

# THE ANGELUS

Volume 74 Number 2

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

October 2023

Dear People of Christ Church,

This past month, the Winchester Downtown Clergy Fellowship had one of our best attended meetings in several years, which was a wonderful indicator of the energy in the greater area to be together once again.

The Winchester Downtown Clergy Fellowship is a long-standing group which includes the downtown churches, Beth El Synagogue, the Winchester Islamic Society, and other churches around the Winchester area. Fellowship is a large component of our meetings as the clergy and religious leaders gather to share what is going on in our communities, struggles common among faith leaders, and celebrations in the communities.

This past meeting, we celebrated the retirement of the Rev. Dan McCoig of First Presbyterian Church as their Senior Pastor. It was wonderful to say thank you for our years of work together in Winchester.

As part of our regular time together, we also discussed what is going on among our different communities. This time was similar to others as we discussed changes among our parish attendance going through and coming out of COVID, sharing different strategies and efforts among our programs and parishes, and realizing how growth is happening around the area. In these conversations, we also discussed topics the Downtown Clergy will want to explore in greater detail as we set up our annual clergy retreat this winter.

During my tenure at Christ Church, I have always enjoyed this unique fellowship of our faith communities. Such fellowship is not found in many towns and cities. WATTS and CCAP are perhaps our best known joint efforts for our congregations to care for the poor, the homeless and the vulnerable. Another reflection of the fellowship is when Winchester's Christian congregations gather on the downtown mall for our Palm Sunday service. This service helps Winchester see how many Christians are active in the community. Again, such fellowship is not found all the time and I am thankful for the opportunity to participate as clergy and to witness the Christ Church family participating in the local community, too.

Faithfully,



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

*Webster, Rabbi Scott Sperling and the Rev. Dan McCoig were, for a number of years, the "GODspellas" - a winning team for Winchester's annual adult spelling bee fundraiser.*



## From the Diocese

The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, announced recently the appointment of the Rev. Chanta Bhan as the Diocese's first Canon for Discipleship. She will start on October 1, 2023.

Canon Bhan will articulate and proclaim a vision for discipleship of clergy and lay ministers in the Diocese. She will work in partnership with congregations to support their work with children and family ministries, Shrine Mont Camps, Parish Youth Ministry, campus ministries, and adult formation programs. She will help empower robust vocational discernment for laity, expand networks of formation professionals, and strengthen opportunities for pastoral care for formation leaders. Read more at [thediocese.net](http://thediocese.net).



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

## From the Treasurer

### Donations to the Church via IRAs

A reminder for retirees with Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA) accounts: Those of us who have reached a certain age have an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Failure to withdraw the full RMD by December 31st has a tax penalty, so be sure to take your RMD on time.

IRA distributions are taxed as income, so you may be paying 12%, 15%, or even more in taxes on your RMD each year. Changes in the tax law a few years ago increased the standard deduction, so maybe we don't deduct our charitable contributions as an itemized deduction anymore.

Talk with your tax advisor about a special provision in the tax code for IRAs that lets us avoid some of the income tax. Charitable contributions made to Christ Church are considered a qualified distribution, and are not taxable as long as you have the distribution sent directly from your IRA account to the church. This means the full 100% distribution can go to the church.

IRS Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs) spells out the rules, limits, and restrictions for an IRA. Again, please consult with your tax advisor about your specific situation.

## From the Church Office



### ***Coming Soon! New Christ Church Photo Directory!***

*We continue to take photos for a new directory! Please get your picture taken in the Tilford Room on Sunday, October 1, or Sunday, October 8, from 9:00-10:00 am or 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Please stop by to update your directory listing and/or order a new Christ Church nametag even if you do not want to have a picture taken. Contact Noelle in the Church Office with any questions. (540-662-5843, Ext. 4).*

# Christian Formation for All

## Sunday School News

Be sure you have completed a registration form for your children attending Sunday School. We need to have them on file for contact information, allergies, etc. You can print one from the website, if needed.

If your family would like to participate in the **Family Advent Wreath-Making** on Saturday, November 25 (at 10:00 am), please **sign up by October 20th** in order for us to have sufficient supplies on hand. We will meet in the Tilford Room. There is no charge for the activity and we will provide brunch. The link to RSVP is here: <https://www.christchurchwinchester.org/formation-for-children-and-youth>.

There will be a **children's program** during the Stewardship Dinner on Wednesday, October 25. The kids will be upstairs after dinner from 6:15-6:45 pm for some entertainment so parents can enjoy fellowship downstairs!

Youth Group is preparing a "**Haunted House**" activity for our younger kids on Sunday, October 29. The fun begins at 4:00 pm in the Sunday School Commons. Come in your costume and be ready for fun!

## Youth Group in October



This month, Youth Group will meet on Sunday, October 1, in the Tilford Room at 6:00 pm for dinner and the meeting. On Sunday, October 15, the Youth Group will meet at church at 2:00 pm to go to the corn maze at Hill High Farm. And, on Sunday, October 29, the Youth Group will run a "haunted house" for the Sunday School Halloween party at 4:00 pm.

Reminder that permission forms are required for the outing on the 15th.

Please save the date for Saturday, November 18, for youth and their families to help with the Rise Against Hunger food-packing event here at church.

Please contact Webster with any questions at [rector@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:rector@christchurchwinchester.org).

## From the Outreach Committee

### Collection for CCAP

CCAP has asked the Outreach Committee to collect donations at Christ Church for their Thanksgiving Dinner Giveaway on November 18, 2023. The items they have requested from us are cookie/brownie mixes and bagged marshmallows. Please bring donations 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.

This is one of CCAP's biggest outreach projects. In 2022, they gave away 309 Thanksgiving dinners to local families in need. Visit [ccapwinchester.org](http://ccapwinchester.org) to learn more about how you can support their work.



# 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	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 Parlors



CHRIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA



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

# Church Calendar

## October Birthdays

- 2 James Baden, Madison Truong
- 3 Elena Conrad
- 4 Patricia Barnes, Martha Roberson,  
Eric Kalbaugh
- 6 Deanna Pifer
- 7 Steve Johnston
- 8 Rosemary Swope, Pam Kennedy,  
Dan Gloster
- 9 Loretta Johnston
- 10 Pam DeBergh
- 14 Margaret Kesser
- 15 Jean Trumbore
- 16 Dick Arculin
- 17 Mary Beth Compton
- 20 Katy Schain, John Wiedower
- 21 Megan Paul
- 22 John Applin
- 26 Bill Thompson, Tom King
- 28 Cathie Waldie
- 29 Judy Whiting
- 31 Amy Stock, Frank Armstrong III, Sue Jarvis



## October Anniversaries

- 1 Bill & Maria Tedesco
- 7 Ned & Amy Stock
- 8 Dennis & Debra Shows
- 14 Bill & Sue Jarvis
- 26 Eric & Jillian Kalbaugh
- 26 Stacy Talbott & Ming Truong

### 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: Parish Life

The purpose of Parish Life and Fellowship is to gather and care for our parish family. We create opportunities for fellowship and bring members of our church family together to form relationships. We also strive to warmly welcome all visitors to the church and engage newcomers in the life of our church. Functions and volunteers who fall under Parish Life include Coffee Hour, Sunday service greeters, Men's Group, OWLs (Older, Wiser Laity) and newcomer programs. In addition, there are receptions, the parish picnic and the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

All ministries benefit from Parish Life, and all work together to form the whole body of Christ Church. For example, greeters participate in worship. Men's Group participates in Outreach (Winchester Rescue Mission, WATTS, etc.). Coffee hour is sometimes hosted by different ministries to increase awareness. And, receptions are held in conjunction with worship and other special services.

Parish Life operates as a committee, and depends on parishioners who volunteer their time and donate food and other items to help with these events. While they rely on the generosity of church members, they also use church funds to maintain the kitchen and purchase supplies. The food for this year's Parish Picnic, which was well attended, was paid for from the church budget. Additionally, there is the expense of the building, maintenance and utilities, as well as clergy and staff, who spend about 15% of their time in planning, scheduling, communications, expense tracking, and participating in Parish Life.

The Parish Life Committee is happy to see an increase in participation in Sunday Coffee Hour and receptions. People or groups who host Coffee Hour, typically provide food, but the coffee and other beverages are paid for by the church.

We would like to continue to expand Parish Life with more fellowship opportunities, but this requires a bigger budget (only possible through increased pledging) and more volunteers. Whenever we welcome a sister or brother, we welcome Christ, Himself.

### **“A Gathering of Generous Hearts”**

**Stewardship Pasta Dinner**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

**5:30-7:00 pm**

**In the Tilford Room**

**Kids Program after Dinner**

**Please RSVP via the website:**

**[ChristChurchWinchester.org](http://ChristChurchWinchester.org)**



# From the Stewardship Committee



## How your Pledge Impacts Ministry: Worship

Worship at Christ Church is the light of our communal life as people of faith. We gather to offer thanks and praise, to be fed and nurtured, to be renewed and sent out. We gather at different times of our lives. Services throughout the week include Sunday services and services at Westminster Canterbury. Other services include funerals, weddings, children's chapel, retreats, and special services in the community. It is appropriate that a large part of our gifts of time, talent, and money support our worship. Overall, Worship accounts for 35% of our annual operating budget; it is the largest part and the heart of our parish. There are many ministries which can go unnoticed because they help enhance our worship with as few distractions as possible. It makes sense that a large part of our clergy, staff, volunteers, properties, and support supplies/services go to our worship life.

We have many people, both paid and volunteer, involved with preparing and conducting our worship programs. Clergy plans and leads services, prepares sermons, provides liturgical leadership, and coordinates with all who contribute to worship services, especially staff. Music is an integral part of our worship. The music director (a paid position) and choir do much of their work behind the scenes in preparation and practice. Volunteers for worship include those serving as Lay Eucharistic Ministers, readers, acolytes, altar guild, choirs, and ushers.

Our worship happens in a beautiful historic church, which requires ongoing maintenance, repair, and support. The church pays for fire alarm and security systems, property and liability insurance, HVAC systems, gas, electric, water and sewage systems, and internet. Our sexton (paid) provides routine maintenance, care, house-keeping, and minor repairs for all our facilities. He also helps setting up and taking down for parish events.

In addition to the sexton and music director, Christ Church staff provides vital support for our worship through preparing of the bulletins, keeping the church worship calendar, working with ministries such as altar guild and laity scheduling, handling the organ tuning, paying the copyright fees for our music (and all other bills related to worship), and live streaming our services.

The considerable time and effort our clergy, staff, and volunteers, combined with the properties and support supplies/services, all come together to create our worship life at Christ Church. Each of these ministries, though they may be largely unnoticed individually, are all vital to our communal life as people of faith. These ministries show the vitality and care people have in serving our Lord. Your pledge supports all of these necessary components of worship.

**Pledge cards are available online at:  
[ChristChurchWinchester.org/Stewardship](http://ChristChurchWinchester.org/Stewardship)**

**Please return your pledge by  
November 12, 2023.**



## From the Pastoral Care Committee

### Updates on Vaccines

It's vaccine season! There are three vaccines that are recommended in the fall, and especially important for individuals age 60 and older: Flu, Covid-19, and the new RSV shot.

It is important for everyone to have a yearly Flu vaccine (unless you're allergic to the vaccine). This vaccine can keep you from getting sick with the flu. It can reduce severity of illness in those who get the flu. It can reduce the risk of flu-associated hospitalizations. It's especially important as a preventative for people with certain chronic health conditions and can be a lifesaver for children.

The CDC now recommends a single dose of the COVID-19 vaccine for most people six months and older. Some people may need an additional dose to be "caught up," so check with your health care provider, especially if you are immune-compromised.

The new RSV vaccine can prevent lower-respiratory tract disease caused by the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The CDC recommends the vaccine for adults 60 and up and some pregnant women. RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms (runny nose, cough, decreased appetite, fever, wheezing) and is spread through direct contact with the virus (droplets from other's cough or sneeze contacting your eyes, nose or mouth). RSV can be more serious for infants, older adults, and people with chronic conditions: heart or lung disease, weakened immune systems, and living in nursing homes.

You can get these three vaccines at local pharmacies, usually without an appointment. It's a good idea to call and confirm vaccines are available before you go. You can get all three shots in the same visit, but you must be sure to get Covid-19 in one arm and flu and RSV in the other arm.

For more information, check out [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) or text your zip code to 438829 or call 1-800-232-0233.

### Presentation on Memory Loss Issues

On Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 9:30 am the Pastoral Care Committee will welcome several local experts on memory loss for a presentation and discussion in the Tilford Room. Dr. John Lewis is a psychologist and an expert in the evaluation of capacity and memory loss. Kate Devolites is Executive Director of the Adult Care Center (ACC). The ACC cares for clients with memory loss, cognitive changes, and Alzheimer's disease. And a representative from Westminster-Canterbury's memory loss unit will be on hand. We'll discuss memory loss in today's world, ways to look out for both the patient and the family for the best care, local resources available and the experts will answer questions. We hope this will be beneficial for those concerned about their own memory loss and all who are or may be caregivers.

### Medicare Part D Help

For all who may have questions about **Medicare Part D**, the Shenandoah University pharmacy students are conducting Medicare Part D enrollment with the community on Tuesday, October 24, from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Shenandoah School of Pharmacy (1775 N. Sector Ct.—on the Winchester Medical Center campus). Bring your Medicare ID cards and current medication list or bottles so they can better assist you. Please call 540-678-4364 with any questions.

See you in church!

Your Parish Nurses, Helen, Rosalie, and Susan