

# THE ANGELUS

Volume 75 Number 6

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

February 2025

Dear People of Christ Church,

This year, the season of Epiphany goes all through February—giving us more time for “Epiphany things” as we look forward to Lent, which begins March 5<sup>th</sup>, and Easter on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

One important part of this season at Christ Church is our WATTS host week. This is a vital part of our community outreach and I want to thank everyone who will be a part of our WATTS week this year. It is a program with a variety of ways for people to help, before, during and after we have guests at Christ Church, and I am grateful for everyone who is a part of that program—the committee organizing the event, Tuffy, our Sexton, all the people who come to cook, serve, clean and visit, the Parish Nurse Team, and so many others. Thank you.

Another event happening during Epiphany is a Shrine Mont celebration Sunday. On the following pages, you will find information about the Shrine Mont anniversary and our March 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday events. It’s also a reminder to the families of children who are seven years and older of the opportunity to sign up for our wonderful diocesan church camps through the summer ([www.shrinemontcamps.org](http://www.shrinemontcamps.org)). The registration is ongoing and scholarship help is available through the parish and the diocese. Please speak with me about that.

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Vestry. Please be sure to put that on the calendar. We are also looking at a potluck Bingo night before we get to Lent, but that is not yet finalized. We haven’t played Bingo at Christ Church for quite some time!

Even though Lent and Easter are a bit later this year, it still feels like time moves quite swiftly. As I look at my bulletin board with my calendars carefully organized, I see that I have June 2024 through January 2025 posted. Now that we head into February, I know that time has definitely been on the move! And one more calendar note, the next opportunities for the celebration of Holy Baptism will be on Easter Sunday (April 20) and Pentecost (June 1). To allow time for our preparation classes, please be sure to contact me to find a time to meet and discuss our Baptism preparation process.

Again, thank you for all that you do in our community’s discipleship of Jesus.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector  
[rector@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:rector@christchurchwinchester.org)  
540-662-5843, Ext 1 or 540-773-5562



# Worship

## Celebrating Shrine Mont

The Shrine Mont Diocesan Conference Center and home of the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration are nearby to Christ Church in Orkney Springs, Virginia, in western Shenandoah County. We are fortunate to have our annual parish weekend there, summer camps for children and youth, and other events throughout the year.

On Sunday, March 2, 2025, Christ Church will join with parishes from around the diocese to celebrate, learn, and share stories about Shrine Mont. This particular Sunday is the last Sunday of Epiphany, when the Gospel reading is about the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain—for which the cathedral is named. It is also a day when the diocese raises everyone’s awareness that August 6, 2025 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our stone cathedral shrine. Please join us at Adult Forum and Coffee Hour on March 2 and talk with folks who love Shrine Mont and you’ll understand what a special place it is. You can also visit Shrine Mont’s website ([www.shrinemont.org](http://www.shrinemont.org)) to learn more.

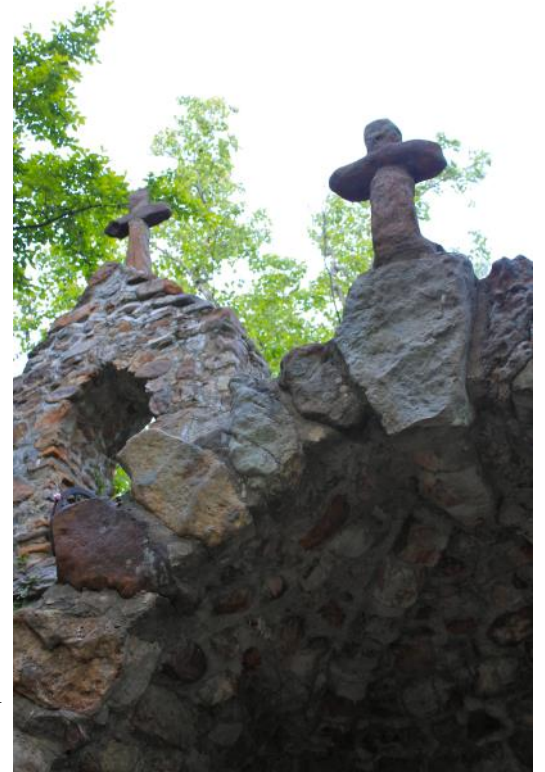
This is also a wonderful Sunday to talk about our own annual parish weekend at Shrine Mont, which is the weekend of May 9-11, 2025. Our parish weekend is always Mother’s Day weekend, which gives families the best way for children and spouses to honor mothers with a weekend away—enjoying great food, hiking, getting to know people, porch rocking, and other activities. And you can be back home on Sunday afternoon for larger family celebrations!

For our rector, Webster, Shrine Mont is especially dear as his family history is intertwined with Shrine Mont’s. Webster’s great grandfather, the Rt. Rev. Robert Atkinson Gibson, who served as bishop of the diocese from 1902 to 1919, bought what is now Gibson Cottage because of his love of the area and his hope to have a place for clergy to retreat when needed. His daughter’s (Webster’s great aunt, Francis Gibson Woodward) husband, the Rev. Dr. Edmund Woodward, had a greater vision building the cathedral and growing Shrine Mont as he set out to establish a place of worship and retreat for the diocese.

Webster’s father, the Rev. Churchill J. Gibson, Jr. was chaplain to Shrine Mont from 1964 to 1983. So Webster and his family lived there from June 1 to September 1 every year while the camps and conference center were open. And today, Webster’s brother, Kirk Gibson, is the Director of Development for Shrine Mont.

*“I guess you could say that Shrine Mont is a large part of my family. In my own life and vocation, I have a picture of the first baptism I participated in at the Cathedral Shrine in July of 1967, which was my own. And I then had the chance to participate in baptisms with my oldest, Rosa, and with my niece, Marie. Even as Shrine Mont has grown and changed over the years, there are some longstanding relationships which have lasted as the next generations grow up on the mountain,”* says Webster.

As we gather on March 2, parents will find registration forms for the variety of church summer camps that children can attend at Shrine Mont in the summer of 2025. Parishioners who have been to Shrine Mont can answer questions you may have, and Webster will share more history on how Shrine Mont has grown and how all ages can benefit from different programs and camps offered through the diocese and through Shrine Mont.



# Worship



*From the left, Webster celebrating the Eucharist, the Gibson Cottage, the Gibson family at Webster's baptism, and Webster's daughter, Rosa, at her baptism at Shrine Mont.*



# 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
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



CHRIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA



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

# Church Calendar

## February Birthdays

- 1 Kay Teachout
- 2 Steve Haines
- 5 Scott Harper
- 8 Bill Endorf
- 11 Rebecca Gibson, David Wingenbach
- 12 Tricia Glass, Bernard Swope
- 14 Martha Griffin
- 17 Stephen Brown
- 19 William Wingenbach
- 23 Roger Zearth, Skip Bowling  
Nancy Sawle
- 25 Beth Conrad
- 27 Bill Tedesco

## February Anniversaries

- 2 Steve & Neile Grady Martin
- 4 John & Mary Margaret Applin
- 8 Martin & Nancy Tabaka
- 12 Dan & Mary Gloster

celebrate!

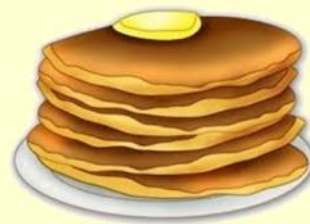


### Please Note:

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.

## Christ Church Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be Tuesday, March 4, 2025, in the Tilford Room. Everyone is invited for pancakes, bacon, sausage, and other treats served from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm. This event is hosted by the Vestry.



Ash Wednesday Services at Noon and 7:00 pm  
Wednesday, March 5, 2025



### Shop at the Treasure Box Thrift Shop!

Donations for spring needed— clothing, décor, housewares...  
Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10—4 and Saturdays 10-1  
at 114 W. Boscawen St.

## Outreach Committee

### Donations Requested in February

The Outreach Committee asks for donations in February of regular-sized cans of soup with a pop-top so easy opening for the Salvation Army's food pantry. You can bring donations to church on Sundays in February or drop off at the Church Office on Wednesdays from 10-2.

### Walk for WATTS

The Outreach Committee hopes to have a team of walkers again this year for WATT's Coldest Night walk fundraiser on February 22nd. Please watch for more information on Facebook and in weekly emails if you would like to participate.

## Worship Committee

### Participate in Worship Services

The Worship Committee's mission is to invite members to be literal instruments of God's grace as they offer their gifts in reading, serving, and singing to create meaningful worship for the whole congregation.

The Worship Committee has several ways for people to serve in our worship. These include Altar Guild, lay readers/ lay Eucharistic ministers, ushers, music/choir, and acolytes. We currently seek the following:

- Ushers for either of our Sunday morning services. Contact Chris Francis ([cfrancis622@gmail.com](mailto:cfrancis622@gmail.com)).
- Lay readers and chalicers for either of our Sunday morning services. Contact Bill Major ([william.major1@me.com](mailto:william.major1@me.com)).
- Livestream ministry service recording. Contact Phil Sargent ([psargent@su.edu](mailto:psargent@su.edu)).

With each of these ministries, training is a requirement. Even if you have done similar ministries before, training is a requirement because each church community does things differently. For chalicering, there is also some paperwork for licensing with the diocese, which the clergy provides with the training.

Each of these ministries not only benefits the congregation, but also those doing the ministry. Some examples include ushers having the opportunity to meet people. Lay reading and chalicering give a personal perspective to our reading of Scripture and serving at the Lord's table. Even livestreaming with its different pre-programmed scenes helps a person to see why we do what we do when we do it in our worship.

As the Worship Committee prepares for Lent and Easter, we want to be sure that we have ample time to bring new members in these ministries before we hit the "busy season." If you would like to learn more, please reach out to the contacts for more information. If you are not sure who the contacts are, let the clergy know and they will point you in the right direction.

# Christian Formation

## Adult Forum in January

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! In February, we'll discuss the organization of the Episcopal church and why we are not praying for the Archbishop of Canterbury right now in our Sunday Prayers of the People.

## Sunday School News

Our annual pretzel-making activity for young children and their families will take place later than usual this year since Lent begins March 5th. Tentatively, our event will be Saturday, March 29, from 10:00 until about 11:30. It's fun, free, and you can eat the pretzels. Be sure to check the March *Angelus* for any changes.

And, if you are not sure you are on the email list of young parents, contact Noelle Creamer in the Church Office to have your contact information added. Her email is [communications@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:communications@christchurchwinchester.org).

**Looking further ahead:** Vacation Bible School will have a different look for us this coming summer. Our VBS partner, Grace Lutheran Church, is undergoing an extensive renovation of their buildings so our gathering of children from our churches and the community will have to adjust this summer. We will offer a modified VBS at Christ Church. Dates and details will be available in the March *Angelus*.

## From the Vestry

### Serve on the Vestry

On Sunday, March 16, 2025, we will have our Annual Meeting at Christ Church from 9:15-10:15 am in the Tilford Room. The congregation will elect a new class of four people to serve on the Vestry. The Vestry is the group that serves as "agent and legal representative of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the Parish to its Clergy." The members help the rector in mutual ministry of worshipping and serving our Lord. You can learn more about what a vestry does here: <https://episcopalvirginia.org/who-we-are/governance/constitution-and-canons/>.

If you are interested in serving on the Vestry or would like to nominate someone to serve, please contact Bill Major, Mary Margaret Applin, Pat Shaner or Joe Wingenbach.

Adult communicants in good standing are allowed to vote on the candidates for Vestry at the Annual Meeting. If you are not sure if you are technically a member at Christ Church, please call Noelle the Church Office prior to the Annual Meeting. We encourage those new to the parish, or not yet members, to attend the meeting because this is a good way to see what is going on at Christ Church.

We will also hear reports from officers of the Vestry at the annual meeting—Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer—about the parish. The Treasurer will present the 2025 budget that was passed by the Vestry. Please be sure to be with us on Sunday morning, March 16, 2025, for this important part of our parish life.

# From the Church Office

## Beware of Scams!

At the end of January, we had several incidents reported to Webster and the Church Office of emails and text messages trying to get parishioners to respond, ultimately to send money. Fortunately, we haven't had any reports of parishioners losing money in any of these recent schemes, but sent out the following information from Webster to the parish:

*Unfortunately, over the past couple of weeks, we have encountered a significant increase in phishing scams that seek to manipulate our compassion for other people in order to steal our money. These recent schemes are called "social hacking," where the thief uses words and phrases that sound "correct" to the victim in order to get access or "hack" financial information or obtain gift cards. They have come both via email and text message. Our Diocesan staff told me, verbatim, the email content reported to them and encountered by them around the Diocese. We are not the only parish, unfortunately.*

*Based on recommendations from the Diocese and other IT professionals, we will continue to use professional encrypted vendors for our church database, financials, and for bulk emails to prevent outsider access. The parish directory is no longer on the website, nor will we distribute it as a PDF file. Hard copies will be available on request in the Church Office. (Yes, we are going old school.) We will also work with the Vestry to continue to communicate and educate the parish about safer practices around email, text, and phone when it comes to phishing and computer/social hacking.*

*The best defense against all of this is direct communication. I thank everyone who texted and called me to check if this was a scam. I also appreciate that you contacted the police, reported the scam as spam to the phone/email companies, and helped to inform one another about this scam when you received the emails and texts. Please always reach out if you have a communication from anyone in the Christ Church community that doesn't seem right. It reminds us that, when it comes to "remembering the poor, loving one another, and being the Church," the old school way of a phone call and being present around the church family is beneficial not only for our worship, but in the community of relationships we share.*

As we continue to fight this battle, rest assured that we are doing all we can to keep your information safe. We ask that you please do these things to help:

- Check the email address of the sender of every email. Emails coming from the Church Office are [rector@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:rector@christchurchwinchester.org), [communications@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:communications@christchurchwinchester.org), and [tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org). We also use a gmail account, which is [christchurchwinchester@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchwinchester@gmail.com).
- Watch for phrases that seem strange. For example, Webster does not use titles in his correspondence. If an email from him says "Father Gibson" or "Reverend Gibson," that's a red flag! He also does not use "God Bless" in emails, which has been appearing in these scams.
- Do not reply to any email or text message that you find strange. Call the sender directly and ask if it's actually them sending the message. You can delete emails, mark them as spam, report them, or block them.
- Large email groups pose a risk. If one person in the group gets hacked, all the group is compromised. Please limit emails to large groups of Christ Church parishioners or put their addresses in the "blind copy" field instead of the "to" field when addressing a group email.
- If you have any concerns, please feel free to call the Church Office to speak with Webster, Noelle or Theresa.