



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



August 2025

We are a community of faith striving to love God fully and our neighbors as ourselves.

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

One of the themes that emerged from our discernment conversations last summer was that our parish fondly remembers the many fellowship activities in which we participated in the years before the Covid shutdown and that we hoped to offer more such gatherings in the future. When our Vestry met with Diocesan Canon Jenni Faires in March, she picked up on that idea, noting that such fellowship events provide good opportunities to invite our friends to experience this community without the pressure of asking them to a worship service. Her suggestion was to schedule six events over six months, alternating social occasions with service in or outreach to the local community. Although daunted by the time and energy so many events would require our parishioners to volunteer, the Vestry is nonetheless embarking on a plan to offer four events in four months, the first three of which are already firmly on the calendar:

- 1) We will have a **Dinner and Trivia Night** in the Undercroft on **September 3**; following a meal of burgers and brats at 6:00 pm, I will offer a trivia game with Back-to-School themed questions ending before 8:00.
- 2) On **October 4**, Christ Church will again have a booth at the Uptown **Oktoberfest**; I will offer pet blessings as we take advantage of this opportunity to interact with the neighbors who walk or drive past our property.
- 3) The **Oyster Roast** will be **November 7**, and we will soon begin advertising it and recruiting volunteers.
- 4) Before Christmas, we will have some manner of gathering that will double as a social and an opportunity to wrap any Angel Tree presents if needed.

I hope y'all will take the opportunity to attend and invite your friends, and if there is a social or outreach event that you would like to organize, please talk to me or a member of the Vestry.

- Fr. John

Summer Sunday Lemonade

Continuing a summer tradition, we will have fellowship time with lemonade and cookies on the patio (or in the Undercroft if it's raining) after the 10:30 service at least through August 3; if you are willing to help bring beverages and treats or set up and clean up for August 10 or 24, please [sign up](#).

Wednesday Eucharist

On Wednesdays, we celebrate Holy Eucharist at Noon in the Chapel (enter via the glass Undercroft door at the back of the church building). These brief (thirty minutes) spoken services commemorate the saint of the day from the Episcopal calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, and are perfect for those who want to attend a service but are unable to come Sunday mornings or who want an additional gathering for corporate prayer to help them through the week. There will be **no service on August 6**, but we will worship as normal on **August 13, 20, 27**.

Kings Grant Eucharist

Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant at 1:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month. The next services will be **August 7** and September 4.

Nursery Volunteer(s) Needed

Our nursery attendant, Caroline Davis, will be out-of-town on **August 10** and **August 24**. If anyone wants to volunteer to work in the nursery, and has taken the Safe Church, Safe Communities training, and their certificates are up-to-date, please let the Church office know.

Public Theology

A new chapter of Public Theology begins **August 13** in the dining room of Forest Park Country Club (1821 Mulberry Rd). As usual, we will begin gathering around 6:00 pm; food (sandwiches, burgers, pizzas, etc.) is available to purchase from the Clubhouse Grill. Their ABC license has been applied for but not yet granted, so at least for this month, if you want alcoholic beverages, it's BYOB. From 7:00 to 8:00 pm, we will follow up on last month's conversation on our calling as Christians with a discussion of what it means to be poor in spirit and to offer spiritual care to others.

Church History Class

Our monthly Church History class will continue studying the **Reformation** on **August 20** at 10:30 in the Undercroft. This month, we will consider King Henry VIII and the start of the Reformation in England.

Diocesan Formation Day

The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia offers an annual workshop on Christian formation for those, clergy and lay, involved in forming disciples of Jesus in our parishes. On Saturday, **August 23**, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at Christ Church, Roanoke, Dr. Lisa Kimball of Virginia Theological Seminary will invite us to consider how we are Baptized for Life, with God equipping us to share abundant life in Christ, transform local communities, and change the world. The program, including lunch, is free, and registration is [here](#).

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) is on **August 27**, with dinner being served **from 5:00 to 6:00**. Even if you are not helping with cooking, serving, cleaning, or donating fruit or dessert, church members are encouraged to come and sit down for a meal with our neighbors in the community. Sign up at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) to volunteer, be a table host, or to bring something.

Safe Church Training

Safe Church, Safe Communities is the Episcopal Church's certification program to help ensure that the Church is a loving and not abusive community for our members and those who benefit from our ministries. Certification (which lasts three years) is required for those who work with children (other than their own) and encouraged for those who serve potentially vulnerable adults; for Christ Church right now, our focus is particularly those who help our attendant by volunteering in the nursery. Self-directed training is available any time (contact Deborah for more information) and the Diocese offers training over Zoom roughly once per quarter, with **August 27** at 6:30 pm (after Loaves & Fishes) being the next opportunity (register [here](#)).

2025 Campaign Update

As of July 30, we have received gifts of \$79,396 on pledges totaling \$149,602. The status of the projects is thus:

- 1) \$20,000 to rebuild the cash reserve, paying back what we spent on air handlers in 2024 and preventing cash flow problems this summer **[DONE]**
- 2) \$90,000 for work on the church, including replacing rotted wood and painting along the roof and replacing the exterior door to the lift **[66% paid for, with pledges for the rest]**
- 3) \$30,000 to landscape the campus and replace or add signage **[covered by pledges]**
- 4) \$25,000 to replace two more aging air handlers **[38% covered by pledges]**
- 5) \$35,000 to save toward the next unexpected or significant building project.

The work on the church building is about to begin and will hopefully be completed early in September.

Raffle Tickets ARE HERE!

Tickets for the 50/50 raffle are on sale from your Vestry members (which will receive them shortly) (Bob Bushnell, Natalie Coleman, Rives Coleman, Susan Critz, Butch Hamlet, Michael Hodges, Steve Keyser, LaRue Powers, Pat Russell, Bob Weatherall, and Will Zimmer) and the church office (which we have them **NOW**). The cost is \$10.00 per ticket or \$100.00 per book, with the maximum winnings of \$2,500.

Back-to-School Dinner and Trivia Night

Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun in the Undercroft on **September 3**. Following a dinner of burgers and brats beginning at 6:00 pm, Fr. John will offer a game of Trivia with Back-to-School themed questions concluding by 8:00 pm. If you are planning to attend, please sign up so we have a better idea of how much food to prepare.

Let Deborah or Fr. John know if anyone needs to be added or removed from the list.

Comfort and heal *Sue (Rosser), Julia (Hall), Betsy (Smith), Jennifer, Carleigh, Virginia (Huckfeldt), Donald, Al, Mallory, Harold, Doug, and Susan (Critz)*, all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy.

August Server Schedule

10:30AM	August 3 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Morning Prayer Hank Long Officiant	August 10 The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	August 17 The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	August 24 The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	August 31 The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Lector Prayers	Pete Scouras	Susan Critz	Will Zimmer	Bob Bushnell	Ann Gardner
Chalist		Bob Bushnell Jay Dickens	Rives Coleman Dawn Stone	Natalie Coleman Hank Long	Dawn Stone Tom Webster
Acolyte					
Ushers	Jay Dickens Kyle Trent	Trippi Penn Pete Scouras	Bob Weatherall Ben Beeler	Pete Scouras	Hank Long Dan Cahill
Camera Operator	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams
Counters	Bob Weatherall Rives Coleman	Bob Weatherall Rives Coleman	Bob Weatherall Rives Coleman	Bob Weatherall Rives Coleman	Bob Weatherall Rives Coleman
Nursery Attendants	Caroline Davis	Volunteer Needed	Caroline Davis	Volunteer Needed	Caroline Davis

Team #5 – Lloyd Barber, Debbie Lewis, Jill Dickens, Amy Joyce, Pat Russell, Vicki Crosby

Altar Guild Open Date

We have **November 30 (the First Sunday of Advent)** open date for altar flowers if anyone wants to do a memorial in loving memory of... or in thanksgiving for... someone. It is available on a first come, first served basis. Please note that funerals, weddings, and baptisms take precedence over scheduled memorials. Let the Church office know if you're interested in this date. **Let us know if you want to change the previous Narthex to this Altar flower date.**

Altar Guild Needs Vases and #10 Metal Cans

The Altar Guild needs large glass vases and #10 metal cans. If you have any to donate, please bring them to the Church office during business hours (M-TH 9:00 am-5:00 pm or F 9:00 am-3:00 pm) OR to the Church on Sunday, put them in front of the Sacristy door, or give them to an Altar Guild member.

Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for July – September: Potato Products (mashed, scalloped). For August: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapped), and hygiene items. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. Please remember to pick up our assigned item the next time you visit the grocery store. You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.

Giving to the Church - by Mail

You can mail a check or money order to the Church office at:

Christ Episcopal Church
311 East Church Street
Martinsville, Virginia 24112

Give with PayPal, Debit or Credit Card

You may give online, safely and securely, through your PayPal account or with any major credit card.

[Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmvl.org\)](http://christchurchmvl.org) on our homepage