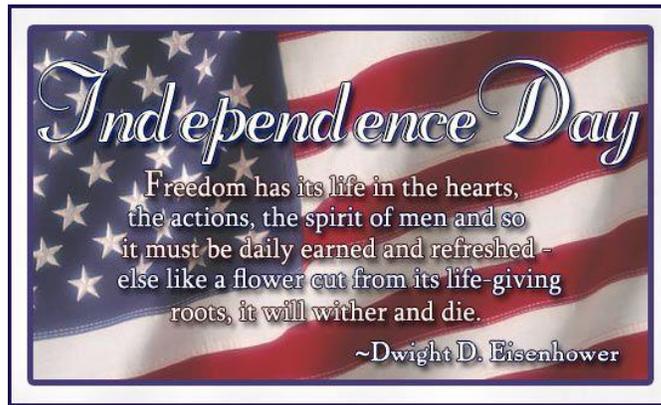


321 E. Church Street
Martinsville, VA 24078
276-632-2896
www.christchurchmvl.org



July 2022

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

In my first five months as your Rector, one of the things I have come to appreciate about Christ Church is the property we have to host and support our ministry. In particular, my thinking about the Parish House has evolved from asking why a church owns a historic mansion to being grateful for the ways that the mansion helps us serve others: as a comfortable space for those grieving after our funerals, as a relaxed setting for our Bible studies and meetings, as a welcoming venue for neighbors who might otherwise never approach Christ Church to gather for events, as an office space preferable to subdividing the Undercroft or sharing the Rectory, as a host for the Boys and Girls Club and the good work they do. Whatever I might think if we were talking about buying the mansion today, given that we already have it I cannot help but see our use of the Parish House as a good thing. That said, maintaining such a big and historic building is no small challenge, and the Vestry is presently wrestling with the question of spending large sums to address growing problems with the exterior or deferring maintenance that might, in time, compromise both the beauty and the utility of the space. I invite your prayers for us as we deliberate, and we will keep you posted if and when we vote to move forward with the project.

- Fr. John

Kings Grant Eucharist

Covid permitting, on July 7 at 1:30 pm, Fr. John will celebrate Eucharist in the Chapel at Kings Grant. This brief (30-35 minute) service will include a homily on the saint of the day, and all baptized Christians are invited to receive communion. This will hopefully become a pattern on the first Thursday of the month.

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.

Public Theology

At 6:00 pm on the second Wednesday of the month, all are invited to Mountain Valley Brewing (4220 Mountain Valley Rd, Axton) for Public Theology. This is an opportunity, over light supper and beer, to informally chat about what we believe and how we live as Christians, in discussions led by Fr. John, Pastor Daniel Guenther (of Smith Memorial United Methodist Church, Collinsville), or other guests. Public Theology is designed to be accessible and engaging both for those who regularly attend church and those who do not, and as such is a good opportunity to invite friends who might enjoy our Christian fellowship but might not be willing to try Sunday worship. Our next Public Theology will be July 13; the gathering begins at 6:00 pm and the discussion runs from 7:00 to around 8:00.

June Vestry Highlights

At our meeting on June 15, the Vestry further discussed the need for exterior work on the Parish House (repairing wood rot and repainting, which should be done every 10-15 years) but voted against taking action before meeting again with the potential contractor. We decided to increase the ticket price for the Oyster Roast (which will be held November 4, 2022) to \$50 to help cover anticipated cost increases. A motion was passed for the Toms Bell Tower Fund to repay bell maintenance costs that were erroneously drawn from other funds.

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 register students (on the morning of July 9 and evening of July 19), buy supplies and pack the bus (July 15-17), 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.

Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for July – Sept.: Saltine Cracker Box. For the month of **July: toilet paper, feminine products, and deodorant.** 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.

Parish Life Committee

There will be a meeting on either Monday, July 11 or Wednesday, July 13 at 5:00pm in the Parish House. The committee will be discussing the events for the remainder of 2022 and upcoming in 2023. **All committee members are asked to let the church office know which date works better with your schedule.**

There is an open invitation for anyone that would like to join the Parish Life Committee. If you are interested in becoming a part of Parish Life, please contact Cece Johnson at cecerjohnson@gmail.com or the Church office.

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 and 571-232-1294) if you are sick, having surgery, otherwise in need of prayer, or just want to visit.