



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

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

The Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia met at the Hotel Roanoke on January 24-26. Jay Dickens and Rives Coleman were your delegates, and Baylie Coleman represented Christ Church among the Youth @ Convention. In addition to the delegates passing the budget and a resolution calling us to pray for the people of Sudan as the genocide is ongoing, Bishop Mark announced the Diocese has given the property formerly known as St. Paul's, Martinsville to Church Without Walls, which has been worshipping there the past several years. While this is a sad announcement, marking as it does the end of the Episcopal presence on Fayette Street which ministered to many in that neighborhood, it does offer a resolution that was lacking when St. Paul's was closed but the Diocese continued to maintain the property.

Outside of worship with a few hundred Episcopalians on Sunday morning (during which Baylie excellently read from Nehemiah), the highlight of the Convention was the Rt. Rev. Elizabeth Gardner's keynote address (available under the Live tab at the Diocesan YouTube page - <https://www.youtube.com/DIOSWVA>). Bishop Gardner entertainingly spoke to all of us, clergy and lay, as leaders in our respective churches, likening church leadership to riding one of those rickety old rollercoasters. She invited us to empower others in our churches, invest in people, solve the problems that are brought to us not only through technical fixes but by identifying possibilities for meaningful change, be both inspirational to and inspired by others, and stop being so mean to other people both inside and outside our churches. She reminded us that, while Christ will come again, the 1950s will not, and encouraged us to consider whether the leadership of the church, at all levels, reflects the people we want to draw into our fellowship (which was especially timely after Bishop Mark announced that, while he has not yet set an end date or called for the election of his successor, he is in the process of discerning when to conclude his ministry in this Diocese and what he will do next).

Fr. John

Monday Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study meets from 7:00 to 8:00 in the Parish House. On **February 3**, we will continue in Luke 18, as Jesus challenges a wealthy ruler and heals a blind beggar. All are welcome and encouraged to attend as you can; no preparation ahead of time is necessary.

History of the Early Church

Our next study in the History of the Early Church will take place on **February 5 at 10:30 in the Undercroft**; in *Canon Fodder*, we will discuss how the New Testament as we know it came to be and sample some books that didn't make the cut.

Kings Grant Eucharist

Fr. John celebrates the Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant at 1:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month. The next services will be on **February 6** and **March 6**.

Women's Club Meeting

The second Women's Club meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 11, at 5:30 in the Parish House**. Please sign up at the following link if you plan to attend: [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#). We hope you can make it! *Natalie Coleman and LaRue Powers*

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **Wednesday, February 12 at Renewal Brewing in Uptown Martinsville** (32 Franklin St). We begin with socializing and food around 6:00, with the discussion going from 7:00 to 8:00.

The Church office will be closed on Monday, February 17 to observe President's Day.

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) will be served on **February 26**, 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 or to bring something.**

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for **February - March: Pork & Beans 15 oz.** For **February: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapped), and hygiene items.** *Grace has been experiencing a large increase in clients needing food, household, 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 \(christchurchmvl.org\)](#) on our homepage

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=Z52WJPBKZN96L on PayPal

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

Comfort and heal *Sue (Rosser), Julia (Hall), Betty (Budde), Betsy (Smith), Mary Ruth (Reynolds), Nancy, Mark (Gauldin), Morgan (Holland), Jennifer, Lucia, Peg, Dennis, Carleigh, Carolyn (Byrd), Rebecca, Harry, Tina, James and Frankie* 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.

February Server Schedule

10:30AM	February 2 The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple	February 9 The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	February 16 The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany	February 23 The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Lector Prayers	Kelly Cain	Hank Long	Bob Bushnell	Will Zimmer
Chalist	Bob Bushnell Steve Keyser	Rives Coleman Nancy Spilman	Jay Dickens Tom Webster	Natalie Coleman John Swezey
Acolyte	Pete Scouras			
Ushers	Rives Coleman John Swezey	Ben Beeler Ben Lewis	Trippi Penn Kyle Trent	Jay Dickens Bob Weatherall
Camera Operator	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
Nursery Attendants	Emily Williams Volunteer Needed	Emily Williams Volunteer Needed	Emily Williams Volunteer Needed	Emily Williams Volunteer Needed

Altar Guild Team #3 – Page Beeler, Karen Jones, Nancy Spilman, Ellen Maxwell, Ben Beeler