

THE ANGELUS

Volume 75 Number 8

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

April 2025

Dear People of Christ Church,

There is an old stand-up comedy routine with a line of five people whispering in one another's ear about what they have heard otherwise known as the game "Telephone." The first person whispers to the second person, "Did you know that John's mother is sick?" The next person whispers to the third person, "I hear that John's mother is pregnant." The rumor goes down the line to the last two people where the person whispers into the last person's ear, "Did you hear that John's mother died in pregnancy?" The last person said, "I did not know that John's mother was sick." TO which the second to last person says, "That is not what I said." But the last person in line said, "I know, but I also know how this gossip line works."

Not knowing what people may have hear, or will hear, I wanted to remind the congregation that I will be out from April 21 until June 1 for a mini-sabbatical. I will be working on some programs and projects with which I am involved. I will be helping my daughter get married. I will also be taking a bit of sabbath time away from the congregation. So if you hear that the rector has left, I have not. If you hear that we are hiring other clergy, we are not. Most importantly of all, if you get an email or text from me asking for money, DON'T!!

I am excited that you will have wonderful supply clergy for Sunday morning worship. The Rev. Debbie Rutter who is retired will be here to lead services on Sunday, April 27. The Rev. Rachel Shows Rickenbaker will be here for the Sunday services through the month of May. For those who do not know these clergy, Debbie Rutter served for over 20 years at Calvary, Front Royal before retiring. Rachel Rickenbaker may be more famous to you because of her parents, parishioners Deb and Dennis Shows. Also, we were part of her sponsors for going to seminary and ordination. We are fortunate to have Debbie and Rachel supply for us.

While the supply clergy are only for Sunday worship, I have also spoken with The Very Rev. Justin Ivatts and with the Rev. David Bicking to help with any pastoral emergencies which may come up while I am away. The wardens will also be available to help address concerns and contact necessary people when needed. During the week, you also have our wonderful church staff to help you. Please remember to call ahead before you come to the church office to be sure that the staff is here to meet with you.

I will give you two examples of life moving on: First is the Apple Blossom ticket sale ministry the Friday and Saturday of Apple Blossom. To help, sign up on the church website. And, for our Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont is May 9-11. Information is on the website. The Vestry and committees will continue their ministries and I trust that the congregation will work to be a part of those ministries.

However, before I am out, we have quite a bit to do! We have a stewardship program April 5 and 6 to deepen our personal awareness of how we can serve our Lord. We have our Holy Week worship to prepare us for the mystery of the empty tomb. We also have the joyous celebration of our risen Lord at Easter. I look forward to sharing these events with you.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
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Worship

A Note on Easter Services

As you talk with neighbors, friends and family to invite them to join us for services this Holy Week and Easter, please know that you can find service times here, on the church website and on our Facebook page. Easter services are not our regular Sunday service times! The 7:30 am service on Easter is like our traditional Sunday 8:00 am service (no music). The 9:00 am and 11:15 am Easter services both have the adult choir and are similar in most ways except there will be children's choirs for the 9:00 am service. Our Music Director, Jean Lin, will have special solos and anthems sung by our choir and guest singers and musicians. Because of the children participating at 9:00 am, we see more families with young children at that service.

Alleluia Singers Prepare for Easter

For Palm Sunday and Easter, the Alleluia Singers (our children's choir) will share a two-part song series based on traditional hymns. Each one borrows from the song in the hymnal and adds ideas specific to those of the members of the choir. Both contain responses to this question posed to choir members: "If you were there on that day [that the Triumphal Entry/Resurrection happened], what would you think and how would you feel?"

Alleluia Singers' original lyrics in the arrangement of "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" talk about the leadership of children. The kids talked about being excited and joyful, which would set a good example for the grownups. When we discussed the situations of the people who were welcoming Jesus, highlighting that many had been facing great difficulty, they imagined those people hoping for a change that would make things better.

In "Christ Arose," the verses are written from the point of view of the disciples who had followed Jesus; they were his friends. When we were brainstorming about what we wanted to sing for Easter, the kids talked about the people who had come to know Jesus. They empathetically pointed out that his friends must have been sad that they lost him because they loved him. The newly-penned parts of the chorus echo the prayer with which we end each week's rehearsal, "Remind us that no matter where we go or what we do, you are always with us and you are always helping us."



2025 Holy Week & Easter Services at Christ Church

Palm Sunday—April 13, 2025

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:15 am—Procession of Palms to the Downtown Mall
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Maundy Thursday Service—April 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Liturgy—April 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday—April 20, 2025

6:30 am Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Mt. Hebron Cemetery
7:30 am Easter Service of Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Easter Family Service of Holy Eucharist with children's choir
11:15 am Easter Service of Holy Eucharist

Ministry Reflection

Reflection on WATTS Ministry

“One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All”

Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter Reflection

By: Barbara Downs

On February 1-8, 2025, Christ Episcopal hosted Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS) guests. As I pondered what to say that would accurately reflect my thoughts, two separate and distinct ideas came to mind. What we did that week was not dissimilar to hosting friends and family in my own home. The second thing that came to mind was the hymn, “One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All.”

In either our personal home or our church home, there is a warm greeting at the door welcoming guests to our home, food to fill the stomach and fuel the soul, and a safe and warm place to rest a weary body. In the morning prior to departure, a hot breakfast, coffee, an opportunity to pick up sandwiches, snacks, and warm clothing, and of course, a smile, starts the next day off just right. During this time, hugs are given and received, stories are told, laughter is shared, and sometimes tears are shed. This all takes place within a safe environment where guests are loved and respected. Care is always taken to ensure our guests are neither patronized nor marginalized.

During the WATTS week, there are several ways to walk in the way of the Lord. At the door, we greet them with a smile and kindness. We check their names for accountability purposes only, secure their precious belongings, and help them, if needed, to their established cots. The intake duties are extremely important as that step establishes a welcoming, non-threatening environment. As an Evening Lead and not having a specific task, I had the unique opportunity to greet them where they were at that moment—to see in their eyes the kind of day they had, and discern how we might serve them. In some instances, after three years supporting WATTS, we greet each other by name. When that happens, it warms and hurts my heart simultaneously.

When the door closes and intake is complete, the guests settle their belongings, partake in snacks, and if desired, immediately sit with each other at the dining tables. All the while, the kitchen is bustling with activity. The dining lead works with the rest of the volunteers on what and how food is cooked/warmed and served. Unless chili or soup is on the menu, food is served buffet-style from the kitchen pass through. For soup or chili, a volunteer(s) uses the carts to deliver the meal directly to the tables. Rolls and dessert are typically served that way also. Before the meal is consumed, a guest volunteers to say grace. To say our guests are grateful is an understatement. All night, you hear, “thank you, ma’am/sir,” “I really appreciate it,” and “You’re very kind.” And they are very welcome.

These are the ways I choose to “walk in the way of the Lord” during our WATTS week. There are many other ways to serve at multiple comfort levels. You can help prepare and serve breakfast, hand out lunches and clothing, knit prayer squares, help the Sunday School students prepare friendship cards, help set up and break down on either Saturday, contribute money or new warm weather clothing. So many ways to help.

In closing, when I stood in the Tilford Room amongst the controlled chaos, not unlike my own family gatherings, I felt grounded – reminded why I’m on this earth – to serve. While our guests might not be genetically connected, we are family, nonetheless. “We are One Body in this One Lord.”



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: 6:00 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

April Birthdays

- 2 Martin Tabaka, Dan Wall
- 3 Larry Pettinger
- 6 Toni Sloan
- 7 Stewart Wiley, Zelda Lowrey
- 8 Nancy Baker
- 11 Joe Wingenbach
- 12 Brock Whipkey
- 14 Dixon Whitworth
- 16 Sylvia Petrie
- 18 Maria Nelson
- 19 Michael Mohn
- 20 Leslie Harper, Tom Wise
- 22 Laken Whipkey
- 23 Ruth Gregory, Zachary Lowrey, Dan Shaner
- 24 Joan Claybrook
- 28 Bob McDonald



April Anniversaries

- 8 Larry & Connie Pettinger
- 18 Gil & Margie Kesser
- 19 Bernie & Rosemary Swope
- 26 Scott & Leslie Harper

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.

Procession for the Blessing of the Palms on Sunday, April 13, 2025

On Palm Sunday, April 13, please plan to meet in front of the Parish Hall at 10:20 am for our traditional march to the downtown mall for a brief service of the Blessing of the Palms with other Winchester churches.

We will return to the church together and rejoin the 10:30 am service, which will begin at its usual time for those not walking to the downtown mall.

Sunday School will run only from 9:30 am until 10:00 am so parents can come upstairs and get their children for the procession. Children's Chapel will begin at 10:40 am.



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 Committee

Apple Blossom Parades

Yay for Apple Blossom this spring! Join us for the Shenandoah Apple Blossom parades on May 2 and 3, 2025. It is such a fun time, especially if you secure a seat in advance. Christ Church has wonderful seats on Washington Street right at the church. It is a great spot to sit and take in the full Apple Blossom experience. All proceeds from the tickets go to our largest mission, Bright Futures, helping to feed school children in Winchester and Frederick County.

We will begin selling tickets on **Sunday, April 6**, between services in the Tilford Room (132 W. Boscawen St.), and continue on Sundays (except Easter Sunday, April 20) and Wednesdays through Wednesday, April 30. On Wednesdays, we'll be in the Tilford Room from noon to 2:00 pm.

All sales are in-person only by cash or check. Tickets will be \$5 for the Firefighters Parade on Friday, May 2, and \$8 for the Grand Feature Parade on Saturday, May 3.

Many hands are needed to help sell tickets on Sundays and Wednesdays, as well as the Friday and Saturday of Apple Blossom. We also need help setting up the chairs on Friday morning and cleaning up after the Grand Feature Parade on Saturday. To volunteer to help go to the church website and click on the link for Apple Blossom volunteers. Thank you so much for your help!



Committee Updates

The Outreach Committee congratulates and thanks:

- Lorna Loring & Andrew Pahl for joining the committee
- The Christ Church congregation for donating over 200 cans of soup to the Salvation Army and over 100 boxes of granola bars for Bright Futures
- Coldest Night of the Year team for raising over \$800 walking for WATTS

Outreach Committee opportunities for the Congregation:

- April collection of paper products for Rescue Mission --- **paper plates & cups** used for the meals served to 80-100 guests per meal; **paper towels & toilet paper** for residents of the program
- May support during Apple Blossom setting up, taking down, and selling seats on days of the parade --- funds support the Bright Futures mission

Properties Committee

Spring Keep Day

Your Properties Committee needs your help and invites you to join them on Saturday, April 12, from 9:00 am to noon for Keep Day. Saturday, April 19, is the rain date. This is our parish clean-up day to get ready for Easter celebrations. As with any spring cleaning, it involves many chores—inside the church and outside the church, courtyard, and Baden Center. The Properties Committee members will be there to direct the projects. It's an "all-hands-on-deck" kind of event! Come for one hour or the whole time; the more hands, the faster the work.

Stewardship Committee

Time & Talent Workshop and Dinner: Naming and Proclaiming Our Gifts - An Introduction to Asset Based Community Development

The Episcopal Church defines Stewardship as “Our personal response to God's generosity in the way we share our resources of time, talent, and money. Stewardship reflects our commitment to making God's love known through the realities of human life and our use of all that God has given us. It is also our service to God's world and our care of creation.” Time is seen as a precious and scarce resource, and dedicating it to God's work is a way to be actively involved in ministry and mission. Further, each individual has unique talents and abilities, and using them to serve God and others is a vital part of stewardship.

Join us on Saturday, April 5, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the Tilford Room as Heidi Kim, Interim Diocesan Canon for Discipleship, leads Christ Church in a Time and Talent Workshop. Our goal is that through exploration, each individual will be led to naming and proclaiming their gifts through current and new ways. This exploration will allow us to think about ways that individually and collectively as a parish, we serve the Lord. Questions posed in the workshop might include: What's a task or role that comes easily to me? What am I good at? Where did I excel in school/work? What's something I don't have to work to be good at because I just am good at it? What do my co-workers compliment me on most often? If someone asked my friends what I do really well, what would they say?

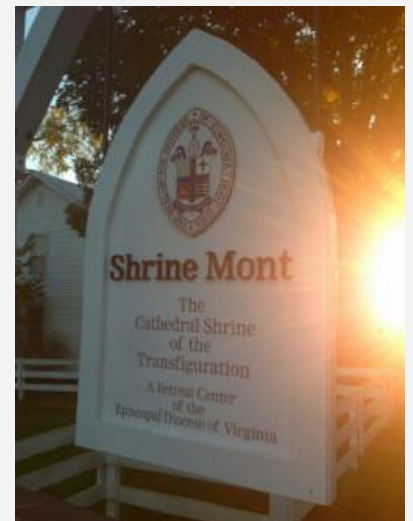
By identifying these talents and connecting them to a current or newly created ministry, the good that we can do is multiplied. Join us and let's all find ways to connect our unique talents with the needs of the church, community, and the world, using those gifts to make a difference.

Childcare will be provided during the workshop. The Stewardship Committee invites all participants to stay for a dinner following the workshop. Please RSVP on the website.

Please see p. 8 for more on time and talent.

Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont

We are now entering the final count-down to Parish Weekend, taking place May 9-11 at Shrine Mont in beautiful Orkney Springs, Virginia, with only a little over a month to go! Registration forms are available in the Tilford Room or on the church website. All children and youth under the age of 18 may attend at no cost. Please remember to register all of those who are attending, and also note any food allergies or special requests. Gluten Free and Vegetarian choices are available upon request. All registration and payments are due by Friday, April 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Parish Weekend Committee member, Stacy Talbott, for details at 540-532-7152.



Stewardship Committee

A Theology of Time & Talent by the Rev. Webster Gibson

Time is a constant. There were, are and always will be 24 hours in a day, 7 days a week. In a way, it is neither abundant nor scarce. It just is. How we live our lives and consider our time as abundant or scarce can be a reflection of how we see our lives with how we utilize our time and to whom we offer our time. It can be work, family, friends. A good way to look at how we spend our time is to review our calendars from the past 6 months and see where we spent it.

Like a checkbook's register (that is something in which we used to record our spending), our calendars can teach us a lot about our stewardship of our lives. Unlike a checkbook, we always know that we have the same amount of time. It is just a matter of choices we make with the time we have. We can see time as abundant or scarce. But an important question with that time is how did we use it. And if we don't like the way we are using it, what can we do to adjust and seek a balance to spend our time in more fulfilling ways. What do we give up? What do we take on?

If stewardship is understood as "Our personal response to God's generosity in the way we share our resources of time, talent, and money," then how do we share our time and talent with God's call to serve? Where does that fit into how we offer our time?

Talent is another part of this conversation. When we offer our time, we want to be doing something. Ideally, what we are doing gives our lives fulfillment in knowing God gave us each abilities to serve and be the Church. And as we serve with others, we get to know each other better and grow and deepen our relationships with one another and the community around us.

Talent is also about our ability. What can we do? Over time, our abilities change, or we find different ways to share our abilities. The ministries around the congregation change, and different abilities are needed in different ways. If we want, we can always find different or new ways to serve as we go through life.

Time and Talent – how and what we have to offer will change as we go through life. We have to take the risk with God to explore where our offerings of time and talent intersect with where the needs of the community lie. That discernment process involves our figuring out what we take on and what we give up. The process asks us to consider what we enjoy doing and what we hate doing. It asks us to consider how we support one another in ministry and when we need to change our roles and responsibilities in the community. It also asks us what might be something entirely new that we might try in ministry.

"We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit."

By virtue of Baptism, we have the assurance that God has and claims 100% of each one of us. That includes all we have, all we do, all that we are. With that wonderful reassurance, God also wants us to offer that back – to God, to the community, to the church. As with any relationship, how we respond to God's invitation will change over time and hopefully grow in deeper more meaningful ways. Knowing that this offering is not just about money, but about time and talent, we engage the journey of giving.



Shop at the Treasure Box Thrift Shop!

Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10—4 & Saturdays 10-1
at 114 W. Boscawen St.

Donations accepted during shop hours!