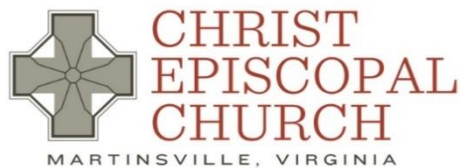


January 2025



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



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

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

Before our services on Sundays, a few of us gather in the Parish House at 9:30 for a spot of Bible study. Beginning January 5, we will read the highlights of the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. Beyond being a bullfrog, Jeremiah was a good friend of God at a time when the people of Judah were not so much, and the Babylonian Empire was on the verge of conquering them. In addition to boldly proclaiming the consequences for breaking their covenant with God (and coming into dangerous conflict with other ‘prophets’ who disagreed with such a message), Jeremiah’s writings are arguably the most vulnerable in the Bible, as he reveals his interior thoughts and feelings while lamenting to God. As such, Jeremiah speaks especially to Christians who find themselves struggling for justice in unjust societies and facing opposition from their co-religionists. As we start this new study, this is an excellent way to live into a resolution to read more Scripture in the new year; all are invited to join us whenever you can, even if that is only once in a while.

Joy to the world (and to all of you) in this new year,  
Fr. John

### **Twelfth Night**

At 5:30 pm on Sunday, January 5, Lynn and Phil Gardner invite us to their farm (4064 Barrows Mill Road) for a celebration of Twelfth Night. Following brief prayers for the burning of the Christmas greens and the blessing of the house for Epiphany, we will enjoy a time of fellowship. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share; the Gardners will provide Brunswick Stew and beverages (beer, wine, and soft drinks). You are welcome to bring your Christmas tree or any other greens you wish to burn. If you plan to come, **RSVP on the following link: [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#)**, to the Office (276-632-2896 or [christchurchmvl@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchmvl@gmail.com)) **by Friday, January 3.**

### **History of the Early Church**

Our next study in the History of the Early Church will take place on **January 8 at 10:30 in the Undercroft**. We will discuss the Emperor Constantine and the Council of Nicaea.

### **Public Theology**

Public Theology meets on **Wednesday, January 8**. This month, we are **tentatively planning to meet at Renewal Brewing in Uptown Martinsville (32 Franklin St.)** but keep your eyes peeled for further details. We begin with socializing and food around 6:00, with the discussion going from 7:00 to 8:00.

### **Kings Grant Eucharist**

Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant at 1:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month (typically). The next services will be on **January 9** (moved to accommodate Fr. John's vacation) and February 6.

### **Funeral**

The service for Patty Ann Trent will be at 1:00 pm on Saturday, January 11, followed by a Committal at Roselawn and a reception at Chatmoss.

### **Women's Club Information Meeting**

The Vestry's summer discernment process indicated that a number of women at Christ Church miss the monthly meetings that took place prior to COVID-19. To follow up on those findings, we have scheduled a meeting to determine if there is interest in establishing monthly meetings and to determine what form a newly established women's group might take.

**You are invited to join us in the Parish House on Tuesday, January 14, at 5:30. Beverages and paper products will be provided. You are encouraged to bring snack items for all to enjoy.**

**If you plan to attend, sign up on the church's website at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) . We are looking forward to our evening of fellowship!**

### **Diocesan Convention**

The Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia is January 24-26 in Roanoke. Please keep Fr. John, Jay Dickens, Rives Coleman, and Baylie Coleman in your prayers as they join clergy, laity, and youth from across this corner of Virginia in taking counsel for the renewal and mission of the Church.

### **Loaves & Fishes**

Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) resumes on **January 29**, 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.**

### **2025 Vestry Officers**

At our December 18 meeting, the Vestry elected as officers for 2025 Rives Coleman (Senior Warden), Bob Weatherall (Junior Warden), Butch Hamlet (Treasurer), and Natalie Coleman (Secretary). Other Vestry members are Betty Budde, Bob Bushnell, Susan Critz, Michael Hodges, Steve Keyser, LaRue Powers, Pat Russell, and Will Zimmer. Many thanks to Ben Beeler, Jay Dickens, Beverly Lyle, and Andy Williams, whose three-year terms on the Vestry have ended.

### **2024 Pledge Payments**

Please have all 2024 pledge payments or donations, including stock transfers, into the Church office no later than **Friday, January 3rd**. NOTE: Schwab purchased Ameritrade, so we are now using Schwab. Contact the Church office for trading information. Please email the office with all information for stock transfers at [office@christchurchmvl.org](mailto:office@christchurchmvl.org). **The 2024 year-end statements will be mailed by mid-January.**

### **2025 Pledges**

To this point, we have received 49 pledges totaling \$222,730 for 2025, compared to 56 totaling \$221,220 for 2024. If you have not yet done so, we ask that you take some time to pray about your giving to Christ Church next year and submit your pledge as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex and from the Church office.

### **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://www.christchurchmvl.org) on our homepage

[https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted\\_button\\_id=Z52WJPBKZN96L](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), Nathan, Linda (Isley), Betsy (Smith), Mary Ruth (Reynolds), Nancy, Mark (Gauldin), Morgan (Holland), Jennifer, Lucia, Peg, Dennis, Dennis (West), and Carleigh* 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.

### **Grace Network**

Our Grace Network Assignments for **January - March: Pork & Beans 15 oz.** For the month of **January: toilet paper, feminine products, deodorant, 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.

### **St. Nicholas Appeal**

A Message from Bishop Mark A Bourlakas: Our St. Nicholas Appeal will be directed toward the ongoing relief efforts following the devastation of Hurricane Helene. Specifically, the appeal will be directed toward relieving the food insecurity that is still affecting so many. A portion of our appeal will be distributed to Feeding Southwestern Virginia to feed people in the boundaries of our diocese. The epicenter of Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina centered around the Asheville area, with major devastation occurring in Chimney Rock and Lake Lure, NC. Directed by the Diocese of Western North Carolina, the largest part the appeal's collection will go to the relief efforts of St. Francis and St. Gabriel's Episcopal Churches, congregations less than two miles apart in Rutherfordton, NC. These churches, one white and the other African American have combined their people and resources to feed, clothe and respond to the needs of hard-hit communities nearby. Our gift is particularly important for this small town as resources have been pouring into the larger churches in western North Carolina. Please consider faithfully how you might support this effort, either by donating online at [www.dioswva.org](http://www.dioswva.org) or by mailing a check payable to the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia with "St. Nicholas Day Appeal" marked in the memo to PO Box 2279, Roanoke, VA 24009.

## `January Server Schedule

<b>10:30AM</b>	January 5 The Second Sunday after Christmas Day	January 12 The First Sunday after the Epiphany	January 19 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany	January 26 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany <i>Council Sunday</i> <i>Officiating by</i> <i>Hank Long</i>
Lector Prayers	Kelly Cain	Susan Critz	Will Zimmer	Pete Scouras
Chalist	Hank Long John Swezey	Steve Keyser Nancy Spilman	Bob Bushnell Tom Webster	
Acolyte				
Ushers	Jay Dickens Bob Weatherall	Hank Long Pete Scouras	Ben Beeler Gus Barber	Dan Cahill Michael Hodges
Camera Operator	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams
Counters	Natalie Coleman Bob Bushnell	Natalie Coleman Bob Bushnell	Natalie Coleman Bob Bushnell	Natalie Coleman Bob Bushnell
Nursery Attendants	Emily Williams <b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Emily Williams <b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Emily Williams <b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Emily Williams <b>Volunteer Needed</b>

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