

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

September 2023

Dear People of Christ Church,

A prayer from Avery Brooke's "Plain Prayers in a Complicated World":

To Reorganize

"We need to reorganize, God, to change the way we look at things and the way we function and it is difficult. We are used to things as they are and even when we know that we should change, we are reluctant. Gracious God, help us to see clearly how things are now, how they might be, and how to get there."

A question was asked at our usher training in August— "At Christ Church, how do people come to the communion rail?" It reminded me of several things as I am working with the Worship Committee on the process of moving the congregation back to the communion rail:

- We have people who are new to Christ Church since 2020, which means that they have not received communion at our rail yet.
- All churches do not do things the same way.
- As we return to receiving communion from the rail, there will be differences from what we did before.

"We are used to things as they are and even when we know that we should change, we are reluctant."

Every person coming to the rail has different experience in their life and worship. It is not about being right or wrong from community to community; rather, it is a reminder that different communities do things differently. Obviously, what was is not where we are now, but, when we thought certain things would never change, those changes can be difficult.

So, as we return to the communion rail, the pattern for coming to the rail at Christ Church is for the pulpit side to start at the right and fill the rail to the middle. The eagle lectern side fills from the middle to the left. To receive the bread, hold up your hands. After you receive, you return to your seat by the side aisle.

However, for the wine, that is where we pray, *"Gracious God, help us to see clearly how things are now, how they might be, and how to get there."*

The first chalice to come down the rail will be only for people to sip from. The second chalice will be only for intinction for the bread. Paper cups will also be an option for receiving wine. We're all going to see how it works. It is that process of *"and how to get there,"* which we will pray together.

Sitting down to eat together at the table will take some logistical attempts, some bumping of elbows, and some adjustments. That is how we will be at our Lord's table for the first few weeks as we figure this out. That is what families do.

I will give instructions when it's time to try it out! I also hope that this helps us to consider our table manners as we come forward to the Lord's table. How we welcome one another. How we watch out for one another. Maybe even to consider how blessed we are by God for all of our community to be nurtured by God's grace to the point that the one constant is how we love one another as navigate changes in life.

Faithfully,



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



From the Outreach Committee

Ministries in our Local Community

For years, Christ Church has been a part of the faith communities and their efforts to serve the vulnerable and those in need. As disciples of Jesus, members of Christ Church have been a part of boards of organizations, financial contributors where needed, and a resource for food and school supplies among other ministries.

Historically, the Outreach Committee has found that there is a group of organizations with whom Christ Church members enjoy serving. These include Bright Futures, CCAP, Winchester Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, and WATTS. While these are not the only organizations we work with (Rise Against Hunger, Kids Club, and others over the years), these five are among the better known in the parish. To help describe these five, the Outreach Committee describes them as "core" outreach ministries. The term "core" is to indicate commitment, but not exclusion from doing other ministries with the community.

A recent article in the Winchester Star on the struggles of the local Salvation Army has raised concern among the Outreach Committee members and parishioners as to our future work with the Salvation Army. As we wait to see what the Salvation Army will do, the committee is in the process of exploring other ways we can serve in the community. We are fortunate to have other organizations to talk with about ways Christ Church can help and get involved. As the committee discerns those opportunities, they will inform the parish as to how the parish family can serve.

Again, the term "core" helps us identify ministries which parishioners support. It is not meant to limit our outreach efforts with other organizations. Ultimately, the work of the Outreach Committee is to provide ways for parishioners to live as disciples of Jesus caring for the vulnerable and those in need. We will continue our work with Bright Futures, CCAP, Rescue Mission, and WATTS. We will also have a packing day in November with Rise Against Hunger. And we will see where else the Holy Spirit may call Christ Church in our work in the local community.

Collection for Winchester Rescue Mission

The Winchester Rescue Mission provides immediate help for the homeless in crisis with shelter, meals, clothing, and supplies to stabilize the situation. Each resident is assigned a case manager who addresses the deeper issues that affect the homeless, such as mental illness, substance abuse, literacy, and financial challenges. They provide an individual plan with achievable goals to help the individual progress towards stability and self-sufficiency. Additionally, the WRM outreach programs include a food pantry serving 1,200 boxes of food per month and community meals serving over 5,000 meals each month.

In September, the Outreach Committee will collect BOXED PASTA & BOXED INSTANT POTATOES for the Winchester Rescue Mission.

As you do your shopping this month, please pick up some boxes for the Winchester Rescue Mission and bring them to church on Sunday or deliver to the Church Office at 114 W. Boscawen Street on Wednesdays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.



Christian Formation for All

Sunday School Starts September 10th

We're excited to begin a new program year with Sunday School, Children's Chapel, Alleluia Singers and Cherub Choir on Sunday, September 10th. The Sunday morning schedule will look like this:

9:00 –9:25 am Alleluia Singers meet in the Children's Chapel (upstairs in the parish hall).

9:30 –10:15 am Sunday School classes meet upstairs in the parish hall:

- Preschool (ages 3-5) (with Cherub Choir music from 10:00—10:15 am in Children's Chapel)
- Kindergarten—2nd Grade
- 3rd & 4th Grades
- 5th—9th Grades—Exploring Confirmation (Meet in the Tilford Room on September 10.)

10:30—11:00 am Children's Chapel—For children ages 2-8. The front door to the parish hall and the door to the Sunday School Commons upstairs in the parish hall lock automatically at 10:45 am. If you arrive later, the ushers at the back of the church will direct you how to enter from the sanctuary. Children are led back into church to meet their families around 11:00 am. No registration is necessary for chapel.

Thank you if you have already registered! If you need a form, please find one on the church website and bring it on September 10 or email Margery Wingenbach (Wingenbach@comcast.net).

Youth Group is Back!

Sunday evening Youth Group is back! While Sunday School mornings will explore the confirmation process for this age group, Christ Church youth are also invited to be part of Sunday evening Youth Group. We'll start off the year with a cookout at the Gibsons' house on Sunday, September 17, from 5:00-7:00 pm. Youth and families are invited for food, games, and lots of planning for a great year. Please RSVP to the Gibsons at rector@christchurchwinchester.org.

Adult Forum Resumes September 10th

This fall, Adult Forum will focus on returning to the Lord's table and why the common cup is important in the Episcopal Church, using the Book of Common Prayer and the Catechism as guides.

As we return to the communion rail and the common cup, we'll offer several ways to receive wine—a chalice for sipping, a chalice for intinction, and paper cups who prefer that method. These ways are old, new, and different! It is a good representation of change, and also the chance to ask basic questions once again, such as, "Why do we do what we do?" "What changes might last?" and "How does all of this jive with our sacramental notion of the Eucharist?" In other words, a chance for a conversation about the place of sacramental practice for disciples of Jesus.

Please join Webster Gibson and Sue Jarvis as we get in touch with our three-leg stool of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. Adult Forum is every Sunday morning in the Tilford Room at 9:30 am.

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

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|----------------------|---|
| Adult Forum | Sun: 9:30 am |
| Choir Rehearsal | Wed: 7:00 pm |
| Bible Study | Wed: 10:30 am via Zoom |
| 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 |



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

September Birthdays

- 1 Ty Lawson
- 2 Robb Russell
- 6 Joyce Casey
- 7 Joan Bronson
- 8 Sharon Lower
- 9 Vicky Arculin
- 10 Judith Anderson
- 14 Carolyn Lewis, Lindsay Pifer,
Debra Shows, Dawson Wiley
- 15 Ashley Major Haines
- 18 Polly Nesselrodt
- 19 Cheryl Crowell, Sandy White, Pat Kofalt
- 22 Bill Major
- 25 Mary Puttock
- 27 Gus Wise, Maggie Wise
- 28 Katlyn Wall Painter
- 29 Ann Poling, Pem Hutchinson,
Adelaide Turnbull, Rick Byler



September Anniversaries

- 3 Kirk & Linda Gibson
- 4 Stephen & Nancy Brown
- 9 David & Carolyn Lewis
- 11 Pat & Mari Kofalt
- 20 John & Joan Claybrook
- 21 Steve & Terry Cluss

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!



The
**TREASURE
BOX**

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!

From the Stewardship Committee

How your Pledge Impacts Ministry: Christian Formation



The Christian Formation Ministry helps us to strengthen our knowledge and understanding of God’s Word, increase our faith and grow in a continuous conversion. There are opportunities for parishioners of all ages to learn and a variety of ways to be involved. Anyone can take part in Christian Formation as a participant in a lecture or class or by volunteering as a Sunday School teacher or assistant and cultivating a young person’s spiritual formation.

Children’s Formation: There are typically three Sunday School classes for children from preschool to 5th grade. The church pays for curriculum and supplies. There is a supply of supplementary books, which needs to be updated. We have a paid part-time director and nine Sunday School volunteer teachers who rotate Sundays.

Children’s Chapel is offered during the 10:30 am service for children age 2 through 3rd grade. The focus is on the same readings as the adult service, with the addition of an age-appropriate game or activity and prayers. There are two volunteer adult chapel leaders in rotation, aided by youth.

Vacation Bible School is a shared ministry of Christ Church and Grace Lutheran Church which has been offered for over 30 years. We share leadership, teachers, volunteers and costs. VBS is for our children in the parish, but it is also a huge community outreach, welcoming children from the community at no cost. In 2023, we used a curriculum which cost our church \$5,000 in 2020, but was not used because of the pandemic. We will need to include at least \$6,000 for 2024 VBS in our upcoming budget.

Each year, there are some special programs for children, such as Advent wreath-making, the Christmas pageant and the Christmas procession, pretzel making during Lent, community-focused activities, etc. Donations of time and money from volunteers make these activities possible.

We are grateful to the teachers and volunteers who donate their time, money and resources. More volunteers are needed however, and we will need to increase the budget for 2024 to cover the costs of additional books, equipment with wi-fi capabilities, and curriculum for Vacation Bible School.

Adult Formation: There are many programs available for adults in their journey of faith—from Adult Forum on Sundays at 9:30 am to just about one gathering each day of the week, including a virtual bible study. Typically, participants purchase their own books for the adult classes, but there are other costs associated with these programs, such as time spent by clergy reviewing and preparing for the classes.

Other costs incurred for Christian Formation are payroll for time spent by staff communicating and scheduling, as well as ordering supplies and paying bills. We need space for meetings and classes, so costs associated with the buildings, maintenance, and equipment are also part of the budget. Technology to communicate and connect, such as Zoom classes, has been made a necessity in recent years, and it is an ongoing technical and financial challenge.

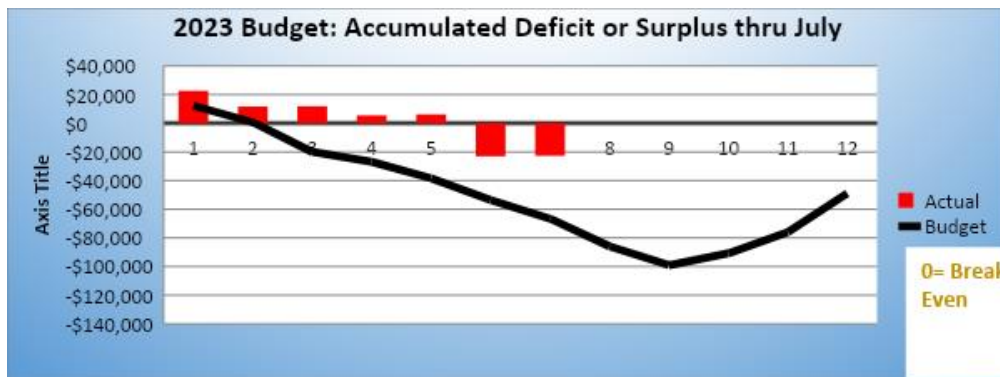
Closely linked to Worship & Music and Parish Life, Christian Formation is a large part of the body of our church and is an investment in our increase in faith. Giving to the glory of God in service of Church supports this growth of spirit and community, and shapes the future as we teach our children and youth.

From the Finance Committee

Where do we Stand?

As we head into fall, where do we stand financially? Are we ahead or behind our budget projections? Are we in a position to reach our goals? Do we have the resources available to expand our ministries? In short, we are in fairly good shape, but we need to remain diligent.

Our budget each year recognizes a dip in revenue in the summer and early fall while the expenses remain constant. This means that our budget shows a deficit as depicted below. As you can see, the big dip bottoms out in September. So far this year the actual deficit has not been as much as projected. Revenue has been better than budgeted, while expenses have remained very close to the budgeted amount.



Pledged contributions have come in 17% ahead schedule, while unpledged revenue is lower than expected. This nets out to our being 14% ahead on revenue through July. The expenses are, generally, progressing as expected. The properties budget is overspent due to higher insurance cost, unplanned elevator repairs and maintenance costs. The maintenance contract for the new HVAC system is significantly higher than expected and the effects of inflation are being felt.

The pledged contributions are ahead of schedule, which is good, but the total amount pledged for the year has not changed. Thus, we may see less than projected revenues during the remainder of the year. Second, there are changes in personnel and properties expenses that cancel each other out. The assistant rector's departure means a reduction in the personnel expenses, but higher HVAC and maintenance costs counter that savings. The bulk of the properties budget was budgeted for September, October, and December. The Employee Retention Credit program's unbudgeted \$55k has the effect of bending our budgeted annual deficit line up to a break-even point, or even a slight surplus.

Are we ahead or behind our budget projections? On a year-to-date basis we are ahead of projections. On an annual basis, the early receipt of pledged contributions leaves us on target.

Are we in a position to reach our goals? Yes, with everyone's continued support and participation, we will reach the end of the year in good shape.

As we approach the new program year, it is my opinion as Treasurer, that we should pursue our ministries with as much energy and gusto as possible. Thank you for your ongoing support and participation as we do the work God has called us to do.

From the Pastoral Care Committee

Safety on the Roads

School is back in session and we need to consider our children's safety. It is important for parents and grandparents to talk to your children about bus safety including how to get on and off the bus safely, never walking behind the bus, and using caution when walking near the bus. Drivers need to be aware when approaching a bus and plan for frequent stops. Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. In every state, it is illegal to pass a school bus while the stop-arm is extended and the red lights are flashing. Many more safety tips can be found on the NHTSA.gov website.

In a study analyzed by NHTSA, the likelihood of teen drivers engaging in one or more risky behaviors when driving with multiple passengers increased three times compared to when driving alone. Risky behaviors include distracted driving, wearing seat belts, drug or alcohol impaired driving, and speeding. Bottom Line: Eyes on the road, hands on the wheel. All the time.

Driving is so important to our independence from the time we get our first license and throughout our lifetime. Most of us want to continue to drive as long as we safely can. Many things can affect our driving such as vision changes, physical fitness, and reaction time. There is a great resource from the United States Department of Transportation for tips on self-assessment: Driving Safely While Aging Gracefully (<https://www.nhtsa.gov/older-drivers/driving-safely-while-aging-gracefully>).

At any age, after a severe illness, medical condition, or injury, many people find themselves unable to drive. Valley Health has a program called "DriveAbility." A registered occupational therapist/certified driver rehab specialist and certified driving instructor work with participants and can help people drive again. They are located at Winchester Medical Center Rehabilitation Services on Cork Street (540-536-1180).

Pedestrians at any age should approach our streets with caution. Just like we teach our children, it is important to stop and look both ways. Drivers often speed and run red lights, and may not see you. Even coming out of our own church front door, care should be taken before approaching the street!

Stay safe and see you in church!

Your Parish Nurses, Helen, Rosalie, and Susan



Coming Soon! New Christ Church Photo Directory!

Watch for announcements mid-September inviting you to have your photo taken on Sundays before or after services for inclusion in an updated Christ Church Photo Directory. We will be taking photos in-house, not professional portraits to purchase. Looking forward to seeing all of those smiles!

