of ministries through ministry fairs, adult formation programs, newsletter and congregation announcements, like casting a line with different types of bait trying to figure out what the fish and hungry for. Or the parish continues to offer a particular ministry that worked well ten years ago as if the fish are at that same fishing hole attracted to the same bait every time. Eventually the parish may or may not learn what does and does not work the congregation with a good bit of effort lost to lack of participation.

Add into this mix a freshly stocked pond of new fish and the challenge becomes even greater. People new to the congregation may have no idea what is going on. Previous experiences in other congregations don't directly transfer from one proverbial pond to the other. People may be new to the idea of an adult ministry if they have not been involved since child and teen year. People may be tired of serving in certain ways but they don't know how they might want to serve elsewhere. To stretch this fishing analogy a bit further, the fish do not even know what kind of bait they find attractive no matter what kind of bait is on the hook.

This is where the conversation of time and talent comes into play. God gives every person talents and skills and interests to offer to God in ministry. The challenge with this as a disciple of Jesus is figuring out what those interests are. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus call Simon and Peter and James and John to follow in order to fish for people, but there are not many specifics for them which might be helpful for us. The call is the same today, but the how is part of our challenge.

The first step is "personal discernment." This is where you figure out what kind of bait you might be interested in taking. This is not naval gazing in order to seek Jesus for the self. Instead, it is first reflecting on what you find fulfilling such as interests around work or hobbies, skills that you enjoy doing, subjects that you enjoy exploring, and so on. Second is then seeing where you might offer those needs in serving Jesus. A popular example is acts of outreach. But it might also be music, reading, teaching, counting, hosting, and so on.

Personal discernment takes time and a willingness to risk trying something which may or may not work. It takes time to find out what ministries are going Personal Discernment also takes humility because much of ministry is done in a community which means learning how the community works together when serving Jesus. What we offer as disciples are about Jesus. No one person is there to fix the world. The individual and the community are serving to make the love of Christ known.

Faithfully,



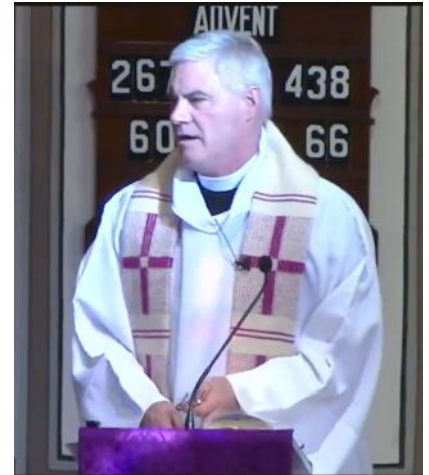
The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector  
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# Worship



**Thank you to  
all who gave  
their  
time & talent  
to make  
Christmas  
2024  
so JOYOUS at  
Christ Church!**



# Christian Formation

## Sunday School News

As we move into the season of Epiphany in the Sunday School, we focus on the revelation of Jesus to the world. Our lessons will follow Jesus through his early years and into his ministry. For kids, this is the time to learn about Jesus as he grows up, is baptized, and begins his ministry. We learn and grow through studying Jesus's examples of what following God looks like. Jesus shows us in these lessons how we should live and carry the Light into the world.

It is also an appropriate time to thank all the teachers, chapel leaders, music directors, parents, and friends who continue to faithfully accept the call to teach and support our children in the past year. Our teachers and Children's Chapel leaders have shown great flexibility in accommodating our scheduling. This year again, we owe special thanks to Pam DeBergh, who organized our Advent wreath-making event and our morning of building gingerbread houses, and to Gregory Elwood and Jasmine Pellet, who represented St. Nicholas and St. Lucy to the younger classes during Advent. Thank you parents; you were so much help during the Christmas pageant providing invaluable aid in keeping everyone on time and into costumes. That's a big ministry from our children to the entire congregation. Thank you all! ~ Margery Wingenbach

## Adult Forum in January

One of the 2025 goals for the Parish Nurse Team at Christ Church is to introduce, or re-introduce to some, their program to the parish. On the Sundays of January, the parish nurses will present different parts of the programs during Adult Forum.

On Sunday, January 12, Webster will begin with a conversation about HIPAA and its unintended consequences for clergy and parishioners. As our hospitals and retirement communities have grown, HIPAA has impacted the relationship between those institutions and the clergy. Unfortunately, it is not until something difficult pops up that people realize how these systems work or don't work together. Please come and learn about these communication challenges.

Sunday, January 19, and Sunday, January 26, parish nurses will discuss their work with you and the resources they offer. They will also explore ways that the congregation can help with different ministries led by our Pastoral Care Committee.

Adult Forum meets Sunday mornings in the Pilgrim's Chapel (at the front of the Parish Hall), at 9:30 am. Please join us any Sunday. No registration is required!

## Common Ground Discussions

The Common Ground discussion group continues to meet on the 4th Wednesday each month in the Parlors at 4:00 pm, but is resuming this month on January 29, 2025. New participants are welcome in the new year to this small group which aims to facilitate discussions allowing parishioners to get to know one another better!



# 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



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
Bible Study	Wed: 10:30 am via Zoom
Outreach Committee	1st Tues: 6:00 pm
Common Ground Discussion Group	4th Wed: 4:00 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: 1:30 pm—Parlors OR First & Third Thursday at 5:30 pm —Parlors



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

# Church Calendar

## January Birthdays

- 3 Jim Griffin
- 4 Neile Martin
- 5 Sam Wise
- 7 Jillian Kalbaugh, Vivian Schower
- 11 Clarke Wiley, Susan Ross
- 12 Sam Leinbach, Jr.
- 13 Thomas Ellington, Stephen Pettit
- 15 Amy Whipkey
- 16 Betsy Young
- 17 Damian Sawle
- 18 Pam Lamborne
- 24 Margaret Arthur, Helen Zearth
- 25 Robert Bronson
- 26 Ned Stock
- 28 Roger Lamborne
- 31 Jazmine Pellot



## January Anniversaries

- 11 Frank Baxter & Skip Bowling
- 29 Ron & Koy Mislowsky

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.



**Shop at the Treasure Box  
Thrift Shop!**

**Volunteers needed in the shop.  
Stop in for details!**  
Open on Wednesdays and  
Fridays 10—4  
and Saturdays 10-1  
at 114 W. Boscawen St.

To submit a prayer request,  
please visit the website and  
click on  
“Add a Name to the Prayer List”  
in the Quick Links section.



# Outreach

## Getting Ready for WATTS Host Week

The Outreach Committee continues its work with WATTS this winter. Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS) is a program conducted by congregations in Frederick and Clarke Counties and Winchester to provide warm, safe shelter and nourishment to homeless members of our community during the winter months. WATTS has been very successful. Since its inception, WATTS has grown to 20 host congregations, which significantly increases support to the most vulnerable members of our local homeless community. Please read more about the work WATTS does in Winchester on their website: [watts-homelessshelter.org](http://watts-homelessshelter.org).



**The 2025 Christ Church WATTS Host Week will be February 1 to 8, 2025.**

There will be a meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2025, after the 10:30 am service in the Parlors to discuss 2025 WATTS procedures & changes, volunteer opportunities, and to provide a WATTS ministry overview for those new to it. The SignUp Genius will be published that same day—January 19; it will list WATTS tasks, dates & times; Parishioners can review it & sign up to volunteer.

### **Volunteer Opportunities include:**

- **Registration**—(6-8 pm) Register guests into the Christ Church WATTS shelter .
- **Manage Floor**—(7 to 10:30 pm) Manage the WATTS site to ensure guests comply with WATTS rules, and monitor two evening smoke breaks.
- **Breakfast Duty**—(5 to 8 am) Prepare and serve breakfast to guests and provide bag lunches to guests.
- **Sunday Breakdown**—(Feb. 2 from 7 to 9 am) Rearrange WATTS site to accommodate Coffee Hour.
- **Sunday Reset**—(Feb. 2 from 12:20-2:30 pm) Reset the Christ Church Parish Hall for WATTS after the Sunday Coffee Hour, i.e. arrange cots, tables, chairs etc.
- **Setup Dinner**—(6 to 8 pm) Work with the cooking team to set up the dining area for dinner.
- **Serve Dinner**—(7 to 8:30 pm) Work with the cooking team to serve dinner to the guests.
- **Dinner Cleanup**—(7:30 to 9:30 pm) Work with the cooking team to clean up after dinner.
- **Site Cleanup & Resupply**—(Daily – time is flexible) Work with Tuffy to clean up the WATTS area and buy supplies.
- **Site Breakdown**—(Feb. 8 from 7 am to noon) Take down and load WATTS cots and equipment into the van for movement to the next host church and clean up the Parish Hall.

### **Donations for WATTS Guests**

The Outreach Committee asks for donations in January of **socks, knit caps, gloves, thermal undergarments and hand & foot warmers** to give WATTS guests during our host week. All must be new and unisex, large, or extra-large sized. You can bring donations to church on Sundays in January or drop off at the Church Office on Wednesdays from 10-2.

## Stewardship

### Financial Planning for 2025

There is a reason why dessert comes last. It is the lasting impression of a great meal!

For many of us, our IRA savings are life's dessert. We're used to saving money in our IRA and not spending it, so it may be unwelcome news that you need to eat a little of your dessert at age 73, whether you want to or not.

While you must withdraw money from your IRA beginning at age 73 (your RMD), that does not mean that you must pay taxes on it. There's a sweeter choice. Rather than taking the distribution yourself, you can direct it to the mission of your church or the Diocese. This choice is called an IRA charitable rollover. Here are the basic steps:

1. Contact your IRA Administrator.
2. Ask them to make your RMD to your church or the Diocese rather than to yourself.
3. Give your administrator the full name, tax ID, contact person and mailing address of the church or Diocese.
4. Contact your church or the Diocese to them that the IRA rollover is on the way!

*Sign up to receive the [dvagiving.org](http://dvagiving.org) e-newsletter [here](#).*

## Parish Life Committee

### Christ Church OWLs Meeting

The Christ Church OWLs have been on hiatus and are looking to return in 2025. "OWLs" stands for older, wiser laity, so anyone who deems themselves older or wiser is welcome to be part of the group! There will be an interest meeting on Sunday, January 19, at 1:00 pm in the Tilford Room to share ideas about how the group can re-start fellowship opportunities. You may also contact Ron Bellows ([ronbellows1@gmail.com](mailto:ronbellows1@gmail.com) or 201-841-9662) with suggestions.



# Parish Life Committee

## A New Year of Coffee Hours

Coffee Hour is a long-time tradition at Christ Church, and in the Episcopal church, that many parishioners enjoy and it's part of the Parish Life ministry. While coffee and snacks seem like the focus of this ministry, fellowship is, in fact, the main purpose of our Coffee Hours: a reason to gather, get to know one another, and to reinforce our church community. Hospitality is important in the life of the parish.

It happens every Sunday—we show up after the 10:30 am service, expecting the usual refreshments and fellowship without much thought about whether it will be there or who made the effort to make it possible. Much of the coordination takes place behind the scenes.

The Parish Life Committee oversees the Coffee Hour ministry, but it's the members of the parish who make it happen by signing up to be hosts. The Parish Life Committee thanks the many members of our congregation who have been a part of this ministry this past year and made it possible!

But hosts are needed in the new year! The Parish Life Committee has simplified hosting Coffee Hour in recent years—making it more accessible to everyone. No special talents are needed!

Members of the Parish Life committee are available to provide kitchen tours and coffee-making instruction for those who would like it. The church provides beverages and condiments, and the host is asked to bring a few bite-sized goodies for everyone to enjoy. You can make them yourself or visit your local grocery store. The host is responsible for set up and clean up, but no heavy lifting is required as church staff will set up tables and chairs. The kitchen is equipped with two dishwashers which makes cleaning up easy! Detailed instructions are provided to assist you.

Hosting is a great opportunity for the committees and ministries of Christ Church to promote themselves and educate the congregation about their work. We would love to see each of these groups continue to commit to hosting once or twice a year! But Coffee Hour is so simple that a couple, family, or a few friends can host on their own, too.

***Please consider involvement in this fun and valuable ministry that we all enjoy and that has value beyond a free cup of coffee and a cookie!***

To sign up to host, go to the home page of the church website and click on “Sign up to host Coffee Hour.” It will take you to a SignUp Genius page, and with a couple of clicks, you can choose the date that works for you. The page is monitored by the coffee hour coordinator, who will follow up with you a week or so in advance of your Sunday to host. For more information and questions, contact Jody Wall (jody\_wall@yahoo.com).

At the coffee hour, we either extend the hospitality we proclaim or we withhold it. We either feel the grace we have acknowledged or we do not. We either extend the Eucharist of the holy meal to the little meal or we do not. Many people judge a congregation by its coffee hour hospitality—especially newcomers. They can tell by the feel in the room whether they are welcome or not.

*From The Art of the Coffee Hour by Donna Schaeper, 2008  
(<https://www.ministrymatters.com/teach/entry/512/the-art-of-the-coffee-hour>)*

