

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

January 2022

Dear People of Christ Church,

Happy new year from the clergy and staff! We hope that you had a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year's celebrations. I also want to thank everyone who helped us with our Christmas Eve services and First Night hosting. I have said it before, but I want to say it again: it is far more wonderful to celebrate our Lord's birth with other people in the sanctuary than simply speaking to a video camera!



Heading into the new year, we will continue with our weekly practice of plan, adapt, and be safe. That means that we will continue with our current worship practices and times on Sunday mornings unless the health department gives us different recommendations. We will be sure to include any changes in our Thursday email communications, so be sure that you subscribe. For our Sunday School programs, we will go from week to week as to whether we will have Sunday School on the following Sunday. Again, we will use the Thursday email communications to let you know if Sunday School programs will be offered on the following Sunday.

While we watch the rates of infection in the next few weeks, we will continue to have our Wednesday Bible Study online and our Monday Faith Study online until we see what the rates are doing. As health direction becomes clear, we will use some of our hybrid capabilities for studies to allow both in person and online participation. That will be announced as we move ahead.

As far as our Adult Forums, when we gather, we will be discussing where we are as a diocese. 2022 will have the election of a new bishop, and 2022 and 2023 will also see programs and ministries of the diocese coming back online. Therefore, the clergy will lead conversations to help us know what is going on and what ways we can be involved.

This past Christmas saw the Anglican Communion lose one of our giants with the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. His leadership, preaching and teaching are well known around the world. To celebrate his life, I will be leading a book study on one of my favorite Desmond Tutu books, *God Has a Dream*. As this is not a long book, the study will be for four weeks. I am still working on the logistics for it, but initially, it will be on Zoom and will not start until the latter part of January. So more information will be coming.

Please remember that the hope for the near future is healthy, safe ways to gather with that most grand idea of no masking is the place we all want to be. Our plan is not to stay where we are, but rather to plan, adapt and change as we can. We had hoped that 2021 would see us in a very different place from 2020 as far as the pandemic and vaccinations. We shall see what happens in 2022. For all of the anger and frustrations we have with the pandemic, as I remember that joyful feeling of seeing people on Christmas Eve, I become all the more convinced that God is with us through this and all of the joys and challenges of life. I look forward to that time when we are able to show our compassion and concern for one another without having to wear a mask. I am also grateful for our ongoing desire to make sure we are safe and healthy in the immediate future.

Happy New Year!

Faithfully,

The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
rector@christchurchwinchester.org

From the Clergy

Welcome to 2022! Many of us take the New Year as a time for reflection and planning, a chance to take the time to think about what happened in the previous year, what went well and what didn't, and how we want the year ahead to be different. Although I'm sure we're all familiar with the challenge of actually keeping our New Year's resolutions, I think the habit is a useful one. It helps us to be thoughtful and deliberate about how we live our lives. This includes our spiritual lives - New Year's can be a wonderful opportunity to take stock, to renew our commitment to God, and to think about how we can best express that commitment in the New Year.

There are two different levels to consider as we think about our spiritual New Year's resolution. The more direct level is the question of what we are doing, and what we may need to start (or stop) doing. This is about the specifics of our spiritual lives - do you need to look for a new practice of prayer, or reading Scripture? Is your life in need of a new way of being in service to others, or is it time to think about your practices around money? Taking on something new, or shifting direction in something you were already doing, can help us find some new purpose and direction, particularly if part of your spiritual life has started to feel stuck, in need of some new energy.

But the deeper and richer level to our resolutions is the question of why, of what our goals are. Like any habit, we take on spiritual practices in order to cultivate something within ourselves. The overall goal is the same for all of us as Christians - growing in the love of God and neighbor - but all of us have particular ways we may need to work at that. It may be growing in patience, or learning to pay better attention to God's voice, or cultivating the gift of kindness to others. The best spiritual growth comes when the two levels go together - when the practices we take on help us grow in the particular virtues we need.

Like any resolution, resolutions about our spiritual life can feel like work. But they are unique in that they aren't ultimately resolutions about ourselves. Instead, they are chances to go deeper into life with God, to learn more about our neighbors around us, to grow in love and relationship. There is real and deep joy in this even when it's hard work. So whatever circumstances we may find ourselves in 2022, let us resolve to grow in Christ's love. And may that resolve carry us through the whole year ahead.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Martin Geiger, Assistant Rector
mgeiger@christchurchwinchester.org
540-662-5843, Ext. 2, or direct 540-773-5564



Worship

Ephiphany Service

Join us at Grace Lutheran Church to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 7:00 pm.



Merry Christmas!



Church Calendar

Sundays at Christ Church

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
in the Sanctuary
Masks required for everyone.

Please refer to email updates and website for updates and changes.

The Church Office is open Tuesday—Thursday
from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

It's always a good idea to call ahead!

Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843



Look for
Christ Episcopal Church Winchester
and like us to stay up-to-date on the latest news!

The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Committee & Group Meetings

Online Bible Study	Wed: 10:00 am (online)
Outreach Committee	4th Tues: 7:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Daytime Faith Study	2nd & 4th Mon: 10:00 am (online)



Church Calendar

January Birthdays

- 1 Olivia Adams
- 3 Jim Griffin
- 4 Neile Martin
- 5 Sam Wise
- 9 Owen Turnbull
- 11 Caroline Lawson, Clarke Wiley, Susan Ross
- 12 Sam Leinbach, Jr.
- 13 Thomas Ellington, Jim Petrie, Stephen Pettit
- 15 Amy Whipkey
- 16 Betsy Young
- 18 Pam Lamborne
- 24 Margaret Arthur, Helen Zebarth
- 25 Robert Bronson
- 26 Ned Stock
- 27 JoAnn Larsen
- 28 Roger Lamborne
- 31 Jazmine Pellot, Kim Gronauer, Ruben Rodriguez

January Anniversaries

- 11-Jan Frank Baxter & Skip Bowling
- 29-Jan 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.



Thanks to everyone who has donated, shopped and supported The Treasure Box before Christmas. We have had a lovely season with good sales. The Board has made the decision to close the shop for the month of January. We will let everyone know via the Angelus (as well as the Winchester Star) when the shop will re-open. We thank each of you for your support during these uncertain times!

From the Treasurer

GREAT NEWS so far on the 2022 Stewardship Campaign!

As we begin the process to finalize the 2022 budget, we have heard from the Bookkeeper that there is a double digit increase in the pledge amounts for 2022 as compared to 2021. This will really help the 2022 budget. What a wonderful response!

You can still submit a pledge for 2022. Pledge cards are on the website—www.christchurchwinchester.org/stewardship.

November Results

The summary table below shows November and the YTD results for 2021:

2021	NOV Actual	NOV Budget	NOV Diff	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Diff
Revenues	\$36,045	\$55,250	(\$19,205)	\$447,437	\$407,590	\$39,847
Expenses	\$43,543	\$46,182	(\$2,639)	\$509,285	\$515,106	(\$5,821)
Net Position	(\$7,498)	\$9,068	(\$16,566)	(\$61,848)	(\$107,516)	\$45,668

Monthly Trends

Revenues: Over the first 11 months we have had 5 months where Actual Revenues has exceeded budget and 6 months where Actual Revenues were less than budget. Unfortunately, the past three months (September through November) have all been months where Actual Revenues were lower than budget. We are hoping that end of year donations will help Actual December Revenue meet or exceed budget.

Expenses: Actual Expenses have had a similar trend – 5 months where Actual Expense values were less than budget and 6 months where Actual Expense values exceeded budget.

Year-To-Date

Looking at the year-to-date values you can see that we are actually doing better than budget! Actual Revenue is about \$39,800 greater than budget and actual Expenses are about \$5,800 less than budget. The Actual YTD net position is much better than budget as well – unfortunately it is still quite negative at \$ - 61,848.

How will the year 2021 end?

As of the 15th of December, we know:

- Our December Budget values, and that
- The PPP Loan for 2021 can be added to December's Actual Revenue

But we DO NOT know:

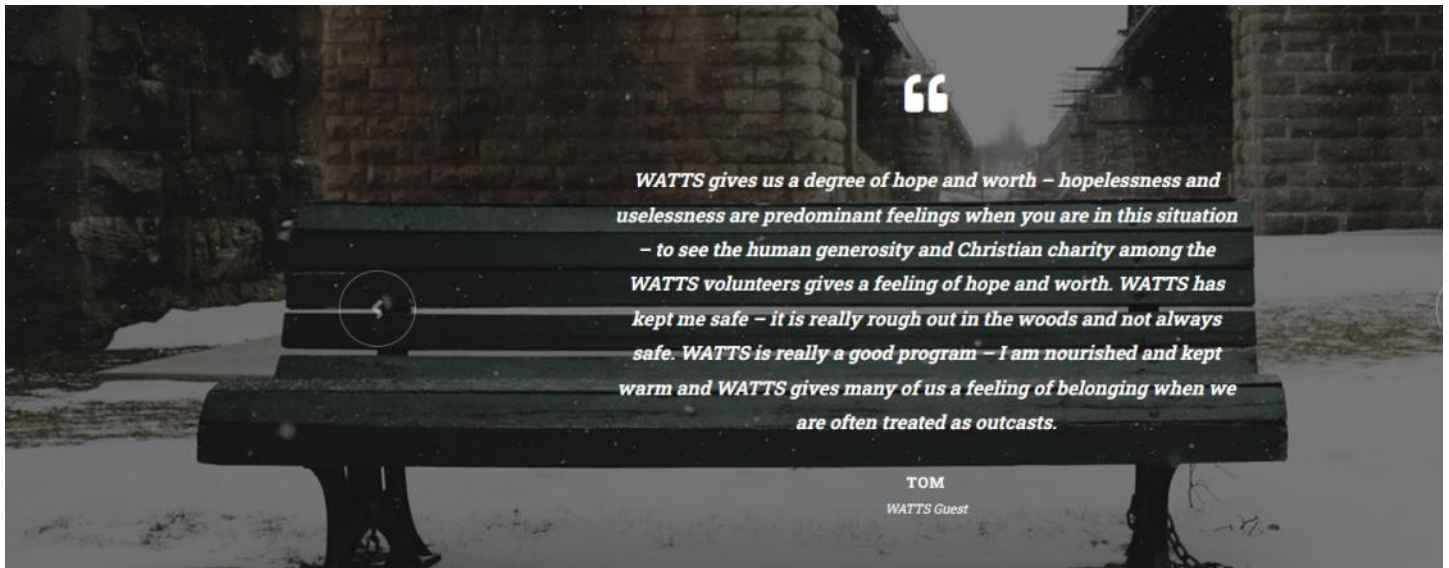
- Our Actual Revenue and Expense values for December

Please check the February Angelus to see the final results for 2021!

Outreach News

Christ Church WATTS Week 2022

Mark your calendars! Christ Church will host WATTS from February 5 to 12, 2022. Due to Covid, WATTS is again being held at the former First United Methodist Church at 308 North Braddock Street, even though this church has now been sold. It's located diagonally across the street from Handley Library. Operational procedures this WATTS season are similar to last year and the guest capacity is now 40 (up from 35 in prior years). There will be a short Christ Church WATTS organizational meeting in the Tilford Room after the 10:30 am service on Sunday, January 16, 2022. A SignUp Genius link listing volunteer slots, dates, and times will be published following this meeting. Thanks to all who've supported WATTS in the past!



CCAP Donations for January

This month, CCAP requests donations of **Full and Queen Sized Blankets**. Warm blankets are a great need of the homeless and underserved populations of families who receive only poverty-level income in the workplace. You may leave your donations of blankets in the CCAP basket at the entrance to the church on Sundays or each Wednesday between 9:00 and noon in the foyer of the Church Office at 114 W. Boscawen Street.

CCAP is grateful for your help every month. You made a difference in the community when we helped CCAP give out 429 Thanksgiving meals! You were once again very generous with donations of stuffing for CCAP's Christmas Dinner handout. More than 375 meals were given away. Your donations each month make it possible for those in need to know they can receive assistance at CCAP—from clothing (from diapers on up), fresh and frozen food items, plus some limited financial aid.

There are many ways to serve at CCAP. One to drive one of the CCAP vehicles to various local stores that donate food items. There is a need currently for a driver to pickup produce at Martin's on Thursday mornings from 8:30 am until 10:30 am. If that sounds interesting, contact Jim Taylor at 703-403-5264 (phone or text) or via email at annjimtaylor@verizon.net. You can get used to the feeling of giving and sharing all year long! Learn more about CCAP at www.ccapwinchester.org.

From the Parish Nurses



Raise your hand if you had chocolate goodies during the holidays! I reviewed an article just before Christmas that caught my attention. It was a groundbreaking study published in *Neurology* that suggests the answer to saving your memory, cutting your risk of dementia by 48%, and turning your brain's age back 30 years may be hidden in chocolate, which is rich with naturally occurring flavanols!

What foods contain flavanols? In addition to dark chocolate (dark has more flavanols than milk or white chocolate), good sources are green and black tea, cocoa, nuts, soybeans, and those delicious berries (strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries). Research shows that consumption of flavanols helps lower high blood pressure by improving arterial vessels tone and improving blood flow, and may help prevent Type II diabetes and decrease cardiovascular risk factors.

Don't stop your prescribed medications! This is just "food for thought." Continue to exercise and enjoy your tea and chocolate!

See you in church!

Your Parish Nurses, Rosalie & Helen