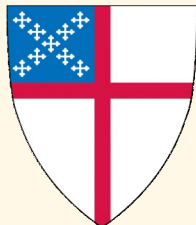


Christ Episcopal Church  
Martinsville, VirginiaCelebrating 175 Years  
1841 - 2016

## *Please Join Us as We Celebrate Our 175th Anniversary!*

### *Sunday, September 11, 2016*



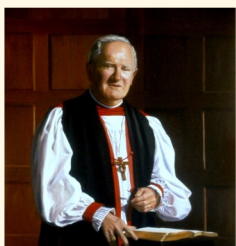
The Reverend Ed Covert was Christ Episcopal Church's longest serving Rector. For 20 (1980-1999) years he steered the church toward growth of the congregation, re-organization, financial security, and updating the church properties. Ed will be visiting Christ Church on Sunday, September 11. At 9:30 AM he will be in the sanctuary with "tales to tell". At 10:30 AM he will lead the church service. A reception will follow.

### *Sunday, October 16, 2016*



Christ Episcopal Church is very pleased to welcome their new minister, The Reverend Nicholas Hull. A graduate of the University of The South and The Virginia Theological Seminary, Reverend Hull has interned in Atlanta, Dalton, Georgia and Washington, DC. He and his wife, Leandra, are avid out - door enthusiasts and are very excited about the many opportunities and events in our area. Reverend Hull's first service in Martinsville will be October 16th at 10:30 AM. A reception to welcome Father Nick and Leandra will be held in the Parish House.

### *Sunday, October 23, 2016*



The Right Reverend Heath Light was the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia from 1979 to 1996. Trends in the national church including the adoption of a new Book of Common Prayer and the ordination of women caused tensions throughout the church. Bishop Light will speak of these times at 9:30 AM Sunday morning, October 23rd then will lead the 10:30 AM service at Christ Episcopal Church. A reception will be held in the Parish House following the service.

### *Sunday, November 20, 2016*



The Right Reverend Mark A. Bourlakas is the sixth and present Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. He was ordained in Roanoke on July 20, 2013. On November 20th Bishop Mark will lead the 10:30 AM service at Christ Episcopal Church. The Bishop will confirm new members into the congregation. A reception will be held in the Parish House following the service.

**Christ Episcopal Church, Martinsville  
2016/2017 Event Schedule**

*Join us as we celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

**2016 Schedule**

- ◆ Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> Reverend Nicholas Hull's first Sunday service Christ Episcopal Church Reception following the 10:30 am service
- ◆ **Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>** Bishop Heath Light – Bishop Light has also asked to speak during our normal education time. – Christ Episcopal Church Reception following the 10:30 am service
- ◆ Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> “One Word” with Martha Bourlakas at 11:00 am in the Undercroft—Tickets \$15.00, which includes lunch. Tickets can be purchased from the church office, Sue Rosser or Beth Sibbick.
- ◆ Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> All Saint's Day – Christ Episcopal Church
- ◆ Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> “Art on the Half-Shell” (Fall Flavors)
- ◆ Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – in the Undercroft at 9:00 am
- ◆ **Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>** Bishop Mark Bourlakas – Christ Episcopal Church Confirmations Reception following the 10:30 am service

**NOTE: October 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>  
there will be ONE combined worship service at 10:30 am.**

**2017 Schedule**

- ◆ Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> Mardi Gras Progressive Dinner – **TENTATIVE DATE**
- ◆ Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> Easter Breakfast

**Christ Episcopal Church  
321 E. Church Street  
Martinsville, VA 24112  
www.christchurchmvl.org  
276-632-2896**

**OUR ONE  
WORD**



**MARTHA BOURLAKAS**

**Retreat**

Hosted by the Women of Christ Episcopal Church

**Saturday October 29, 2016 11 AM - 2PM**

**Christ Church Undercroft**

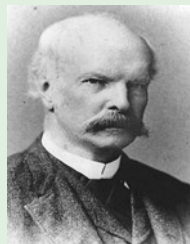
**Tickets: \$15—Includes Program and Luncheon**

- ◆ Tickets can be purchased from the church office, Sue Rosser, Beth Sibbick OR Susan Critz.

## Citizen, Soldier, Spy and Priest (Our man in the pulpit 1890 - 1893)

The name of Frank Stringfellow may be familiar to some and foreign to others but his story is a saga worthy of examination by all. This man, small in stature but large in daring and courage, has woven a biography that is as full of excitement and intrigue as any fictional character conjured up by authors, present or past. His story as a courageous cavalry soldier who rode with Stuart and Mosby during the civil war and as a daring confederate spy in that same conflict is the subject of many articles and scholarly works, even as a leading character in a television drama.

While a brief recounting of his war exploits follows, it is his years as an Episcopal Priest, particularly in our parish, that are emphasized in this article.



Frank Stringfellow, born in Culpepper County in June of 1840 was by all accounts a dutiful young man true to his Virginia heritage. As might be expected of a boy from a landed family of his era, he attended Episcopal High School in Alexandria, graduating in 1860. In order to use his skills in Latin and Greek, he traveled to Mississippi to teach those subjects.

Frank's stay in Mississippi was short lived as by April of 1861 the war was on. True to his Virginia heritage, he rushed home to take up arms to defend his homeland. Unfortunately, Frank was plagued with a disability that prevented an easy path to his military career; he was of a small frame and weighed barely 100 pounds, unacceptable to at least four confederate units he sought to join.

Stringfellow was nothing if not daring and clever, an accomplished horseman, he longed to join the cavalry. It is told that he wrangled his way into the Powhatan Guards by capturing three inattentive soldiers of that company and parading them to the Commander's tent who was impressed enough to give the small man a place in the troop. This led him to Manassas as the troops gathered for the first skirmish of the war and where he came to the attention of the flamboyant cavalry officer Jeb Stuart who asked the young soldier to join his troop of scouts. This stroke of fate was Stringfellow's first association with our part of Virginia as Stuart was raised in Patrick County some thirty-five miles west of Martinsville - his mother a member of Christ Church.

As a scout, a soldier was in the business of intelligence gathering; that is - a spy. In that role Frank Stringfellow was as good as the South had to offer and is the subject of many thrilling and fanciful gambits in and around Alexandria and Washington. When not being the eyes and ears of the South in the nation's capital, Frank was in the company of Stuart and Mosby riding through Virginia, around McClellan's army and scouting battlefield positions. By war's end he was labeled as "the most dangerous man in the Confederacy" with a \$10,000.00 bounty on his head. He fled to Canada where he became fascinated with matters of theology and underwent a religious transformation. In 1867 he returned to Virginia and after a try at farming, he married his long-time girlfriend Emma Green, entered Virginia Theological Seminary and was ultimately ordained as an Episcopal Priest in 1876.

Stringfellow's tenure as a priest could as easily be described as a classic circuit riding preacher. Between 1876 and 1895 he was Rector of at least eight parishes from Powhatan to Martinsville to Massies Mill, averaging scarcely more than two years per charge. In each of his home churches he was constantly evangelizing in the surrounding unchurched villages and towns. His restlessness was intentional as he is quoted as declaring "I don't think it is good for a minister to hold a church too long. His congregation gets used to him and they're likely to stop listening to what he says."

It is believed that Rev. Stringfellow was in Martinsville as early as May of 1890 as the local Confederate Veterans group was chartered on May 26 listing Frank Stringfellow as Chaplain. It is known he began his tenure as Rector of Christ Church on September 1, 1890 as it is written in his own hand in church records "I began work in this Parish on 1st day of September 1890 - found 54 communicants." He was never reticent to record his accomplishments and by April of 1892 recorded the membership at 72 communicants. Anxious to build the congregation and church facilities as well, records show that within a month of his arrival the construction of a new rectory was begun and completed in April 1892 for "the total cost of buildings and improvements on the lot, about \$3000".

The successful completion of a new residence must have stirred his desire to continue the addition of new infrastructure as he wrote as a notation next to a series of the names of persons confirmed on March 14, 1892: "Bh Randolph confirmed, congregation very large, more than 150 persons were unable to get in the church, some of the candidates for conf. were crowded out, all the standing room was occupied - *This means a new church building.*" *F Stringfellow Rector* (emphasis added) It is hard to imagine the tiny brick church of 1892 with 150 persons crowded in and around it!

The persistent Reverend needed a little over a year to stir action from the Vestry as the minutes of the April 18, 1893 meeting chaired by the Rector records "On motion of F. Stringfellow, George Pearman and Mr. Peyton were appointed a building [committee] to select plans and specifications and arrange with Col. Bryant as to size and location of new church and report to full Vestry their proceedings for approval." Stringfellow was not to see the commencement of construction as on December 1<sup>st</sup> of that same year he resigned his duties at the church. The new church building was not to be consecrated until ten years later.

## Citizen, Soldier, Spy and Priest (continued)

Our man in the pulpit was renowned as an orator and an aggressive evangelist, taking his inspired preaching to the population of the rural areas of the surrounding counties. Writing for the archives of Christ Church the Reverend Stringfellow recorded that he “preached the first service in Patrick Co. ever delivered by an Episcopal minister – the services were held at Patrick Springs ...” Later he wrote of preaching in Stuart and Floyd County “which to-date has never had an Episcopal service held in the County.” Apparently he was a regular priest at Trinity Church in Franklin County as in November 1892 he recorded that “By consent of the Vestry Franklin Co. was united with this parish, temporarily, six persons were confirmed at Rocky Mount on 15<sup>th</sup> of March ’92 ...”

Also, in November of 1892 Rev. Stringfellow writes that at the Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia “Rev. Wm Alexander Barr – ex Presbyterian Minister, was confirmed and presented to Bp. Randolph by the Rector of this Parish. He is officiating at Rocky Mount as my assistant and licensed to preach ...” Interestingly, the register of marriages for Christ Church reflects on February 1, 1893 that the marriage of Wm Alexander Barr to Ida Stringfellow was performed by the bride’s father in the church Rectory. It appears within a two and a half month period our Priest turned a Presbyterian, married off a daughter, gained a son-in-law, and obtained an assistant minister! (*see the newspaper story telling how this marriage almost never happened on page 5*).

During his priestly duties at parishes throughout Virginia, the fascinating preacher also gained a national reputation as a lecturer on tales of his exciting years as a spy and a scout. Reports from Baltimore to Atlanta extol his spellbinding oratory to overflowing crowds of admirers. Even as he served our parish he gave a series of lectures to packed houses in Atlanta.

His inspiring words are attributed to the salvation of our sister parish at Christ Church, Roanoke. As reported in the fifty-year history of that Parish, published in 1942, the Roanoke church was on the verge of extinction in 1893 having had their property sold at foreclosure and only able to hold services through the kindness of the new owners permitting the congregation to use the building. When the Rector left to take a charge in Danville, the parish was left in a near hopeless state and as a supposed last effort the Bishop asked Reverend Stringfellow and his son-in-law Reverend Barr to hold a series of services at the church. The church history records that “the Reverend Frank Stringfellow, on June 17<sup>th</sup> [1895], preached a stirring sermon to the congregation, using as his text God’s command to Moses ...” so inspired was the congregation that “Miss Lizzie McClanahan came to the rescue and endorsed the note for the repurchase” [of the church property] The Roanoke Church is now one of the strongest in our Diocese.

Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow resigned as Rector of Christ Church Martinsville on December 1, 1893 having accepted a call to Grace church in Massies Mill, Nelson County. He would move on from there to become the first chaplain of Woodberry Forest School in Orange, Virginia. He died on June 8, 1913 and is buried with his wife Emma in Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria.

There is one more tale of Stringfellow’s clever ability to maneuver his fate. Even at age 58 our soldier/priest could not resist the call for military duty and applied to serve as an army chaplain in the Spanish–American War, but was rejected as being too old. Undaunted, this always resourceful man drew upon “chips” he had gathered from his war years and presented to President McKinley a letter from none other than Ulysses Grant commending Stringfellow for sparing Grant’s life when he had an opportunity to shoot him at close range. In his letter (in response to Stringfellow’s letter telling of the incident) Grant promised that he or any future President would be inclined to look favorably on any petition from Reverend Stringfellow. The favor was granted by McKinley and our man of the cloth was given his commission in the Army. What irony! The “most dangerous man in the confederacy” was able to use the good will of one of the most despised men from the north to further his ambition to re-enter the U.S. Army!

Much more of Stringfellow’s biography can be found on the internet by Googling *Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow*

I particularly commend: *The Free State of Patrick Blog: Mercy Street and Martinsville Virginia* by Tom Perry

: *My Henry County.com frank stringfellow*

“Mercy Street” a PBS drama

Rev Barr went on to be a prominent Episcopal Priest ultimately becoming Rector of the historic and prestigious Monumental Church in Richmond and Dean, Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans

Ida and Alexander Barr are the parents of Stringfellow Barr, one of the most respected historians and scholars of the twentieth century; he was a former President of St. Johns College in Annapolis MD

Article and documents researched and submitted by John Swezey

## THROWN FROM HER HORSE.

**A Daughter of Rev. Frank Stringfellow Perhaps Fatally Injured.**

DANVILLE, VA., August 27.—[Special.]—A special to the Register gives an account of a serious accident at Martinsville. Miss Ida Stringfellow, daughter of Rev. Frank Stringfellow, the famous Confederate scout and now rector of the Episcopal church at Martinsville, was out horseback riding yesterday afternoon. A negro man found her lying on the roadside a mile from town in an insensible condition. Her stomach and breast, also her head and face, were badly torn and bruised. The horse was standing near. The young lady was brought home and has remained in an unconscious condition ever since. The doctors think there is no hope for her. Miss Stringfellow was an expert horsewoman and capable of managing the wildest of steeds. The supposition is that the horse became frightened and in rearing the saddle-girth broke, throwing the fair rider to the ground. The community of Martinsville, in which Miss Stringfellow was very popular, has been thrown into a state of gloom by the sad accident.

## Monthly Prayer List

Hannah "Lou" Shelton; Clay Gravely, Julia Hall, Sean Mahoney, Pat Featherstun, Mitzi Gray, Charles Johnson, Lucy Lester Falk, Joy Riley, Mary Louise Allen, Dan Prince, Karen Lackey, George R. Lewis, Margaret, Pat Scarce, Scott Derks, Marie Stallworth, Rev. Jim Wilson, Mark, Larry Farrar and Sue Gill.

*Please call the Church Office at 632-2896 for prayer requests. Names listed one month unless requested otherwise.*

**Rectory**

**Resurrection**



**Thank**

**You**

***We are extremely grateful to the following who have donated  
to the Resurrection of the Rectory:***

Mission Committee	Dr. and Mrs. George Scouras
ECW	Midge Richardson
Men's Club	Natalie Coleman
Linda Isley	Linda Prillaman
Susan Critz	Jane Gardner
Betsy Cole	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Webster
Finley McCutcheon	Mr. and Mrs. Ben Beeler
Mr. and Mrs. John Franck	Lewis Pitzer
Anna Bowe Wells	Lucy Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bushnell	Leslie Winn
Mr. and Mrs. Mallard Hall	Kyle Trent
Mr. and Mrs. Woodson Gardner	Will and Cari Zimmer
Hank Long	Jean Morris
Sue Rosser	Tom Eplett
Dr. and Mrs. Ben Lewis	Nancy Bondurant
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Penn, III	Edward and Mary Jo Littlefield
Nancy Sprinkle	Tom Hudgins
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Huckfeldt	Trippi Penn
Mary Ruth Reynolds	Charlotte McClain
Dan and Lauren Prince	James and Anna McClain
Margie Toms	Southwestern Virginia Gas Co.
Loretta Yeaman	In Kind-Trent Bowles
Carol Deaton	

***Much of the "Resurrection" has been completed but there is still work to be done.***

***The project has been put on hold until further funds are obtained. Donations are needed and gratefully accepted.***

***Father Nick and Leandra will move in on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> and they are so excited about their new home.***

***Thanks be to God!! (They stopped by Tuesday night and "camped out" there on their way to a wedding  
and were thrilled with their new home!!)***

***Thank you all again for your support of this project which gratefully benefits our beloved church.***

## Events for October

- 1 October** — Saturday, Oktoberfest 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.  
CEC's booth is #1 in front of SunTrust Bank.; Welch Funeral Service 12:00 noon.
- 2 October** — Sunday, 20 Pentecost, 8:00 am Morning Prayer; 9:00 am Adult Sunday School, PH; 9:30 am Confirmation Classes, PH; 10:30 am Morning Prayer w/ Contemporary music; Grace Network and Discretionary Fund Sunday; 6:00 pm Family Sunday School, PH.
- 5 October** — Wednesday, 12 Noon Day Prayer, Chapel; CEC Book Club 6:30 pm, PH. The book this month is *Circling the Sun* by Paula McClain.
- 6 October** — Thursday, Men's Breakfast 7:00 am, PH; NO Adult Choir Rehearsal Tonight.
- 9 October** — Sunday, 21 Pentecost, 8 am Rite I ; 10:30 am Rite II with Rev. Pruitt presiding; 9:00 am Adult Sunday School, PH; 9:30 am Confirmation Classes, PH; 9:30 am Family Sunday School 9:30 am, PH; Acolyte Training 10:00 am, church.
- 10 October** — Monday, Men's Club Dinner 5:30pm, UC Team #1 is Hosting—\$15 donation.
- 12 October** — Wednesday, 12 Noon Day Prayer, Chapel; Contemporary Music Practice 7:00 pm.
- 13 October** — Thursday, Men's Breakfast 7:00 am, PH; Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Music Room
- 16 October** — Sunday, 22 Pentecost, 8 am Rite I; 10:30 am Rite II; with Rev. Nick Hull presiding; 9:00 am Adult Sunday School, PH; 9:30 am Confirmation Classes, PH; Reception following the 10:30 am service, PH; Roanoke Fall Convocation 2:30 pm, St. Paul's in Salem; 6:00 pm Family Sunday School, PH.
- 19 October** — Wednesday, 12 Noon Day Prayer, Chapel; **Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm, PH;** Vestry Nominations DUE
- 20 October** — Thursday, Men's Breakfast 7:00 am, PH; **Mission Committee Meeting 1 :00 pm PH;** Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Music Room
- 23 October** — Sunday, 23 Pentecost, 9:30 am Family Sunday School, PH; one service at 10:30 am Rite II with Bishop Heath Light presiding; Reception following the service.
- 26 October** — Wednesday, 12 Noon Day Prayer, Chapel; Vestry Absentee Ballots Available; **Loaves & Fishes** dinner 5:30-6:15 pm, call David Cole at 276-732-8891 to help.
- 27 October** — Thursday, Men's Breakfast 7:00 am, PH; VLAS Meetings 10:00 am, PH; Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm, Music Room
- 29 October** — Saturday, Women's Retreat with Martha Bourlakas, UC 11:00 am; Tickets \$15.00, which includes lunch. Contact the office, Sue Rosser, Beth Sibbick OR Susan Critz to purchase tickets.
- 30 October** — Sunday, 24 Pentecost, 8 am Rite I; 10:30 am Rite II; 9:00 am Adult Sunday School, PH; 9:30 am Confirmation Classes, PH; 6:00pm Family Sunday School, PH.

## October Birthdays



- October 1 Diane Puckett
- October 2 Nancy Bondurant, Cindy Hammond
- October 5 Dr. David Jones
- October 6 Virginia Hamlet, Susan Selman
- October 7 Brant White
- October 9 Larry Farrar
- October 10 Ron Probst
- October 13 Martin Gardner, Susan Smith, Will Smith
- October 14 Paul Huckfeldt, Sally Jordan
- October 15 Phil Booker
- October 18 Hayden Calfee
- October 20 Brad Johnson, Trippi Penn
- October 22 Ruth Foley
- October 23 Zenita Johnson
- October 27 Dr. Ben Lewis
- October 28 John McAdams, Ginny Spilman
- October 29 Sheila Smart
- October 31 Margie Toms

*Please let us know of any birthdays that have been omitted.*

## How to Contact Us:

**Christ Episcopal Church, 321 E. Church Street  
Offices at 311 E. Church Street,  
in the Parish House  
Phone: 276-632-2896**

**Email:** office@christchurchmvl.org or  
financial@christchurchmvl.org  
**Music:** music@christchurchmvl.org

**Website:** www.christchurchmvl.org

**Mail:** Christ Episcopal Church 311 E. Church Street,  
Martinsville, VA 24112



*Christ Episcopal Church is participating  
at Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>  
from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.*

CEC's booths are #1 in front of SunTrust Bank.

***Volunteers are needed** for set up and take down  
from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. We also need  
"Balloon Wranglers" to fill and distribute  
balloons from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.*

*Also, tear down from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM.*

*The sign-up sheet is online. Shifts are in 1 hour increments.*

***Volunteers & "Balloon Wranglers" Needed***

The CEC Book Club will meet on **Wednesday,  
October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**  
in the Parish House.



The book for this month is *Circling the Sun*  
by Paula McClain.

A record setting aviator in Kenya and her struggle  
to prove herself.

*Everyone is invited.*

## Men's Fellowship

The Men's Dinner Club  
will be meeting in the Church Undercroft  
on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Fellowship 5:30 pm ~ Dinner 6:30 pm  
Donation \$15

Team #1 is the hosting this month.  
Lewis Pitzer -Team Leader, Steve Keyser,  
Trippi Penn, George Scouras, Hank Long,  
Mike Martin & Rives Coleman

## LOAVES & FISHES

This month's Loaves & Fishes Dinner will be held on  
Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm to 6:15pm in  
the Undercroft.

We are seeking volunteers and desserts.

Sign-up online under Volunteers  
OR contact David Cole at 276-732-8891 to help.

### THANK YOU...

to everyone that helped cook, serve, donated food, set-up  
and cleaned-up for the pork loins in September and for all  
of your assistance and generosity throughout the year.  
Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

*David Cole and Loaves & Fishes*



**Men's Breakfast EVERY Thursday morning  
at 7:00 am in the Parish House**

### Grace Network 2016

**Our special assignments October—  
December:**

**Oatmeal OR Jelly (up to 28 oz.)**  
with 'Featured' items needed this month:  
**Toilet Paper & Deodorant**

**Grace Network Sunday**— 1st Sunday of each  
month bring your food donations or buy a grocery card  
to donate.

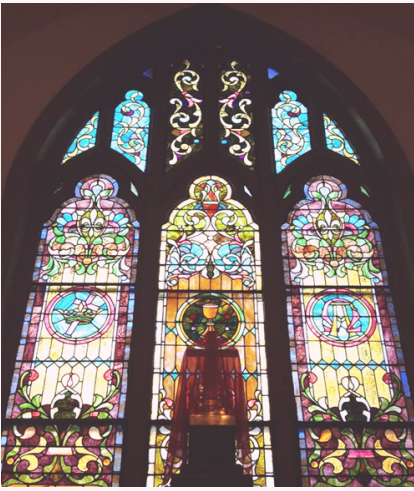
Grace Network is in **need of grocery bags** that they  
use to bag the food. Please place them in the Grace  
Network wagon or designated box in the office.

*Thanks to all for your support!*

Grace Network: 16 Liberty Street Ext.  
Ph.: 638-8500 Hours: M-F: 9 am -12:30,  
Thurs: 4 -7 pm  
Email: gracenetworkmhc@gmail.com



## **Christ Episcopal Church Awarded Patterson Grant**



The Helen S. & Charles Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust has awarded Christ Episcopal Church a grant of \$9,000 to help pay for repairs to the stained glass windows in our church sanctuary, which are suffering from deterioration after years of wear and tear. This grant, combined with other funds for church maintenance, will allow for cleaning, repair, and replacement of damaged glass, reinforcement of deteriorating soldering, and installation of new glass glazing where needed.

We are grateful to the grant writing committee of Carol Deaton, Trent Bowles and chief grant writer, Sarah Beth Morrison for their work in securing this grant for the church.

## **Greetings From All Saints Keighley**

Greetings from your companion church All Saints Keighley in the UK (across the pond). I remember very warmly the time we spent with you in the fall a couple of years back. We are delighted with the news that Fr Nick is your new Rector, and pray for God's blessing upon his ministry with you.

Here in Keighley we have been going through quite a few changes of our own. The Parish of All Saints has joined with three other parishes in Keighley (St Marks Utley, St Barnabas Thwaites Brow and Keighley Shared Church) to become one new United Parish for Keighley. (Church of England parishes are a bit different from those in the Episcopal Church of the United States. We aren't simply the congregations who worship week by week in church. Because we are the established Church of England, we are the parish church for all the people who live in a geographical area, regardless of whether or not they come to church.) Keighley's Anglican churches had served quite strange geographical areas, that didn't really work. They were also divided by churchmanship: charismatic evangelical or liberal catholic - or not really sure. Bishop Nick commissioned us to address the differences and find a way to work together as a team of churches that honored and respected our differences.

So now we are a United Parish. We have four parish churches in different parts of the town with a Team of three stipendiary priests to serve it, alongside self-supporting ministers and Readers - and the congregations of the churches. I am still Town chaplain and responsible for All Saints. The Rev Mike Cansdale has just been licensed as Team Rector; and Rev Heather Houlton has been appointed as Interim priest for St Barnabas for the coming year.

All Saints is a confident and distinct part of the new parish. We are self-consciously liberal, inclusive and catholic in style. We have also recently welcomed four Iranian Asylum seekers to the congregation, who have converted to Christianity from Islam in Iran, and then fled persecution. It is a healthy challenge for us to integrate them as they have very little English: I have google-translated our liturgy into Farsi. The Gospel is now also read in Farsi during the Sunday Eucharist, and sermon notes are also produced in Farsi. We have a long way to go but it is the start of shared journey. Pray for us as we seek to deepen Ismail, Kulchab (known as Leila), Gholamreza (known as Saeed) and Hadi in their understanding of our shared faith; and recognize what we need to learn from them. Their commitment that led them to leave family, friends and home because of their faith is already a challenge and encouragement to us all.

As we take this next step in our journey as a church we hold you in love before God as you begin the next step in yours.

With every blessing in Christ to our sisters and brothers in Martinsville,

Jonathan  
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Pritchard

## Financial Information for Bulletin for August 2016

August	Income :	Actual	\$12,077	Budget	\$22,050
<b>Y-T-D</b>	<b>Income :</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>\$157,762</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$176,400</b>
August	Expenses:	Actual	\$16,074	Budget	\$21,891
<b>Y-T-D</b>	<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>\$147,859</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$175,128</b>

## Annual Meeting w/Vestry Election

**Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am!**

Church committee chairs and other leaders have been notified to prepare a report for the annual meeting—these will be available for each parishioner to read. Nominees are needed for the new Vestry members! Names may be submitted to the Nominating Committee: **Susan Critz, Hank Long, Sarah Beth Morrison and Melinda Penn** or any member of the Vestry. To nominate someone, please make sure the person you nominate is willing to serve (you may nominate yourself) and can meet the following criteria, from the Diocesan Canons.

Those persons eligible for election as vestry members shall be as follows: Adult confirmed communicants of the parish, in good standing, who have been regular worshipers in the parish in the year preceding election and regular contributors to its financial support by pledge, subscription, or some other method by which they shall be known to the treasurer of the parish.

**Deadline to submit nominees is**

**Wednesday, October 19th at 12:00 noon.**

Absentee ballots are available for those traveling or shut-ins who cannot come to the meeting. **They will be available in the office October 26<sup>th</sup>, and must be returned by 12:00 noon on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.** Please call the office if you need any help with picking up or returning your ballot.



## October Altar Flowers

October 2, 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in  
Loving Memory of Sam Edmiston  
by His Family*

*The Narthex Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in  
Loving Memory of David Joyce  
by Amy, Adrienne and Peyton Joyce*

*The Narthex Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in  
Loving Memory of Jim Rosser  
by the Family*

October 9, 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday Pentecost

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in  
Loving Memory of Margaret W. and Thomas C. Webster, MD  
by Stuart and Tom Webster*

*The Narthex Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in  
Loving Memory of Frank I. Richardson, Jr.  
by His Family*

October 16, 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in  
Loving Memory of Robert B. (Cutch) McCutcheon, Jr.  
and H. Kenneth Whitener, Jr.  
by Mrs. Robert McCutcheon*

*The Narthex Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in  
Loving Memory of Clara Irene Ullstein  
by Peter and Ashley Ullstein and Family*

*The Columbarium Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
and in Loving Memory of Benjamin R. Gardner  
and Mary Louise Inzell by Marty and Family*

October 23, 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in  
Loving Memory of Ray Hollingsworth  
by Cindy Hollingsworth*

October 30, 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in  
Loving Memory of Mimi Riggan  
by Reed Stone Moore*

*The Narthex Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in  
Loving Memory of Mimi H. Riggan  
by Lucy Hart Davis*



**KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.**

Prayer Shawls have been made throughout the world for centuries, by folks of many different religions. They are lovingly made by groups or individuals for those who are in need of God's love. Persons who are sick, in need or homebound.

This special ministry started a few years ago at Christ Church. A group of women lovingly knitted/crocheted shawls. Upon completion, they were blessed and along with a special card sent on their way. We have given 35 shawls so far.

To continue this special ministry, we need volunteers now to begin knitting/crocheting.

There are several simple patterns available or use your own. The internet is a good source too.

**Please sign up in the Narthex.**

**For help or information, please call**



Prayer shawls are tangible symbols of love. They are warm hugs of empathy and support; a private place of escape in which to rest, relax, and renew; something to hold on to when all else seems to be slipping away.

Wrapping others in shawls made with prayer and loving thoughts is the gift.

Prayer begins in the heart and the creation of a prayer shawl is a spiritual journey of prayer for the shawl maker.



## *UTO News*

Every Sunday, congregations pray and proclaim that it is "right, and a good and joyful thing to give God thanks," or that giving thanks is "meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should, at all times and in all places, give thanks..." These words are spoken at the beginning of the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, in our worship. The word "Eucharist" is a Greek word (the language of the Apostle Paul) that means "give thanks."

What is it exactly that we are giving thanks for at the Eucharist? How can we give thanks when the world bears down on us and the darkness of night encroaches on the length of the day? What do we do on days where we are just grumpy? It can be so easy to notice the unfairness of life, the ways in which the world seems to change around us with no regard to our favor. On days and weeks and years like those, exercises of gratitude can feel like the very last thing our soul wants to do.

Yet this is precisely what we are called to do. In the midst of our grumpiness and sulking, we are called to fan the ember of gratitude in us, because it is "meet and right so to do." It is the exact thing we ought to be doing, above all else. We are given a model in the Eucharist for that gratitude should begin: the Great Thanksgiving. Above all that we should be thankful for, we are thankful for the life of Jesus, and the gift of God that Jesus died on the cross to save our souls for all eternity. Thankful that the creation has yielded grain and grapes, that hands have made them into bread and wine, and that Christ dwells in those elements, and so dwells in us when we join together to commune. This is the Great Thanksgiving, the Eucharist, that we are to give to God, because it is proper and it is our "bounden duty" so to do, even when our souls resist like tired children fighting sleep.

It is from there on our knees, hands outstretched toward the altar, that all other gratitude springs forth.

Mary Ruth Reynolds,  
For UTO at CEC



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# October Newsletter

