

THE ANGELUS

Volume 75 Number 7

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

March 2025

Dear People of Christ Church,

Beginning Wednesday, March 5, we will be in the season of Lent. For those not familiar with Lent, it is a time in which individuals and families seeking to join the faith prepare for Holy Baptism. It is a time self-examination and repentance by prayer, fasting, and self-denial. It is a time when we intentionally take up a practice of reading and meditating on God's holy Word (BCP, p. 265).

So how does this work at Christ Church? First we have our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 4. The Vestry hosts and everyone is invited. The next day, we mark the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday services at noon and 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. This service has words and actions that ground us in the season of Lent, reminding us in prayers and scripture why we do this and in action with imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them. For the next 40 days, excluding Sundays because Sundays are always feast days (another article for another time), we prepare ourselves for the events of Holy Week.

How do we prepare ourselves during Lent? There are two sides to this question, giving up and taking on. The better known one is giving up. Whatever a person gives up for the season of Lent is to be significant enough that, when the person craves or misses the sacrifice, they are put in mind about Jesus's journey as he moved towards his sacrifice.

The other part is taking on as individuals and as community. There are personal disciplines people take up such as reading of scripture with online resources such as Forward Movement's Day-by-Day program. This is also that time of preparation for Holy Baptism. Anyone considering Holy Baptism at our Easter morning 9:00 am service on April 20, please contact me to begin the preparation process.


There are also community offerings in the church. Beginning Friday, March 7, we will have Evening Prayer from 5:30—6:00 pm in the Pilgrim's Chapel every Monday, Wednesday and Friday until April 11. We will also have programs from the Pastoral Care and Stewardship Committees exploring the reality of our mortality and what we are all called to do as disciples in the meantime. Saturday, March 15, we have an incredible opportunity to learn about advance medical directives from Dr. Barch (see p. 8). And on Saturday and Sunday, April 5—6, Heidi Kim, the Diocese of Virginia's Interim Canon for Discipleship, will lead a workshop exploring our gift of our time and talent as disciples of Jesus (see p. 8). Everyone is encouraged to attend these events during this season of Lent.

I know that we live by the mantra "I am so busy; I don't have time." It is as old a mantra as time itself. That is exactly why the Church put Lent into place. It forces us to claim our faith lives as a priority in the allotted time that we have to live. It is not easy to do which is another reason the Church does it. We have to make sacrifices giving up what the world offers in order to make room to grow in discipleship of Jesus. However, when we look to the end of Lent and consider what we celebrate at Easter, that is a sacrifice worth making.

Faithfully,



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



Annual Meeting & Vestry Elections
Sunday, March 16, 2025
9:15 am in the Tilford Room

CHRIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

Worship

Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont

Come one! Come all! Everybody is welcome at Shrine Mont!

Parish Weekend is just around the corner and registration forms will be available soon. Please mark your calendars for **May 9-11, Mother's Day Weekend 2025**.

If you have never been to Shrine Mont, you will not want to miss this opportunity. Shrine Mont is a retreat and conference center owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia and is located 56 miles from Winchester at the base of Great North Mountain in the town of Orkney Springs, VA. For many years, our parish has cherished Shrine Mont as an unique and restful place to come and enjoy locally-sourced food, good friends, and to create precious memories as a parish on Mother's Day Weekend each spring.

We love Shrine Mont for its beauty and its many perks to suit just about any interest: from its miles of hiking trails, its yummy meals that we don't have to cook!, many porches with rocking chairs, a labyrinth to explore, endless shelves of books, water features, gardens, basketball, tennis, and pickleball courts, hot coffee, a playground, gift shop, and plenty of refreshing mountain air, just to name of few!

In the coming weeks, please be on the lookout for more information regarding the programming for the weekend. Christ Church parishioners of all ages are invited and encouraged to sign up. **Children attend for free this year!** Bring mom and grandmother too, and/or any additional family members you wish!

Also to Note: Sunday, March 2, is Transfiguration Sunday. A special presentation celebrating the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration's 100th Anniversary will take place during Adult Forum at 9:30 am. The Cathedral Shrine is yet another reason to visit Shrine Mont for Parish Weekend. On Sunday, May 11, we will gather for worship at the Cathedral with the highest ceiling in the land—a ceiling so high, you can look straight up to the heavens through a canopy of trees beneath a brilliant blue Shenandoah Valley sky.

Annual Meeting on March 16

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. The candidates to date are Eric Kalbaugh, Bob Wilson, Mary Margaret Wise, and Martha Griffin.

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.

Worship

News from the Bishop

I am delighted to announce that The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas will begin a new ministry as Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Virginia on June 1, 2025. Bishop Bourlakas has served faithfully as the Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia since July 2013. He will be resigning that position effective May 22, 2025, and we are blessed to welcome him into this next chapter of his ministry.

This full-time position, approved at the 228th Annual Convention of our diocese, marks a significant milestone as Bishop Bourlakas becomes the twelfth Assistant Bishop in our history.

Bishop Bourlakas will be based in Northern Virginia, with office space graciously provided by The Falls Church. In his new call, he will join Bishop Harris and me in providing support for the Episcopacy across the diocese. Additionally, he will collaborate closely with the Office of Congregational Vitality as we continue our shared mission to love Jesus, embody justice, and be disciples. Join me in welcoming Bishop Bourlakas and in giving thanks to God for the work ahead.

-The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson

The Episcopal Church , Immigration & our Neighbors

Recent decisions and actions around the United States and immigration have raised questions and concerns on the national level, and also the local level, as our neighbors and friends are impacted in these processes. Knowing our Lord's own immigration journey and concern for the vulnerable, the church needs to be vigilant to know what is going on with our ways to serve. To that end, here are some resources to educate people about work that the Episcopal Church does through Migration Ministries, actions the church is taking as federal actions intersect with church ministries, immigration and refugees, and ways that you can help and what we can learn about our legal system, rights and resources.

National Church website (www.episcopalchurch.org) This site hosts a variety of resources for education and ministry about immigration through its Immigration Action Toolkit: Explore resources on immigration and refugees, and ways that you can help. The site also has information on our new Presiding Bishop, and announcements about the ongoing work of the church.

Episcopal Migration Ministries (www.episcopalmigrationministries.org) Episcopal Migration Ministries is the refugee resettlement ministry of The Episcopal Church, proudly carrying on a century-old legacy of Episcopal ministries that welcome immigrants and refugees. They offer resources to for learning and supporting their work with refugee resettlement.

Locally, we are working on "Know Your Rights" educational opportunities. Since immigration lawyers are so busy right now, we do not have any date of events just yet. We will let people know. ~ Webster

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

March Birthdays

- 1 Janie Mohn
- 2 Sandra Armstrong
- 3 Gwendolyn Conrad, Michael Roberson,
Jack Kalbaugh, Charlie Kalbaugh
- 6 George Glass, Kent Stevens
- 8 Connie Pettinger
- 11 Susan Sheppard
- 12 David Lewis
- 13 Steve Cluss, Landon Haines
- 15 Mary Stevens
- 16 Elijah Painter
- 19 Eddie Richard
- 20 Frank Baxter
- 26 Zoe Lowrey
- 27 Lori Ellington, Jack Nelson
- 28 Ann Thomas
- 31 Deanna Stouffer



March Anniversaries

- 16 Jim & Rebekah Wiedower
- 25 Ron & Tonia Graves

CELEBRATE!

Please Note:

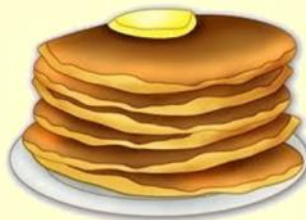
We will publish birthday and anniversary information only with explicit permission. Please contact the Church Office if you wish to be added to or deleted from these lists. Please keep the Church Office informed of any changes to your address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.



There is a Christ Church OWLs fellowship gathering on Saturday, March 22, 5:30-7:30 pm, in the Tilford Room. We'll play "getting to know you games," have a light supper and BYO wine. Contact Ron Bellows with any questions – ronbellows1@gmail.com or 201-841-9662.

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.



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

Support Bright Futures



This spring, the Outreach Committee seeks to support the work of Bright Futures in two ways. **The first is by collecting cases of granola bars throughout March.** Granola bars are a staple in the food bags that Bright Futures prepares for children in Frederick County and Winchester public schools. You can bring donations to church on Sundays in February or drop off at the Church Office on Wednesdays from 10-2. Please see the church website to learn more about our commitment to Bright Futures, and visit Bright Futures online to learn more about what they do.

The second way we will support Bright Futures is through our annual **Apple Blossom parade seating fundraiser** in May. Each year, by virtue of our location along the parade routes, we participate in this wonderful community tradition by selling reserved parade seating. The proceeds raised by our volunteer efforts will support our ministry with Bright Futures. Usually several thousand dollars are raised, so it's impactful. The Outreach Committee will explain more in coming weeks how you can help with this project, but the bottom line is that this is an important event in our community AND for our parish, and we should all come out and do our part to support it—by selling tickets or helping organize if you prefer not to be downtown for the fun or by working during the parades if you love the Bloom!

Our Coldest Night Walkers

This group with Marty Tabaka came out to support WATTS in their Coldest Night Fundraising walk!



WATTS Thank You

From February 1-8, Christ Church successfully hosted the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS). WATTS is an initiative in which Winchester and Frederick County churches shelter and feed the local homeless population from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am daily in our church facilities during the coldest months of the year. For one week each, 27 different churches and Ruritan facilities provide food and shelter.

During our WATTS host week this year, we hosted 254 guests with an average of 36 guests per night. During that week, we had support from some great partners: the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, Shenandoah University students, the Alamo Drafthouse & Cinema, Bonnie Blue Southern Market & Bakery and McDonald's.

But most of all our success is attributed to the excellent support provided by the 60+ Christ Church parish volunteers filling 150 volunteer slots, contributing 373 volunteer hours and food, clothing, money, and nursing support. Your efforts and support for WATTS not only enhances the quality of life for our neediest neighbors but it also saves lives. Thanks to those in our parish who answered Jesus' call to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, invite in strangers, clothe those in need, and tend to the sick.

Christian Formation

Adult Forum in Lent

The Adult Forum on Sunday mornings will offer several important topics for Christian discipleship.

On Sunday, March 9, the parish nurse team will discuss the benefits of advance directives to help people prepare for the March 15th workshop. (See p.8.) This will be a chance for anyone missing the workshop on the 15th to hear some of the information, and get resources to help families have conversations about directives and what they need to do.

At the same time, the rector will meet with the parents of young children upstairs to talk about some of the future programming in the spring and summer.

There is no Adult Forum on March 16 due to the Annual Meeting.

On Sundays, March 23 and 30, we will explore Christian discipleship through the Gospel of Luke. Remembering that each Gospel writer is different, Luke is known as the “story-teller” type of Gospel in a style more familiar to our writing styles today. He is also known for his being the gospel witness to the gentiles. Using his parables, his sacramental living and his use of miracles, we will take a walk with Jesus in Luke’s Gospel.

On Sunday, April 6, Heide Kim, Interim Canon for Christian Discipleship will join us to talk about the ways all Christians are called to discipleship and how each person gifts can be shared. This is the last Adult Forum until after Easter.

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!

Sunday School News

Parents of young children are invited for coffee with Webster during the Sunday School hour (9:30 am) on March 9th. Come enjoy conversation and our famous Keurig coffee, or tea if you'd rather. We'll meet in the Oasis area of the Sunday School Commons, upstairs in the Parish Hall.

Mark your calendars for March 29th for our Lenten program for children. We will learn about some of the observances we practice during the season of Lent and some of the ways children can participate in them. In addition, we will be making pretzels as a fun way to remember to focus on prayer. Parents are invited and welcome to participate, too, of course. We will meet at 10:00 am in the Tilford Room and all materials will be provided. [Sign up now on the website.](#)



We will be joining our friends from Grace Lutheran for a one-day Vacation Bible School extravaganza this summer. The date will be posted in the *Weekly Update* as soon as it's decided. Our format will be similar to our COVID version a couple of years ago and all are invited. Don't forget your best friends and neighbors are all always welcome. In the next few weeks we will begin to develop our staff so be deciding if you can help!

Pastoral Care

Workshop Offered

The Pastoral Care Committee is hosting a workshop on Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 9:00 – 11:00 am in the Tilford Room. Dr. Cyril Barch will join us to explain advance directives, medical agents and medical interventions. The agenda will cover what an advance directive is, how to get one, how to keep it or change it, what a medical agent is and can do, and what happens when you don't have these arrangements. Dr. Barch will also talk about medical interventions, the pros and cons of pain control and CPR, and answer any questions the group has. There will be a break mid-way with refreshments. There will be advance directive forms to complete at the end of the workshop for all who wish to do so.

Dr. Barch is a physician volunteer working under the auspices of Winchester Medical Center to promote advance medical directives in our community. After returning to the area in 1990, Dr. Barch served in many capacities in the local medical community, including positions at Winchester Medical Center, Selma Medical Associates, and at Shenandoah University.

It's especially beneficial if adult children attend with their parents, when possible. When medical emergencies happen, adult children are often asked for this paperwork and need it to navigate best according to their parent's wishes. It's an important topic for families to discuss.

Stewardship Committee

Update on Stewardship Campaign for 2025

The Stewardship Committee is happy to report the wonderful results of our recent Stewardship Campaign. Thanks to your incredible generosity and commitment, we received pledges totaling \$532,167, nearly reaching our goal of \$537,000. This result is a truly remarkable achievement, and it speaks volumes about the faith, love, and dedication that define our parish community. Your support will enable us to continue the mission of our church, to serve our community, and to expand our outreach and ministries in meaningful ways.

As we move through this year, let us remember that our stewardship is not just about raising money, but also about the ongoing work of spreading God's love and serving others. In the coming months, I challenge each of you to share your gifts of time and talent in ways that will help to strengthen and expand the work we do at Christ Church.

If you have not yet made your gift or if you are considering increasing your already submitted pledge, you can do so via the church website or by calling Theresa Seitz. Thank you once again for your generosity, your faith, and your dedication to the mission of our church.

~ Wilborn Roberson, Stewardship Committee Chair

To expand our understanding and experience of stewardship through the offering of our time and talent, the committee is hosting Heidi Kim, the Diocese of Virginia's Interim Canon for Discipleship. On Saturday, April 5th, there will be a workshop in the Tilford Room from 3-5 pm, followed by a dinner hosted by the Stewardship Committee. On Sunday morning, April 6th, Adult Forum will continue the conversation about giving of our entire selves serving our Lord. It will be a chance to learn about yourself, the ministries at Christ Church, and other ways that you serve in your daily life. More information will be coming out later in March. Please save the dates!