



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

October 2025



We are a community of faith striving to love God fully and our neighbors as ourselves.

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

As I write this, it's been roughly a year since we completed our deliberate discernment conversations among the parish, and six months since the Vestry first met with Jenni Faires, the Diocesan Canon for Evangelism and Church Vitality (which, along with offering more fellowship opportunities, were the two next steps we identified out of the discernment process). Canon Jenni named increasing the church's visibility (in several senses of the word) as our goal: she affirmed our desire for more fellowship events (such as September's fun and well-attended Trivia Night) and encouraged us to take more opportunities to join the wider community. She also noted that we might want to improve our physical visibility (perhaps by adding or relocating signs, which is part of our landscaping project) and digital visibility (overhauling the website and becoming more active on social media).

The Vestry continues to wrestle with these things; our second meeting with Canon Jenni is scheduled for later this month, and we are still looking for more events to offer and more ways to be visible in the community without burning out our small but faithful corps of organizers and volunteers or neglecting our core activities (Sunday worship, Loaves & Fishes, Oyster Roast). We do have one particular request right now: if on the one hand you love Christ Church, and on the other hand you are active on Facebook, Instagram, or another social media platform on which you think Christ Church should be engaged, please identify yourself to a member of the Vestry or me, because we are in need of people who care about both this church and social media to enliven our presence online.

- Fr. John

Raffle Tickets ARE ON SALE NOW!

Tickets for the 50/50 raffle are on sale from your Vestry members (Rives Coleman, Susan Critz, Butch Hamlet, Michael Hodges, LaRue Powers, Pat Russell, Bob Weatherall, Will Zimmer, and Page Beeler) and the church office (which we have them **NOW**). The cost is \$10.00 per ticket or \$100.00 per book, with the maximum winnings of \$2,500.

The Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast

Mark your calendar, invite friends, and make reservations for **Friday, November 7th** for the Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast at Christ Episcopal Church! The fun begins at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person for this all-inclusive event. Make your reservation by signing up on the following link [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) or calling the church office at 276-632-2896. Take advantage of the convenient credit or PayPal options (small fee applies). Check or cash may also be dropped off or mailed to the CEC office (311 E. Church St., Martinsville, VA 24112). Please sign up as soon as possible so the correct amounts of food can be purchased and prepared well in advance of the event. **The deadline for reservations and payments is Monday, October 27th. No money will be accepted at the door.** For any questions, contact Page Beeler via email at pagebeeler@comcast.net or 276-732-4000.

WE NEED YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION

The 2025 Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast committee has met, and things are in high gear. However, **we need your suggestions for interesting, unique, amazing, and appealing silent auction items.** We've had furniture, parties, house rentals, jewelry, gift certificates, and more. We want *out-of-the-box* suggestions. If you make the suggestion, please let us know if you can contact someone to make it a reality.

Your help with making this year's silent auction a huge success will be greatly appreciated. **Please let the Auction Chairs, Debbie Lewis, Nancy Spilman, Susan Smith, and Rita Hodges know your suggestions.**

Baked Goods Needed for Sale at the Oyster Roast

Sign up on the following link [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) to donate baked goods, casseroles, soups, sauces, breads, etc. **FOR SALE AT THE OYSTER ROAST.**

Brownies, bars, and cookies need to be individually packaged in servings of six (6). Generous portions are appreciated (2x2). If your item(s) has nuts, please specify that on the packaging.

We will set up drop off for Thursday and Friday, November 6 and 7 at the Parish House between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Lewis, Nancy Spilman, Susan Smith, OR Rita Hodges. *Thank you for participating in making the 2025 Oyster Roast a huge success.*

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 Sunday mornings or who want an additional gathering for corporate prayer during the week. Barring the unexpected, we will meet every Wednesday in October.

Kings Grant Eucharist

Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant at 1:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month. The next services will be **October 2** and November 6.

No Booth at Oktoberfest

Due to a general lack of interest, Christ Church will not have a booth at Uptown Oktoberfest.

Bible Studies

Our regular Bible studies meet on Sunday mornings (9:30 – 10:10ish, currently making our way through Paul's First Letter to the Church in Corinth) and Monday evenings (7:00 – 8:00, currently reading the Book of Esther). All are welcome at any time and no reading in advance is required; both studies meet in the Parish House (if the stairs present a challenge, let Fr. John know, and he will have the lift ready).

Blessing of the Animals – October 5

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis, you are invited to bring your dogs, cats, and any other animals for a Blessing of the Animals on **October 5 at 3:00 pm.** In this short service, we thank God for the whole of creation and ask God's blessing on these animals we particularly love as part of our families. We will meet in the Gathering Place (the benches between the Parish House parking and Letcher Ct behind the church); in the event of rain, blessings will be offered in the Undercroft.

Church History Class

Our monthly Church History class will continue studying the Reformation on **October 8** at 10:30 in the Undercroft. This month, we will finish our look at Queen Mary, start the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and consider the Catholic response to the Reformation (especially the Council of Trent). All are welcome to join at any time, and no homework is required.

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **October 8** in the dining room of Forest Park Country Club (to the left after coming through the front clubhouse entrance at 1821 Mulberry Rd). We begin gathering around 6:00 pm; food (sandwiches, burgers, wings, etc.) is available to purchase from the Clubhouse Grill. From 7:00 to 8:00 pm, we will discuss the place of fear in the Christian life, considering Scripture's repeated admonitions to 'not be afraid' and to 'fear the Lord.'

Women's Club Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, October 14 at 5:30 in the Parish House**. Please come with ideas of any programs we might want to consider or any outreach opportunities we might wish to participate in. Most importantly, let's enjoy some snacks and some wonderful fellowship!

Please consider bringing items to support Grace Network. This month they are requesting oatmeal (canisters or individual packets), toilet paper, feminine products, deodorant, and other hygiene items (toothbrushes should be individually wrapped). Please sign up on the following link if you are attending [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#). We hope to see you there!

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) is on **October 29**, with dinner being served **from 5:00 to 6:00**. Even if you are not helping with cooking, serving, cleaning, or donating fruit or dessert, church members are encouraged to come and sit down for a meal with our neighbors in the community. Sign up at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) to volunteer, be a table host, or to bring something. Additional needed items include individually wrapped snacks, hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant), household items (dish and laundry detergent - small bottles) to be handed out to the L&F attendees.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church will take place **after the 10:30 service on November 16**. Lunch will be provided. In addition to discussing the campaign and the work that has been done on the church, the meetings the Vestry has had with Diocesan Canon for Evangelism Jenni Faires, and current state of finances, we will elect four members to three-year terms on the Vestry. If you are interested in serving on Vestry, please talk to one of our outgoing members (Natalie Coleman, Pat Bondurant Russell, and Will Zimmer).

A Collect for the Election of Our Bishop

Creator God, whose Church lives beyond the walls of buildings and the boundaries of cities, we ask that you guide our work as the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia moves together through a transition of leadership. We pray for patience in dialogue and wisdom in discernment, that the richness of our diverse voices, from farmland to small town, mountain to downtown, will be valued and heard. We pray for the person who will be elected as our next Bishop, for all those who are in discernment, and for the people of this diocese, so that the work of spreading God's love in southwestern Virginia and beyond will grow and flourish in the years to come. In the name of your incarnate son we pray. Amen.

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

Comfort and heal **Sue (Rosser), Julia (Hall), Betsy (Smith), Jennifer, Donald, Mallory, Harold, Doug, Jim, Will (Zimmer), Kim, Leon, and Randy**, 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.

Food Lion Grocery Cards for Sale

Trippi Penn and the Church office have Food Lion grocery cards for sale in \$100 and \$200 increments. Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming up. These cards make wonderful gifts. We also have sleeves for the cards if you want to give them as a gift.

Church Repair Work

The work of repairing the church building (funded by your generous gifts to the 2025 campaign) continued through September. Among the many projects were replacing rotting wood along the roofline and repainting windows (necessitating climbing ladders to impressive heights, as pictured), replacing the sacristy floor, and addressing a couple spots of water damage in the Undercroft.



October Server Schedule

10:30AM	October 5 The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	October 12 The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	October 19 The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	October 26 The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Lector Prayers	Susan Critz	Kelly Cain	Will Zimmer	Pete Scouras
Chalist	Jay Dickens Dawn Stone	Bob Bushnell Hank Long	Rives Coleman John Swezey	Natalie Coleman Tom Webster
Acolyte	Pete Scouras			
Ushers	Bob Weatherall Ben Beeler	Gus Barber Pete Scouras	Hank Long Dan Cahill	Rives Hodges Michael Hodges
Camera Operator	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams
Counters	Michael Hodges LaRue Powers	Michael Hodges LaRue Powers	Michael Hodges LaRue Powers	Michael Hodges LaRue Powers
Nursery Attendants	Volunteer Needed	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis

**Altar Guild Team #2 – Valerie Payne, Page Beeler, Frankie Smith, Janice Cain,
Rita Hodges, Michael Hodges, Linda O'Dell, Michelle Probst**

Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for **October thru December: Oatmeal canister or instant packets. For October: toilet paper, feminine products, deodorant, and other hygiene items (toothbrushes need to be individually wrapped).** *As we approach cooler temperatures, there are many families in our community that struggle all the seasons of the year. But your participation in our mission to help is priceless, and we thank you so much for your dedication. (Tracy Hinchcliff, Grace Network Executive Director).* 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.