



321 E. Church Street
Martinsville, VA 24078
276-632-2896
www.christchurchmvl.org



August 2022

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

Thor: Love and Thunder (which opened in July) opens on a man and his daughter walking through the desert, clearly suffering. Despite repeated prayers to their god, the daughter dies and is buried. Shortly thereafter, the man comes to an oasis, where he finds the god celebrating, having neither heeded the prayers nor caring that the girl died, leading the man to conclude that there is no purpose to gods, that they are worse than useless and must be killed so they stop harming humankind. This scene is rather provocative for religious folks of all sorts because it raises the question, Why do you worship God?

We Christians have many answers, ranging from theological assertions like our need for Jesus' grace to deliver us from our harmful sinning and our reverence due to the one who created us to practical considerations like the habit we inherited from our ancestors and the loving community established by those who worship.

Occasionally wrestling with this question is important for all of us who believe: it helps us keep our own faith from becoming stale or rote, can help us understand those who have actively rejected or quietly drifted away from the faith because they didn't experience satisfactory answers in the church, and can give us talking points for sharing our faith with others.

For our August Public Theology, Pastor Daniel and I will be leading a discussion of this question. I encourage you to join us at Mountain Valley Brewing (4220 Mountain Valley Rd, Axton) at 6pm on August 10.

- Fr. John

Doors to be Locked during Worship

Out of concern over mass shootings and whatnot, Christ Church is reinstating our policy of locking the front doors of the church ten minutes after the start of worship services. If you arrive to find the doors locked, please ring the doorbell and an usher will let you in.

Kings Grant Eucharist

The Eucharist service at King's Grant scheduled for August 4 at 1:30 pm, **has been canceled** due to Covid.

Annual Church Picnic

Parish Life of Christ Church invites you to join us for an afternoon at Wayne and Carolyn Byrd's Imagination Lavender Farm for our Annual Church Picnic. **Please sign up to attend under the Volunteer link on our website. PLEASE RSVP TO ATTEND BY THURSDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 10:00 AM.**

Date: Saturday, August 27th Time: 3:00 pm —7:00 pm Place: Byrd's Farm (check the posted flyer and emails for directions). Swimming, horseshoes, games, cookout, fellowship and much more!

Parish Life and its members will provide the following items:

hotdogs, buns, chili, slaw, chopped onions, plates and utensils, condiments and water.

We still need several food items. Please check the list and sign-up to bring something. Each family is asked to bring either a salad or dessert. ITEMS NEEDED are listed under the volunteer link. BYOB (drinks, beer, wine, etc.)

Grace Network's Back2School Event

At the start of each new school year, Grace Network provides new socks, shoes, and backpacks with school supplies to students who need them in Martinsville and Henry County. Volunteers are needed to help fill backpacks (August 2) and help with the event proper (August 6); prayers for the kids and the volunteers are also appreciated. For more information, please see the flyer in the narthex of the church, and to volunteer please contact Tracy Hinchcliff at tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetWORKmhc.org or 409-330-0847.

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for The Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2022, at 6:00 pm. **NO dinner tickets are being sold and NO reservations are being taken at this time.** *More details to follow.*

A 50/50 raffle is planned and tickets are available NOW from Vestry members and the church office. The cost is \$10 per ticket or \$100 per book, with maximum winnings of \$2,500.

Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for August – Sept.: Saltine Cracker Box. For the month of **August: bath soap, toilet paper, and toothpaste.** 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.

Chalicers Wanted

Offering the Blood of Christ to your fellow parishioners can be a highly meaningful way to participate more deeply in Sunday worship. We are presently in need of more folks to bear the chalice and cruet when we celebrate communion; please talk to Fr. John or Hank Long if you are interested in joining this ministry.

Fr. John's Office Hours

As part of his weekly calendar, Fr. John blocks out a couple of times where he does not schedule other visits or meetings so that those who wish to chat without a specific appointment can reliably find him. These 'office hours' are presently Tuesday mornings, 9:00 - 10:30 at the Ground Floor, and Wednesday afternoons, 2:30 - 4:00 at his office in the Parish House. He is also happy to schedule specific meetings simply to get to know the people of Christ Church better, and encourages you to email, text, or call him ([johndavidadams85@gmail.com](mailto: johndavidadams85@gmail.com) and 571-232-1294) if you are sick, having surgery, otherwise in need of prayer, or just want to visit.

Multiple ways of supporting Christ Episcopal Church every day of the week and not just on Sundays.

All things come of thee O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee." 1 Chronicles 29:14

Giving to the Church - by Mail

You can mail a check to the Church office at:

Christ Episcopal Church
311 East Church Street
Martinsville, Virginia 24112

Give with PayPal or Credit Card

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

You Spend, the Church Earns

Annual earnings from participation in rewards programs continue to grow. The next time you shop at Amazon, Food Lion, or Kroger, support Christ Episcopal Church with your purchase. For every dollar spent at one of these businesses a percentage is donated to the church. Giving is easy!

Amazon Smile: You Shop, Amazon Gives. Christ Episcopal will receive a donation equivalent to .5% of the price for eligible purchases. Click smile.amazon.com/ch/54-0553801 when you make purchases from Amazon and a portion is returned to the church!

Food Lion: Purchase a grocery card at church on Sunday or in the office during the week and use it to pay for your purchases. They are available in denominations of \$50, \$100, and \$200.

Kroger: Link your Kroger Plus card to the church using the following link: krogercommunityrewards.com. register your card by account number, enter Christ Church's organization number **VT594** in the search field, click search, select the church and then click on enroll. Then all you have to do is shop. The rest is automatic.

Stock Transfers

For ease in making a gift of stock to Christ Episcopal Church please notify the church of your gift by phone, 276-632-2896, or email, office@christchurchmvl.org.

Automatic Giving

A convenient way to support the ministry of Christ Church is to schedule your monthly pledge via the online bill pay services of your local bank. This is the electronic equivalent of writing a check. It's fast, direct, and saves trees. The contact details you need for setting up the church as a bill pay account are:

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Memorial Gifts, Honoraria, and Bequests

We welcome your remembrances, gifts, and honoraria to the general fund or established designated funds; if you wish to designate monetary gifts or stock transfers for a new specific purpose, please contact the Rector or Senior Warden. Please also inform the Rector or Senior Warden if you intend to make a more substantial contribution, so that we can work with you to honor and remember your family and loved ones as you hope.

If you want to offer a specific tangible gift or gift in kind, please contact the Rector or Senior Warden, as we reserve the right to decline gifts that we will be unable to use or maintain.

We also welcome bequests and charitable giving through wills and trusts. Gifts may be mailed to: Christ Episcopal Church, 311 East Church Street, Martinsville, VA 24112.