



321 E. Church Street  
Martinsville, VA 24112  
276-632-2896  
www.christchurchmvl.org



October 2022

October is  
Pastor  
Appreciation  
Month

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

Ever since Jesus told his followers to care for the sick, healing has been part of Christian ministry; in the contemporary church, while specially-trained professionals practice medical healing, our healing ministry consists primarily of praying for those who are afflicted, trusting that God's love can heal where human efforts fail. In the Episcopal Church, we sometimes make these prayers physical by laying hands on the afflicted and anointing them with oil, and from before my tenure as your Rector, Christ Church has on occasion offered such prayers in conjunction with our corporate services of Holy Eucharist.

Since May, when we resumed healing on the first Sunday of the month, we have deliberately made this a public service of healing: using a litany of healing as the prayers of the people, we involve the whole congregation in praying for those who are sick or injured in body, mind, or spirit. By incorporating the healing into the service of Holy Eucharist, we remind ourselves that caring for the sick by praying for them, if nothing else, is a duty of all Christians, and that laying on of hands and anointing with oil are part of the ministry of the church and available to all.

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.

All of this is to invite you, on the first Sunday of each month, to join in praying the litany of healing and to come to the altar rail as you feel called to particularly seek prayers for yourself or for someone you love.

In Christ's love,  
John

### **Chalices on Sundays**

In September, Bishop Mark issued a new directive to the clergy and parishes of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, instructing us to return to our pre-pandemic norms for the distribution of communion. Because our Sunday morning mask-wearing habits indicate that we are generally comfortable worshipping as we did before 2020, we will be eliminating the option to receive the wine in individual cups in compliance with our Bishop's direction.

Beginning on October 9, the wine will be offered only in chalices, one of which will be designated for intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine) so that we are not sipping from the same cup in which people have dipped their fingers.

For those who are concerned, sharing a common cup in church carries a very low risk of disease transmission because of the combination of the antiseptic property of alcohol, the oligodynamic effect (the biocidal property by which contact with metals kills microbial life) of silver, and the physical wiping of the interior and exterior lips of the chalice with clean linen after each sip. Intincting carries a higher risk (more akin to shaking hands during the peace) because any bacterial or viral transmissions that occur when fingers touch the wine won't be

mitigated by the silver or linen. The Bishop also reminds us that choosing not to receive the wine at all is perfectly valid because receiving the bread alone is still full communion.

### **Celebration of New Ministry – Thank You!**

I (Fr. John) want to thank those who made our September 21 celebration of new ministry such a special evening, especially given the relatively short time we had to prepare. Thank you to the Altar Guild for preparing everything and the Choir for singing beautifully. Thank you to the ushers, acolytes, readers, and everyone else who had a part in the service, whether that part was the same as your normal Sunday duties, something unique to the occasion, or a combination of both. Thank you to those who set up for and cleaned up after the lovely reception. And thank you to everyone who contributed your prayers and presence on a weekday evening to celebrate that we are doing Christ's work together.

### **King's Grant Eucharist – October 6**

Covid permitting, Fr. John will celebrate Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at King's Grant at 1:30 pm on Thursday, October 6.

### **Public Theology – October 12**

Public Theology meets on Wednesday, October 12, at Mountain Valley Brewing (4220 Mountain Valley Rd, Axton). In honor of the Feast of St. Francis (on October 4), Pastor Daniel and Fr. John will be considering the question "Do all dogs go to heaven?", leading a discussion of how we understand heaven and how non-human creation, and our pets specifically, might fit therein. Dogs (and other pets) are welcome to join, and at the conclusion of the conversation we will be offering pet blessings for any who desire them. We begin with socializing and a light dinner around 6:00, with the discussion going from 7:00 to 8:00.

### **Rev. Roy Pollina, Book Signing – October 12**

Rev. Roy Pollina, former rector of CEC, is having a book signing for his book "*Justified By Her Children: Deeds of Courage Confronting a Tradition of Racism*". In his new book Fr. Pollina recounts the sad historical record of white religious denominations that too often looked upon the struggle for integration and racial equality as a "sociological problem" that should never have become an "unfortunate controversy" for the church. The book signing will be held on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at The Church of the Epiphany, 115 Jefferson Avenue, Danville, VA.

### **Bishop's Visit – October 23**

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas, Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, will be visiting Christ Church on Sunday, October 23. He will be confirming or receiving seven new members of Christ Church at the 10:30 service, and we will also be joined by Canon Jenni Faires and the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team. A reception will follow in the Parish House. Please sign up at the following link: [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmvl.org\)](https://christchurchmvl.org) under 'Volunteers' to bring something. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this celebration.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church will be November 13 after the 10:30 service, with lunch following. At the meeting and over lunch, we will elect new members of the Vestry, receive reports, and discuss the present and future of the parish.

### **Parish House Work Update**

As you may have noticed, work has begun replacing the wood rot and gutters on the exterior of the Parish House, with painting to follow. In the wake of a significant interior leak on Labor Day and the subsequent discovery that the roof shingles were overdue for replacement, our intrepid Junior Warden, Andy Williams, is collecting bids for the roof work and the Vestry has voted to delay the previously announced replacement of the lift to next year after the roof is repaired. \$19,200 has already been received or pledged toward the Parish House work, and additional gifts would be greatly appreciated.

## 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.

## SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for The Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2022, at 6:00 pm. **Please sign up at this link** [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmvl.org\)](http://christchurchmvl.org) **to make your reservation. All reservations and money are due by Friday, October 21. No tickets will be sold at the door.**

**Tickets for the 50/50 raffle are available NOW from Vestry members (listed below) and the Church office. The cost is \$10 per ticket or \$100 per book, with maximum winnings of \$2,500.**

## 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 at the following link: [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmvl.org\)](http://christchurchmvl.org) 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!

Thank you for your support and efforts to make this annual tradition such a great success!

## Pop-up Tents and Heaters Needed

We are in need of pop-up tents and standing outside propane heaters for our Oyster Roast on Friday, November 4. Please contact Page Beeler at 276-732-4000 or [pagebeeler@comcast.net](mailto:pagebeeler@comcast.net) if you have any that we can borrow.

Christ Episcopal Church Invites You To

## The Dan Prince & Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast

Friday, November 4  
6:00 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Church Parish House  
311 East Church Street  
Martinsville, VA 24112

Oyster Roast | Buffet Dinner | Open Bar | Music  
50/50 Raffle with \$2,500 maximum winning  
Bake Sale | Large-Item Silent Auction

\$50 per person

Call Church Office (276-632-2896) to Purchase Tickets  
All Reservations and Payment Due by October 21 (cash or check only)  
**ADVANCED PAYMENT REQUIRED – NO TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR**

Raffle tickets may be purchased from Vestry members or through the church office.

Outside Rain or Shine – Casual Dress

## **Grace Network**

Our Grace Network Assignments for **October - December: Pork & Beans 15 oz.** For the month of October: **toilet paper, feminine products, and deodorant.** 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.

### **Most Holy Times**

Our words are powerful, yet never complete.  
To express the complexity of life's events.  
We struggle in times of deep emotion;  
Seeking the presence of love's devotion  
In darkest hours.

Grief and Loss seem overwhelming;  
Yet, within our losses  
We are found by loving voices,  
Arms reaching out, and  
Hearts rejoicing.

We are found  
By love divine  
To guide us through  
Most holy times.

Mary Ruth Reynolds  
Summer, 2017