



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,

As you read this, we are about to begin the season of Lent, a time of penitence and preparation when we who have joined the body of Christ in baptism reflect on our sins and seek to amend our lives in advance of our annual commemorations of Christ's passion and resurrection. For many, Lent entails making additional time for study and prayer, and we offer several opportunities to do so. Specifically for Lent, the churches of Martinsville are again coming together for lunch and devotion on Thursdays, and instead of our regular Monday night Bible study, we will have light suppers (organized by Vestry members) and a program of conversations in Christian ethics (which will begin by thinking about the goods we as Christians value in our daily lives and how we respond when those goods come into conflict with each other). Our Sunday morning Bible study continues in Jeremiah, whose mix of prophetic condemnation and personal lament seems particularly appropriate for the season, and our monthly History of the Early Church and Public Theology programs are ongoing. In addition to Sunday morning services, there will be two services on Ash Wednesday and our regular Wednesday Noon Eucharists. I hope that whatever you do to repent during Lent and prepare for Easter, you know that you are welcome and encouraged to join any or all of these studies and services as we together make this Lenten pilgrimage.

Fr. John

Monday Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study meets from 7:00 to 8:00 in the Parish House. On **March 3** we will begin reading Jesus' teachings in the Temple (Luke 20). All are welcome and encouraged to attend as you can; no preparation ahead of time is necessary.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on **Wednesday, March 5**; we will offer the Holy Eucharist and the imposition of ashes at **Noon and 7:00 pm**, both in the church.

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 **March 6** and April 3.

Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 9. Please remember to set your clocks an hour ahead, lest you arrive for church during the closing hymn.

Lenten Study: Explorations in Christian Ethics

On the **Mondays of Lent (March 10 - April 7)**, we will gather in the **Undercroft** for a light supper and program. Fr. John will lead us in discussions of Christian ethics, as we consider how we think about and apply Jesus' teachings to the moral problems we encounter in our daily lives. This takes the place of the usual Monday Bible Study, which will resume after Easter. **Supper begins at 6:00 pm, with the discussion concluding by 7:30.**

Women's Club Meeting

The Women's Club meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 11, at 5:30 in the Parish House**. Sign up online at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) to attend and bring something to share. We hope you can make it!

History of the Early Church

Our next study in the History of the Early Church will take place on **March 12 at 10:30 in the Undercroft**, discussing Ambrose of Milan, Augustine of Hippo, and the evolving relationship between the Church and Empire in the late 4th and early 5th Centuries.

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 on Sunday mornings or who want an additional gathering for corporate prayer to help them through the week. Our upcoming regular services will be on **March 12, 19, and 26; on March 5**, the Noon service will be in the church for Ash Wednesday, and on April 2 there will be no service due to the Diocesan clergy day in Salem.

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **Wednesday, March 12 at Renewal Brewing in Uptown Martinsville** (32 Franklin St). This month, making up for our cancellation in February, Pastor Ryan invites us to come together for a conversation on the role of faith and speaking out in political affairs. We begin with socializing and pizza around **6:00**, with the discussion going from 7:00 to 8:00.

Ecumenical Lenten Lunches

The churches of Martinsville are again coming together to offer lunch and a brief devotion at Noon on the Thursdays of Lent. All are invited to attend any or all of these lunches; the devotions will conclude by 1:00 pm. The schedule is:

March 13 - Chatham Heights Baptist (1235 Chatham Heights Rd.)

March 20 - First Baptist (23 Starling Ave.)

March 27 - Calvary Christian (515 Mulberry Rd.)

April 3 - First Presbyterian (1901 Patrick Henry Ave.)

April 10 - First Baptist East (1043 E. Church St.)

Diocesan Transition

In a letter sent February 19, Bishop Mark Bourlakas announced his resignation as Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia (effective May 22) to serve as an Assistant Bishop (based in Falls Church) in the Diocese of Virginia beginning June 1. A more detailed timeline of the search and election process is expected in the coming weeks, including plans for the interim, in the meantime, we are grateful to Bishop Mark for his twelve years of service in our Diocese.

Church Tree

Twice in recent years (in early 2022, at a cost of almost \$600, and again on January 29, resulting in the cancellation of that night's Loaves & Fishes), the water main supplying the church building has broken at the northeast corner of Church St. and Letcher Ct. This second time, it was abundantly clear that the source of the problem was tree roots interfering with the line. As a consequence, at our February meeting the Vestry reluctantly approved the cutting down of the tree (on the left as you face the front of the church). We do not know precisely when the work will be done, but wanted you to know that it is coming and the exterior of the church will soon look different.



Dishes Left in the Parish House

If you have a dish(es) left from a previous reception, please pick it/them up at your earliest convenience. We have several glass serving dishes/plates and glass vases.

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), Mark (Gauldin), Jennifer, Lucia, Carleigh, Carolyn (Byrd), Rebecca, Harry, Tina, James, Ralphie, Bill (Sibbick), Page (Beeler), Sanddii, and Millard (Hall)*; 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.

March Server Schedule

March 2 - Ann Gardner, reader; Bob Bushnell and Rives Coleman, chalicers; Hank Long, Pete Scouras, ushers; Butch Hamlet, Pat Russell, counters; Emily Williams, nursery

March 5 – Ash Wednesday - Noon - Natalie Coleman, reader; Tom Webster, chalice

March 5 – Ash Wednesday - 7 pm - Kelly Cain, reader; Hank Long, chalice

March 9 - Kelly Cain, reader; Steve Keyser and Dawn Stone, chalicers; Gus Barber, Dan Cahill, ushers; Pete Scouras, acolyte; Butch Hamlet, Pat Russell, counters; Emily Williams, nursery

March 16 - Bob Bushnell, reader; Hank Long and Tom Webster, chalicers; Michael Hodges, Rives Coleman, ushers; Butch Hamlet, Pat Russell, counters; Emily Williams, nursery

March 23 - Pete Scouras, reader; Natalie Coleman and John Swezey, chalicers; John Swezey, Ben Lewis, ushers; Butch Hamlet, Pat Russell, counters; Emily Williams, nursery

March 30 - Hank Long, reader; Bob Bushnell and Rives Coleman, chalicers; Trippi Penn, Kyle Trent, ushers; Butch Hamlet, Pat Russell, counters; Emily Williams, nursery

Altar Guild Team #5 – Lloyd Barber, Debbie Lewis, Jill Dickens, Amy Joyce, Pat Russell, Vicki Crosby