



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,

September begins with exciting news to share regarding our 2025 Campaign. As of August 29, we have received \$127,737.14 on pledges totaling \$219,942.84, exceeding our total goal of \$200,000. That pledge total includes a \$17,000 grant from the Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation Trust (special thanks to Sarah Beth Morrison for writing the grant) for the church work, and \$10,000 from our Toms Bell Tower Fund for repairs and painting on the bell tower. We are grateful to all of you who have given or will give to support these projects, and to Rives Coleman, Jay Dickens, and Butch Hamlet for their efforts in leading this campaign.

Looking at the particular projects, 1) is done, and we now have the cash on hand to finish paying for 2), which is already underway (everyone should notice that the front doors are once again red, and the ushers will be particularly pleased to see the replacement of the exterior lift door). Before the end of the year, we hope to have a plan from a landscape architect (or someone with similar skills) for 3), so that we can put in new plants and signs in the Spring; this work on the grounds will also consider whether and how to replace the path from Letcher to Church St by the southwest corner of the church after the pavers were stolen in early August.

- 1) \$20,000 to rebuild the cash reserve, paying back what we spent on air handlers in 2024 and preventing cash flow problems this summer.
- 2) \$90,000 for work on the church, including replacing rotted wood and painting along the roof and replacing the exterior door to the lift.
- 3) \$30,000 to landscape the campus and replace or add signage.
- 4) \$25,000 to replace two more aging air handlers.
- 5) \$35,000 to save toward the next unexpected or significant building project.

Thank you again for your gifts and pledges, and for your patience as the work continues.

- Fr. John

Raffle Tickets ARE HERE!

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.

Save the Date

The Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast is scheduled for Friday, November 7. Details will follow.

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 to help them through the week. Barring the unexpected, we will meet every Wednesday in September.

Back-to-School Dinner and Trivia Night

Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun in the Undercroft on **September 3**. Following a dinner of burgers and brats beginning at 6:00 pm, Fr. John will offer a game of Trivia with Back-to-School themed questions concluding by 8:00 pm. This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends to experience our loving community. **If you are planning to attend, please sign up so we have a better idea of how much food to prepare.**

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 on **September 4** and October 2.

Choir

St. Christopher's Choir of Christ Church resumes this week, with Thursday evening rehearsals (in the choir room, accessed via the glass doors into the Undercroft) beginning **September 4 at 7:00 pm**. On Sunday mornings, our choir graciously offers their voices to make a joyful noise unto the Lord not only with anthems during the Offertory but leading us in the hymns, Psalm, and service music throughout the service. All are invited and encouraged to join; no prior experience with choirs is required, only that you delight in worshipping the Lord in song. Talk to our organist/choirmaster Lynn Gardner if you might be interested.

Bible Studies

Our regular Bible studies resume after Labor Day. Beginning **September 7**, our Sunday morning study (9:30 – 10:10ish) will begin reading Paul's two letters to the Corinthians.

Monday Bible Studies

Beginning **September 8**, our Monday evening study (7:00 – 8:00) will consider the books of Ruth and 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).

Church History Class

Our monthly Church History class will continue studying the Reformation on **September 10 at 10:30 am in the Undercroft**. This month, we will introduce the continental Reformer John Calvin and continue the history of the English Reformation under Henry VIII's children.

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **September 10 in the dining room of Forest Park Country Club** (to the left after coming through the front clubhouse entrance at 1821 Mulberry Rd). As usual, we will begin gathering around 6:00 pm; food (sandwiches, burgers, pizzas, etc.) is available to purchase from the Clubhouse Grill. From 7:00 to 8:00 pm, we will continue the discussion of our call as disciples by reflecting on the prophetic vocation of Christians: what does it mean to speak the truth in love (per Ephesians 4:15)?

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) is on **September 24**, 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.

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, Virginia (Huckfeldt), Donald, Mallory, Harold, Doug, Jim, and Will (Zimmer)*, 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.

September Server Schedule

10:30AM	September 7 The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 14 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 21 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 28 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Lector Prayers	Will Zimmer	Pete Scouras	Susan Critz	Hank Long
Chalist	Hank Long John Swezey	Bob Bushnell Tom Webster	Rives Coleman Dawn Stone	Natalie Coleman Tom Webster
Acolyte				
Ushers	Rives Coleman Michael Hodges	John Swezey Ben Lewis	Jay Dickens Kyle Trent	Trippi Penn Pete Scouras
Camera Operator	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams
Counters	Butch Hamlet Natalie Coleman	Butch Hamlet Natalie Coleman	Butch Hamlet Natalie Coleman	Butch Hamlet Natalie Coleman
Nursery Attendants	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis

**Altar Guild Team #1 – Beth Sibbick, Stuart Webster, LaRue Powers, Jane Thomasson,
Beth Cahill, Dan Cahill, Bill Sibbick**

Altar Guild Open Date

We have **November 30 (the First Sunday of Advent)** open date for altar flowers if anyone wants to do a memorial in loving memory of... or in thanksgiving for... someone. It is available on a first come, first served basis. Please note that funerals, weddings, and baptisms take precedence over scheduled memorials. Let the Church office know if you're interested in this date. **Let us know if you want to change the previous Narthex to this Altar flower date.**

Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for **September: Potato Products (mashed, scalloped).** For September: **dish detergent, deodorant, laundry detergent, and hygiene items.** 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.

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.