



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,

Like most folks, Episcopalians have certain words that provoke negative reactions. We joke that ‘evangelism’ is a dirty word because it makes us think of strangers knocking on our doors or approaching us in public places, even though evangelism is as simple (and necessary) as inviting a friend to a church event. We know to tune out when the preacher dramatically introduces and then proceeds to explain a fancy Greek word like *kenosis* (the self-emptying of Jesus as described in Philippians 2:5-11). We often hear “I’m from the Diocese” as prelude to unhelpful advice at best and chastisement, asking for money, or a threat to our continuing congregational vitality at worst.

‘Discernment’ is one such word, because we usually hear it in contexts that do not bode well for the parish. When we talk about an individual in discernment, it’s usually because they’re in the process of discerning whether God is calling them to ordained ministry, which in many cases results in the parish losing an active lay leader (either to seminary, ordination, and work in another parish, or to withdrawal after the call is not affirmed). Parishes generally enact discernment processes at the behest of someone from the Diocese during times of potentially difficult transition, like preparing to search for a new rector after the departure of the old one or considering the closure of the church or merging with another one.

Discernment does not have to be a scary word, however. Wiktionary’s definition of discernment is “perceiving, understanding, and judging things clearly, especially those that aren’t obvious or straightforward,” and for Christians, God’s call in our lives is the thing we typically think of that is not obvious or straightforward and thus requires work for us to perceive and understand it. So anytime we are intentionally listening for God’s call and figuring out how to act in response to that call, we are discerning. Or to put it another way, anytime we Christians, individually or in a group, ask God to tell us what to do, we are in discernment. In that sense, discerning is not unusual or scary, but a regular part of our relationship with God in prayer.

My hope is that all of us are praying daily for Christ Church, and that in doing so we are discerning, asking God to guide us and paying attention for God’s responses, not because some big or bad change is coming, but because the Church should always be in discernment, and most especially in times like these, when the way to navigate the challenges we face is not obvious or straightforward.

- Fr. John

Men's Club Dinner – May 1

The Men's Club will meet on Wednesday, May 1, with refreshments starting at 5:30 and dinner served at 6:30.

Please make sure to sign up on our website at <https://christchurchmvl.org/volunteering.cfm?ID=332> (Volunteer > Men's Club Dinner) so we will know how much food to order. The cost is \$20 per person.

Monday Bible Study

Our Monday evening Bible study (meets from 7:00 to 8:00 in the Parish House) continues through May 20, after which we will go on hiatus through the summer. We are reading through the Gospel of Luke, and all are welcome and encouraged to attend as you can; no preparation ahead of time is required.

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. There will be **no service on May 29** due to Fr. John's vacation.

Kings Grant Eucharist – May 2

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 **May 2** and **June 6**.

Public Theology – May 8

Public Theology meets on Wednesday, **May 8**, at Mountain Valley Brewing (4220 Mountain Valley Rd, Axton). We begin with socializing and food around 6:00, with the discussion going from 7:00 to 8:00.

Graduate Information Needed by Friday, May 10

Join us as we salute all of our graduates, whether from High School, College, or Graduate, Professional, or Adult programs. **Please send us your recognition and grad's information by Friday, May 10th!** (Email is preferred, to office@christchurchmvl.org, or phone us at 276-632-2896. *We will be thrilled to share your good news!*)

Nursery – May 12 & May 26

Emily will be out of town on Sundays, **May 12 and 26** therefore there won't be a nursery attendant on staff.

Pentecost – May 19

Pentecost is one of the Principal Feasts of the Church (like Christmas and Easter), when we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. You are encouraged to **wear red** to celebrate the Spirit on that Sunday. In addition to being Pentecost, our 10:30 service on May 19 will be even more special for two reasons: we will **baptize** a new member of Christ's body, and before the offertory, we will present the **Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. award** and offer a prayer for our high school graduates.

The Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Christian Leadership Award

Christian, Scholar, Soldier

“May God grant that the spirit of this award will help us increase in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.”

Since 1957, whenever possible, Christ Church has presented this annual award to a young person(s) who best represent the spirit of Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. A plaque to honor his life and in recognition of our eligible youth who exemplify his admirable traits, is displayed in the narthex of the church.

Beverly S. Parrish, Jr., was awarded many academic accolades for his achievements as a young man. To name a few, he was an Eagle Scout, active youth member of Christ Church, a successful student of science and engineering, and a distinguished member of several military groups while attending college. He was a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Beverly S. Parrish, Jr., was an active member of Christ Church who served as a crucifer for many years. He continues to be remembered for his honors and achievements, but more importantly, for his personal qualities of kindness, strong sense of duty, and dependability. He had a “can do” attitude and was ready to assist his family and friends to the best of his ability. He was a Christian in every sense of the word.

Criteria for the Award

I. Service to Church (the Christian Spirit and Christian Leadership)

1. The Christian spirit: Acceptance of responsibility for Church, Sunday School, and other duties; Sense of acceptance of duty to God; Sense of reverence; Sense of loyalty to the Church; Humility and unselfishness; Friendliness and cheerfulness; Bible learning, prayer.

2. Participation in Church Activities: Choir, Crucifer, Acolyte, Youth Group, Young Altar Guild, Chalice Bearer, or Lay Reader;

3. Serving on committees;

4. Serving as a leader in Youth Group;

5. Serving at church activities such as Loaves & Fishes, mission trips;

6. Attendance in Sunday school and at church services

II. Service to school: Conduct/behavior; Special academic achievements; Extracurricular activities; Leadership experience; Sportsmanship/athletics; Artistic expression

III. Service to Community: Participation as a volunteer; Participation in organizations (Scouting, etc.);

Participation in summer/part-time employment; Participation in local arts groups; Participation in civic groups.

**Beverly S. Parrish, Jr.
Young Christian’s Award Recipients**

1957	Ann Kearfott	2000	Megan Selman
1958	Duke Sutton	2001	Michael Gardner
1959	Benjamin Gardner	2002	Sarah Louise Lewis
1960	John Swezey		Tarleton Walmsley
1961	Suzanne West	2003	Jennifer Selman
1965	Susan Adams	2004	Page Wesley Cargill
	Joseph Kearfott	2005	Caroline Cain
1967	Paige Bishop		Banks Cargill
1968	May McCutcheon	2006	Sarah Beth Keyser
1969	Laura Hairston		Eliza Walmsley
1970	Sue Stiff	2009	James Hoy
	Bill Adams		Adrienne Joyce
1972	Jean Hairston	2010	Zachary Keyser
1973	Conrad Jones		Sallie Seiy
	Allyn Wright	2011	Lucy Hooper
1974	Nina McAdams	2012	James Coleman
1975	John Adams		Rebecca Moore
	Elizabeth Richardson	2013	McCay Ullstein
1976	Koy Edmiston		Lori Yeaman
1977	Kelly Jones	2015	Sophia Odachowski
	Clyde Toms	2016	Violet Mazurek
1978	Pete Scouras	2017	Anne Parker Coleman

1979	Kathy Bondurant	2017	Campbell Grace Pitzer
	Louise Simmons	2018	Benjamin Campbell Gardner
1982	Markley Shelton	2019	Macy Suzanne Wagoner
1984	Lewis Pitzer		Anneleise Suzanne Williams
1987	Russel Gardner	2020	Ann Mason Smith
1988	Rives Coleman		Landon Stone Wagoner
	Graham Gardner		Aurora Beth Wolchko
1989	Martin Gardner		Alayna Gayle Williams
1991	John Gardner	2021	William Rhett Gardner
1992	Claudia Covert		Hadden Anne Probst
	Jason Farrar	2022	Emily Diane Williams
1993	Sarah Gautsch	2023	Claire Warner Coleman
1995	Andrew Rhett		Catherine deRosset Maxwell
1996	Melissa Edmonston		
1997	J. Bryan Van Name		
1998	John Cargill		
	Thomas Gardner		
1999	John W. Selman, Jr.		

Loaves & Fishes – May 29, 2024

All members of the community are invited to this free meal in our Undercroft from **5:00-6:00 p.m.** Spread the Word!

Andy and Tara Williams plan the meals, and the food is delicious! **We need volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up. Volunteers are also needed to send desserts, fruit, and individually wrapped non-perishable snack items. Please sign up on the following link [*****Loaves & Fishes has lost the donations from the Lutheran Church which included such items as individually wrapped snacks, hygiene items \(toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant\), and household items \(dish and laundry detergent - small bottles\), and is asking for your donations of these items for the L&F attendees.**](http://Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia (christchurchmvl.org) to help or to bring something. Donations of either may be brought to the Office or Undercroft in the days leading up to each meal. We are serving dine-in only, with leftovers distributed as takeout only at the end of the meal.</p>
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Thank you for your support! Andy & Tara Williams and the L&F Team

Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for May thru June: canned beans 15 oz. (any kind). For May: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapped), 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.

Prayer List

Every week during the Prayers of the People, we pray for the sick, injured, and those otherwise in need of our prayers; included is the list of (first) names of members of Christ Church for whom prayers have been requested and folks for whom members have requested prayers. To clear up confusion and provide more information for those who pray for the list during their daily prayers, we will begin including the annotated prayer list in our

Friday email (along with the bulletin and announcements). When you send a prayer request to Deborah or Fr. John, please let us know how much or little you would like shared with the congregation.

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

Prayer List

Sue (Rosser)

Julia (Hall)

Betty (Budde) - continuing treatment for multiple myeloma

Nathan (Jane Thomasson's nephew)

Tom (Howland)

Linda (Isley)

Betsy (Smith)

Steve (requested by David Cole)

Mary Ruth (Reynolds)

Morgan (Holland) and their children (Mary Beth, Mark, Carrie) and families

Thomas (son of Lynn and Phil Gardner)

Dorothy (Deborah Scearce's mother) – recovering from a broken hip

Nancy

Trippi (Penn) – recovering from knee replacement

Mark and Tina Gauldin

Merrill

David (Cole) – recovering from back surgery

Pat (a friend of Natalie Coleman)