



321 E. Church Street
Martinsville, VA 24112
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www.christchurchmvl.org

June 2025



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

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

Despite June being the start of Summer, which is often the quieter season in the life of the church, there are a few important things going on to which I want to draw your attention.

First is that the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia's search for our next bishop is beginning in earnest, and the first step is one in which all active parishioners in the Diocese are invited and encouraged to participate. On June 7, the Search Committee is holding listening sessions in-person and over Zoom so that we may share our hopes and dreams for the future of the Diocese, discern what common challenges we face, and consider what qualities we seek in our next bishop. Subsequently, a survey will be made available so that even those unable to attend a listening session can contribute their thoughts, out of which the Search Committee will develop the Diocesan Profile which will be available to potential nominees later this summer. In addition to details of the listening sessions, this newsletter includes the timeline of the transition process as currently planned, and a prayer that we all are encouraged to incorporate in our daily prayers.

Second is that Christ Church is currently searching for a new Nursery Attendant. If you know of anyone with parenting, babysitting, or other childcare experience who might be interested in a Sunday morning gig, please put them in contact with the church office. Also, while we search, please be especially patient with and welcoming to our families with young children, as they may contribute unexpected elements to the joyful noise we raise unto the Lord every Sunday morning.

Third is that Summer is the time when Christ Church offers fellowship time after Sunday worship; between Pentecost (June 8) and August 24 (the Sunday before Labor Day weekend), we will offer light refreshments (lemonade or other cool beverages and cookies or other snacks) on the patio (to the left as you exit the church building, between the church and the rectory). As you attend services this summer, I encourage you to plan to stick around for 15-30 minutes afterwards so that you may renew your friendships at Christ Church and get to know less familiar neighbors in the pews.

- Fr. John

Bishop Search Listening Sessions and Timeline

The Diocesan Bishop Search Committee is inviting us to share our hopes and dreams for the future of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, discern what common challenges we face, and consider what qualities we seek in our next bishop. On Saturday, June 7, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, an in-person session will be held at St. John's, Roanoke and, at the same time, a session will be offered over Zoom; please [RSVP](#) if you plan to attend either. A survey will subsequently be made available to all, whether or not you were able to attend.

2025 Timeline	
February 19	Bishop Bourlakas announcement
March 4, 6	Standing Committee and Executive Board meetings
March 31 - April 14	Nominations for Search and Transition Committees Open
April 29	Standing Committee announces Search & Transition Committees and Chairs
May 17	Leadership Retreat with Standing, Search, & Transition Committees
June 1	Bishop Bourlakas resigns. Standing Committee becomes Ecclesiastical Authority
June 7th, 10:00-12:00	Search Committee conducts diocesan listening sessions in each Convocation
June-July	Diocesan Profile development
Late July	Diocesan Profile published, application period opens (about 1 month)
August - November	Search Committee Interview & Discernment
Early November	Discernment Retreat
December	Standing Committee announces final slate

2026 Timeline	
January 5 (week of)	Meet-and-Greets
Jan 30-31st	Electing Convention at Diocesan Convention
120 days after medical, ordination & psych paperwork is received	Consent period
June 13, 2026	Ordination of the Seventh Bishop of Southwestern Virginia

Creator God, whose Church lives beyond the walls of buildings and the boundaries of cities,
we ask that you guide our work
as the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia moves together
through a transition of leadership.

We pray for patience in dialogue and wisdom in discernment,
that the richness of our diverse voices, from farmland to small town, mountain to downtown,
will all be valued and heard.

We pray for the person who will be elected as our next Bishop, for all those who are in discernment, and for the people of this diocese, so that the work of spreading God's love in southwestern Virginia and beyond will grow and flourish in the years to come. In the name of your incarnate son we pray, Amen.

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 **June 5** and July 3.

Pentecost – June 8

The Feast of Pentecost is **June 8**, as we celebrate the birthday of the Church when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples. You are encouraged to wear red (symbolizing the Spirit's tongues of fire) and stick around for the first of our summer lemonades after the service.

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 **June 8 through August 24**; if you are willing to help bring beverages and treats or set up and clean up, please [sign up](#).

Church History Class

Having spent ten sessions on the History of the Early Church over the past year, the monthly Church History class will offer a brief survey of **Medieval Church History** on **June 11 at 10:30 in the Undercroft**, before moving on to the History of the Reformation with particularly attention to the English Reformation.

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. As of now, we are planning to gather every Wednesday in June.

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **Wednesday, June 11 at Mountain Valley Brewing** (4220 Mountain Valley Rd, Axton); the future of Renewal Brewing is up in the air at present, and Ryan, Faith, Steve, and I will be meeting this month in the hope of figuring out a more consistent host for July and following. This month we will be discussing Forgiveness; we begin with socializing and pizza around **6:00**, with the discussion going from **7:00 to 8:00**.

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) is on **June 25**, 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.

The Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Christian Leadership Award

At the 10:30 service on May 18, the 2025 Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Award was presented to **Baylie Coleman**, long-time acolyte, and active member of the Diocesan Youth Leadership Team, who will be attending UVA in the Fall. Congratulations!

Nursery Attendant – Applicants Sought

The Nursery Attendant cares for children up to age 5 during worship services on Sunday mornings. Duties include initiating and supervising play and reading with children, providing physical care as directed by parents, and straightening up the nursery.

Qualifications include an outgoing, friendly personality for interacting with parents and children, experience in babysitting, parenting, or other forms of childcare, passing a background check (paid for by Christ Church), and becoming Safe Church certified (three hours training, time paid for by Christ Church).

Sunday morning services are at 10:30 and last approximately one hour. The Nursery Attendant is expected to be present from 10:00 am until Noon. The pay for each Sunday worked is \$50. The Nursery Attendant may be invited to work during services or programs at other times for the same \$25/hour rate.

To apply, send a resume and cover letter to Christ Church at christchurchmvl@gmail.com, or for more information, call us at 276-632-2896.

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, Sanddii, Millard (Hall), Will (Zimmer), and Virginia (Huckfeldt)* 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.

June Server Schedule

10:30AM	June 1 The Seventh Sunday of Easter The Day after Ascension Day	June 8 The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday	June 15 The First Sunday after Pentecost TRINITY SUNDAY (Father's Day)	June 22 The Second Sunday after Pentecost	June 29 The Third Sunday after Pentecost
Lector Prayers	Jay Dickens	Ann Gardner	Hank Long	Susan Critz	Ann Gardner
Chalist	Bob Bushnell Nancy Spilman	Natalie Coleman Steve Keyser	Rives Coleman Tom Webster	Jay Dickens John Swezey	Bob Bushnell Hank Long
Ushers	Pete Scouras Ben Lewis	Michael Hodges Rives Coleman	Gus Barber John Swezey	Kyle Trent Trippi Penn	Ben Beeler Bob Weatherall
Camera Operator	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams
Counters	Susan Critz Pat Russell	Susan Critz Pat Russell	Susan Critz Pat Russell	Susan Critz Pat Russell	Susan Critz Pat Russell

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

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for **June: Deodorant (Men's or Women's)** For **June: dish detergent, deodorant, laundry detergent, and hygiene items**. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network by 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.**