



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,

In an effort to stave off potentially alarming rumors, I would like to take this opportunity to outline the financial situation that the Vestry is presently addressing. Like all churches (and similar institutions), the balance of the bank account for our general operations ebbs and flows based on fluctuations in giving and spending (for example, we know that our weekly giving is generally low through the summer months and very high around Easter, the Oyster Roast, and Christmas). When I arrived in 2022, the balance was quite large (around \$100,000) and the Vestry intended to draw it down over several years of deficit budgets (hoping that, before the surplus was expended, giving would increase such that we could balance the budget without slashing expenses).

Unfortunately, the gaps between budget and actual resulted in spending that surplus faster than anticipated, a trend exacerbated this year when we voted to replace two broken air handlers (totaling around \$20,000) immediately using that money rather than leaving the church sanctuary or Boys and Girls Club offices without air conditioning while we raised funds. Coupled with the summer ebb in giving, our account has briefly dipped to the point where we are concerned about our cash flow (we prefer to end each week with a balance above \$10,000 because some weeks we expend more than that on payroll and other bills while bringing in less than \$2,000).

To address the immediate cash flow issue, the Vestry transferred money from our Memorial Fund (in which unrestricted gifts in memory of those who have died are kept and over which the Vestry ultimately has authority) to cover payroll, pension bills, and a repair without which the sanctuary wouldn't have heat. At our meetings over the next few months, we will be considering broader solutions to balance the 2025 budget, and potentially rebuild the reserve in the account, to prevent future cash flow concerns.

Contrary to rumor, we have not bounced a check or missed a payment and, between the transfer and the expected increase in Fall giving, are in no immediate risk of doing so. However, I invite your prayers for the Vestry in the coming months as we balance two discussions: the next steps of the discernment process, reflecting on the conversations we have had and listening for the Spirit's guidance, and, informed by that discernment, make potentially difficult choices about our finances.

- Fr. John

A prayer for Christ Church in discernment

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family of Christ Church. Send your Holy Spirit to speak through us, that we may discern your will and be the community of faith you call us to be, striving to love you fully and our neighbors as ourselves. Guide our conversations, grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

History of the Early Church

On **Wednesday, September 4 at 10:30 am in the Undercroft** (attendees are welcome and encouraged to stick around for Eucharist in the Chapel at Noon), our topic will be Freedom of the Presbyter, reflecting on the early Church's understanding of authority and the rise of a structured hierarchy. There is no assigned 'homework,' but if you are interested in reflecting ahead of time, contact Fr. John for a handout with excerpts from Clement, Ignatius, and Pliny the Younger.

Men's Club

The Men's Club will meet on **Wednesday, September 4 in the Undercroft**: social time starts at 5:30 pm, dinner is served at 6:15, and the program starts at 6:45. This month, John Swezey and Trippi Penn will speak about the evolving history of our church building. Please RSVP on the church website at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmyl.org\)](http://ChristEpiscopalChurch-Martinsville,Virginia(christchurchmyl.org)) under volunteers **by September 2** to ensure we have enough food. Mark your calendars for October 2, when all are invited to Trivia Night presented by the Men's Club, with Fr. John offering a game of questions with an American theme.

Kings Grant Eucharist

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 **September 5 and October 3**.

Choir

Choir rehearsals resume on Thursdays beginning **September 5 at 7:00 pm** in the Choir Room (enter via the glass doors to the Undercroft at the rear of the Church). No prior experience is necessary, and any who enjoy 'making a joyful noise unto the Lord' are invited to join.

Monday Bible Study

Following a summer hiatus, the Monday night Bible study resumes our discussion of the Gospel of Luke on **September 9**, picking up at Luke 8:22 with Jesus stilling a storm and casting out a legion of demons. We meet from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in the Parish House, and all are welcome.

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **Wednesday, September 11**, 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.

Trustees

Virginia law is unusual insofar as, instead of churches holding real estate in their own name, they have trustees appointed by court order. These are limited purpose agents of the Vestry, which remains the fiduciary authority (in trust for the Diocese), but the trustees must sign any real estate transactions when authorized by the Vestry and/or Diocese. For Christ Church in recent years, the trustees' only responsibility has been to sign the lease with Boys & Girls Club after it has been approved by the Vestry. The Diocese is trying to shift churches from the older model (under which a trustee, once appointed, served until their death) to five-year terms (to reduce the possibility of scenarios where a trustee moves away without being replaced or continues as a trustee when their long-term health calls into question their fitness as a signatory). In accordance with this, in August the Vestry appointed Rives Coleman, Jay Dickens, and Pete Scouras to serve as trustees through the end of 2029. They replace Hank Long, Trippi Penn, and Beth Sibbick, each of whom has served for at least eight years. We are grateful to them, and to John Swezey for serving as our counsel to file the necessary petition with the court.

Sunday Volunteers

Many folks are involved in making our Sunday morning services happen, and we would gratefully incorporate folks who aren't currently involved but want to be or who want to be involved more. The Choir and Altar Guild would always appreciate more voices and hands, and we could use more Ushers, Chalciers, and Readers to reduce the number of times we have to schedule those who are currently helping with our Sunday worship. If you are interested in serving in any of those capacities, please talk with Fr. John or someone who is currently involved in those ministries. Of particular interest as the number of available teenagers continues to dwindle are Acolytes; adults who are able and willing to bear the cross in procession, handle plates during the offertory, and otherwise help Fr. John during the service are encouraged to contact him.

The Dan Prince and Gene Medley Oyster Roast 2024
Take advantage of the NEW, easy online registration system.
You can pay by cash, check, money order, or credit card

Mark your calendar for the **November 1st** Christ Church Oyster Roast. The night begins at 6:00 p.m. with freshly steamed oysters directly from the eastern shore of VA! The fun continues with a delicious buffet dinner serving BBQ, Brunswick Stew, and all the fixings! The entire night is complemented by an open bar and fabulous live music! Remember the Silent Auction, Bake Sale, and 50/50 Raffle. This is one you do not want to miss!

Make a reservation on our Oyster Roast Sign-Up page at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmvl.org\)](https://www.christchurchmvl.org) or contact the Church office.

Contact Person: Pat Russell at 864-430-4527; patbrussell@yahoo.com.

Ways to Volunteer – Oyster Roast 2024

There are many ways to assist in making the CEC Oyster Roast a success.

- Prepare Food for Meal
- Work a shift the night of the event
- Send items for Bake Sale
- Sell Raffle Tickets
- Monetary Donations
- Set Up/ Clean Up

Baked Goods Sale at the Oyster Roast

Sign up on the following link [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmvl.org\)](https://www.christchurchmvl.org) to donate baked goods items for sale at the oyster roast on the church website.

Raffle Tickets ARE HERE!

Tickets for the 50/50 raffle are on sale from your Vestry members (Ben Beeler, Betty Budde, Bob Bushnell, Natalie Coleman, Jay Dickens, Beverly Lyle, LaRue Powers, Pat Russell, Bob Weatherall, Andy Williams, and Will Zimmer) and the church office. The cost is \$10.00 per ticket or \$100.00 per book, with the maximum winnings of \$2,500.

Giving to the Church - by Mail

You can mail a check or money order to the Church office at:

Christ Episcopal Church
311 East Church Street
Martinsville, Virginia 24112

Give with PayPal, Debit or Credit Card

You may give online, safely and securely, through your PayPal account or with any major credit card.

[Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmvl.org\)](https://www.christchurchmvl.org) on our homepage

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=Z52WJPBKZN96L on PayPal

Loaves & Fishes – September 25, 2024

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

We need volunteers to help prepare, serve, clean up, and to send desserts, fruit, and items listed below. Please sign up on the following link [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmvl.org\)](http://christchurchmvl.org) to help or to bring something. Donations 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.

Additional needed items include individually wrapped snacks, hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant), and household items (dish and laundry detergent - small bottles) to be handed out to the L&F attendees. Thank you for being so supportive! Andy & Tara Williams and the L&F Team.

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 include 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)
Mary Ruth (Reynolds)
Nancy
Mark Gauldin
Patty Ann
Jane (Martin) – recovering from a compression fracture in her back
Morgan (Holland)
Jennifer
Frank

September Server Schedule

10:30AM	September 1 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 8 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 15 The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 22 The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 29 The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Lector Prayers	Jay Dickens	Will Zimmer	Pete Scouras	Ann Gardner	Bob Bushnell
Chalist	Hank Long Dawn Stone	Natalie Coleman Steve Keyser	Bob Bushnell John Swezey	Jay Dickens Hank Long	Beverly Lyle Tom Webster
Acolyte		Baylie Coleman			
Ushers	Kyle Trent Bruce Mazurek Jay Dickens	Bob Weatherall Hank Long Andy Quirk	Rebin Titus Pete Scouras Dan Cahill	Ben Beeler Michael Hodges Rives Coleman	Gus Barber John Swezey Ben Lewis
Camera Operator	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams
Counters	LaRue Powers Will Zimmer	LaRue Powers Will Zimmer	LaRue Powers Will Zimmer	LaRue Powers Will Zimmer	LaRue Powers Will Zimmer
Nursery Attendants	Emily Williams Volunteer Needed	Emily Williams Volunteer Needed	Emily Williams Volunteer Needed	Emily Williams Volunteer Needed	Emily Williams Volunteer Needed