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MAY 2022

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

I want to open this newsletter by expressing my gratitude to all those who helped with Holy Week this year: the altar guild and flower guild, Deborah (in her capacity as bulletin-producer extraordinaire), the choir (and Lynn and Raul), the ushers, readers, chalice-bearers, acolytes, tech crew, and everyone who attended worship on Palm Sunday, Easter, or anytime in between. Nine services in eight days is a lot, especially for a not-huge church in a not-huge town; I am grateful for the many people whose preparations made all that worship possible, whose efforts made sure I didn't have to try to do everything in those services, and whose attendance made our endeavors worthwhile.

Thank you,  
John

### Healing Service

In the return of another pattern from our pre-Covid life, during the 10:30 service on May 1, Fr. John will offer laying on of hands and anointing with oil for the purpose of healing. This brief addition to our worship is an opportunity for us to pray specifically for the healing of bodies, minds, and/or spirits, not just our own but those of our loved ones.

### Return of the Common Cup

In compliance with the direction of our Bishop, beginning on May 1, congregants will have the option to sip from a chalice. One of the two chalice-bearers will offer the shared chalice to anyone who chooses not to take an individual cup from one of the side tables, while the other chalice-bearer will continue to pour wine from a cruet into the individual cups of those who prefer to continue receiving as we have been. Note that the common cup is offered for sipping only, not intinction (dipping), because of the risk of fingers entering the wine.

### End of Schoolyear Celebration

May 22 will be Christ Church's End of Schoolyear Celebration, with a Parish Picnic following the 10:30 service.

### Summer Schedule

Beginning on Pentecost (June 5), our Sunday morning service will move from 10:30 to 10:00 for the summer (with August 28 as the last 10:00 service). Through the summer, we will enjoy fellowship time, featuring lemonade, after the service.

## **Baptism**

If you are interested in being baptized (or having your child baptized) into the body of Christ, please contact Fr. John for further discussion. Pentecost (June 5) is a particularly appropriate Sunday for baptism. Please contact Fr. John by **May 10** if you would like to be baptized on Pentecost.

## **Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation**

Confirmation is a mature public affirmation of faith before the Bishop made by those who were previously baptized, reception is when the Bishop formally receives a Christian who was confirmed in another tradition into the Episcopal Church, and reaffirmation of baptismal vows is an option for those who were previously confirmed or received but desire to publicly reaffirm their baptismal covenant (most often after a period of prayerful discernment following an extended hiatus from active involvement in a church community). If you are thinking about being confirmed, being received, or reaffirming your baptismal vows when the Bishop visits in the Fall (date TBD), please contact Fr. John as confirmation classes will be starting soon. If you have previously served as a mentor to someone being confirmed and are interested in doing so again, please also contact Fr. John.

## **Wednesday Eucharists**

At Noon on Wednesdays, Eucharist is offered in the Chapel. The service is entirely spoken and includes a homily on the saint of the day. This is a good opportunity to worship for those who have conflicts or difficulties on Sunday mornings, those who would prefer to enter the building when there are fewer people present, those who want to receive communion and go home in under forty minutes, and those who wish to worship with the community more often than every Sunday.

## **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 Daily Grind, and Wednesday afternoons, 2:30 - 4:00 at his office in the Parish House. He is also happy to schedule specific meetings as he strives to get to know the people of Christ Church better, and encourages you to email, text, or call him ([johndavidadams85@gmail.com](mailto: johndavidadams85@gmail.com) and 571-232-1294) if you are sick, having surgery, otherwise in need of prayer, or just want to visit.

## **Ushers**

If anyone is interested in becoming an usher, please contact Ben Beeler at 276-732-9771 or via email at [benbeeler@comcast.net](mailto: benbeeler@comcast.net) or the Church office. There will be a meeting in the undercroft after the 10:30 service on May 1st for new ushers and any ushers wishing a refresher on ushering.

## **Parish Life**

Volunteers are needed to serve on the Parish Life Committee. ALL are welcome! Please contact Cece Johnson at 276-340-8999 or via email at [cecerjohnson@gmail.com](mailto: cecerjohnson@gmail.com) to sign up or if you need additional information. There will have a meeting soon to welcome your ideas and suggestions.

## **Pictures Wanted**

As part of our effort to keep our website up-to-date, we are seeking pictures of recent church events. You are invited to share your pictures, if you are willing to do so, with Deborah ([christchurchmvl@gmail.com](mailto: christchurchmvl@gmail.com)).