



321 E. Church Street  
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www.christchurchmvl.org



November 2022

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

Entering this season of gratitude in my first year as your Rector, I just want to give thanks:

- To Dan, the Search Committee, last year's Vestry, and everyone else involved in the discernment process that brought me to Martinsville and this wonderful parish community.
- To Lynn, Raul, Will, and the Choir for your consistently beautiful music and for reminding me how pleasant it is not to be both Rector and Music Department.
- To Deborah, Hank, and all those who welcomed me into this organization while making sure the administrative work of the church does not depend entirely on me.
- To Andy, Mark, and everyone else who maintains our lovely buildings and grounds, often fixing problems before I am even aware of them.
- To David, Mychal Joseph, and everyone who was and is committed to feeding those in need every month without needing constant reminders of why this is an important Christian ministry.
- To the Altar Guild, lectors, chalice-bearers, acolytes, ushers, and others who, week in and week out, cheerfully demonstrate that the worship of the church is the work of the whole community.
- To those who give of their treasure in both regular pledges and special donations to keep the people, property, and ministry of this church thriving.
- To everyone who faithfully attends services, study groups, meetings, outreach projects, fellowship events, or anything else, giving their time in addition to their talents and treasure.

Thank you all for being such a delightful group of people, and I hope that you too consider Christ Church a reason to give thanks in this season.

- Fr. John

### **Parish House Update**

The exterior work on the Parish House that was originally announced this summer has been completed: new gutters have been installed, the rotten wood has been replaced, and a fresh coat of paint is making the outside of the building look fresh just in time for the Oyster Roast. The Vestry has approved a \$52,000 bid to replace the roof and thereby (hopefully) prevent any further major leaks like the one discovered on Labor Day. To this point, we have received the \$26,000 in gifts or pledges toward the Parish House work that we began asking for in August, and over the next few months we will be looking to raise another \$25-30,000 to completely pay for the roof. Further details about that fundraising effort will be announced later in November, but any gifts in the meantime would be received gladly.

## **Kings Grant Eucharists**

Covid permitting, Fr. John will continue celebrating Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant on the first Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm. The next services will be on **November 3** and **December 1**.

## **Daylight Saving Time Ends**

**Daylight Saving Time ends on November 6.** Please remember to turn your clocks back an hour (although if you forget and come at 9:30, you would be more than welcome to join us in the Parish House as we study the Book of the Prophet Isaiah).

## **Healing Service**

As we pray the Litany of Healing and offer laying on of hands and anointing with oil at the altar rail on **November 6**, a reminder that coming forward to receive special healing prayers is not necessarily a sign that one is sick or hurt. Being touched by other hands as someone else prays for you is sometimes the desired medicine for troubles unrelated to physical health. There is a further tradition of praying for healing by proxy: when someone who is present on a Sunday is praying particularly for someone who is absent, it is appropriate to lay hands on and anoint with oil the one who is present while both parties pray for the one who is absent.

## **Monday Study Group**

After taking Halloween off, on **November 7** the Monday Study Group will begin a new series, reading and discussing *Reaching Out* by Henri Nouwen. We begin at 6:30 pm in the Parish House with a light supper of soup and bread followed by conversation from 7:00 until 8:00 or 8:30. All are welcome; if you plan to join us, please let the Office know ahead of time so we can set a place for you.

## **Wednesday Eucharists**

Our Wednesday services now include cookies! At Noon on Wednesdays, Eucharist is offered in the Chapel (accessed by the glass doors at the back of the church building). The service is entirely spoken and includes a homily on the saint of the day, with fresh-baked cookies available after; please let the Gallops or the Buddes know if you would like to be involved in the baking. 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.

## **Bake Sale & Silent Auction**

We need volunteers to help bake brownies, bars, cakes, and pies. Also volunteers to make soups, casseroles, and sauces. Please sign up under volunteers on our website and let us know what you will be bringing and the quantity. **\*\*\*Please list the quantity you are donating on the email line of the sign up.\*\*\*** Brownies and bars will need to be individually packaged in servings of six (6). Generous portions are appreciated (2x2). Cakes, pies, soups, casseroles, and sauces will need to be in/on serving pieces which will not need to be returned to the creator. We will set up drop off for Thursday and Friday, November 3-4. Details to follow!

For the Silent Auction, we will have furniture and a beach house get away along with a few other ideas and items in the works! **If you have any large ticket items that you want to donate, please contact Nancy Spilman at 276-732-6156.** Thank you for your support and efforts to make this annual tradition such a great success!

## **Public Theology - November 9**

Public Theology meets on Wednesday, November 9, at Mountain Valley Brewing (4220 Mountain Valley Rd, Axton). Pastor Daniel will lead us in a fire-centered spiritual activity and discussion. In lieu of the usual pizza, this month will be a **potluck**; as we approach Thanksgiving, we encourage you to bring a dish to share for which you are thankful but which you do not expect to eat on Thanksgiving. We begin with socializing and food around 6:00, with the discussion going from 7:00 to 8:00.

### **Angel Tree Volunteers Needed**

As Christmas approaches, Christ Church has been in the habit of giving presents to children with parents in prison through the Prison Angel Tree program. Right now, we find ourselves unexpectedly in need of at least a couple volunteers to organize our Angel Tree by contacting caregivers, preparing the angels and the tree, checking in presents, and planning the distribution. If you, individually or as part of a team, are willing and able to take on this ministry this year, please talk to Fr. John or Deborah by November 7. The youth are also asked to volunteer to help wrap the gifts and serve as hosts for the party as we have done in the past. The party date TBD.

### **Bringing Life to Death - Diocesan Zoom Series**

At 7:00 pm on **November 7 and 14**, the Diocese is offering a Zoom series, led by an Episcopal priest and an end-of-life coach, about practicalities that can help us, and our loved ones prepare for the end of our earthly lives. Registration is at <https://dioswva.wufoo.com/forms/zfblwbu1tjbfq3/>

### **Diocesan Fall Youth Event**

The Diocesan Fall Youth Event will be **November 12-13 at Camp Bethel** in Fincastle; 6th-12th graders are invited to "Expect the Unexpected" at this overnight incorporating outdoor fun, fellowship, and worship. Registration is at <https://dioswva.wufoo.com/forms/z1emvfw0jbvufa/> and is due by November 1.

### **2023 Pledges**

Hopefully, you have received a pledge card in the mail and are prayerfully considering your pledge for 2023; if you have not received one, please pick one up in the narthex or ask the office for one. We will gladly accept your pledge whenever you are ready, but we would very much appreciate them on or before November 13, so we have the best information possible before constructing the 2023 budget. During the 10:30 service that day, we will offer a special prayer of thanksgiving for the pledges.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be after the 10:30 service on **November 13**. We will open by conducting the business of the church (including electing new members of the Vestry, reviewing the finances, and receiving other reports) before proceeding to lunch and a more general discussion of the present and future of Christ Church. Fried chicken and beverages will be provided (please let us know you're coming at <https://christchurchmvl.org/volunteering.cfm?ID=265> so we have enough chicken); please bring a salad, side, or dessert to share (sign up at <https://christchurchmvl.org/volunteering.cfm?ID=314>).

### **Thanksgiving Eucharist**

On **Monday, November 21, at 5:30 pm**, we will be celebrating Holy Eucharist in the church. This is an opportunity for us to gather as a community and include giving thanks to God as part of our Thanksgiving festivities that week. After the service, all who attend are invited to join our Monday Study Group for soup and bread in the Undercroft.

### **Sundays in Advent**

As we start the new Church year and prepare for the annual celebration of our Lord's birth at Christmas, our Sunday worship services will look a little different for the four Sundays of Advent. To facilitate our repentance, we will celebrate the Eucharist according to Rite I (the thee/thou language familiar from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer), and to help us experience the mystical hope of the season, we will chant the Sursum Corda, Proper Preface, and Great Amen (the opening and closing parts of the Eucharistic Prayer).

### **Loaves & Fishes**

Loaves and Fishes is returning to the church undercroft. Meals will be served in the undercroft on the last Wednesday of each month beginning at 5:00pm - 5:45pm. For folks who would prefer to take their meals home with them, carry out boxes are available. There are limited parking spaces behind the church for people with mobility issues.

### **Evening Prayer for World AIDS Day**

December 1 is World AIDS Day, an annual opportunity to bring awareness to the ongoing epidemic of HIV/AIDS, to fight the stigma of the disease by expressing solidarity with and support for those affected, to promote research and prevention, and to remember those who have died. Christ Church will mark World AIDS Day with a service of Evening Prayer at 5:30 on **December 1**, and all are welcome.

### **Christmas Services**

It is not too early to mark Christ Church's Christmas services on your calendar. We will be celebrating our festive Holy Eucharist (including singing Silent Night by candlelight) at **5:30 pm** on **Saturday, December 24**, along with a smaller service (featuring carols led by Will Zimmer) at **10:30 am** on **Sunday, December 25**.

**Grace Network** - Our Grace Network Assignments for **November - December: Pork & Beans 15 oz.** For the month of November: **bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, and toothbrush (individually wrapped)**. 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.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:johndavidadams85@gmail.com) and 571-232-1294) if you are sick, having surgery, otherwise in need of prayer, or just want to visit.

### **Monthly Prayer List**

**Please pray for** *Mary Ruth, Cindy, Mark, Lauren, Sue, Noah, Julia, Sanddii, Avenell, Linda, Irene, Dorothy, Kristin, Ruby and Pat (Frankie's mom).*

### **All Saints Necrology**

**November 1, 2021 thru October 31, 2022**

**Nadine Barrow, Martha Edmiston, Robert Bowles, Campbell Pitzer, Nancy Bondurant**