



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

*I will give
thanks to
the LORD
with my whole
heart; I will
recount all
of your
wonderful
deeds.*

Psalm 9:1



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

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

Following the school calendar and the end of vacation season, September is often a month of new beginnings in church, and this September is no exception. As you look through this newsletter, you will see that we have a lot going on, and that we are leaning into our strengths: worship, fellowship, and education. After dramatically exceeding our hopes for attendance in August, our Third Sunday Supper and Evening Prayer returns on September 20, we look forward to the annual Blessing of the Animals on October 4, and Choir resumes after Labor Day. We will gather for breakfast before the 10:30 service on September 13 and have another Trivia Night coming on October 7. In addition to our ongoing monthly Church History series, our weekly Bible Studies resume mid-month, and we have a Funeral Liturgy Planning Workshop on September 9 for those who want to plan ahead or just consider more deeply what we're doing at a church service shortly after someone's death.

Also, in the department of new beginnings, our first Sunday visit from our new Bishop is now on the calendar for next February. If you are interested in a new beginning by being confirmed or received as a member of Christ Church, specially reaffirming your baptismal vows, or being baptized into the body of Christ, now is the time to let me know (we also have a baptism scheduled for November 1, All Saints Sunday, and if you too would like to be baptized that day, please tell me ASAP). Anticipating the technological new beginning of a redeveloped website (which we hope will go live in November), we are also publicizing our Picture Policy; please let us know in writing if you do not want pictures of you taken at church events on the website, or if you (as a parent) give us permission to post pictures of your child.

Lastly, I want to call attention to our annual Oyster Roast (on November 6 this year). [Ticket sales are now live](#); because space is finite and food must be arranged in advance, I highly encourage you to SIGN UP EARLY, especially if you are planning to bring a large group or know you're prone to procrastinating. Whether this September is a time for resuming your Fall activities or trying something different, I hope you will join us for this month of new beginnings at Christ Church.

- Fr. John

Church History Class – September 2

On **September 2 at 10:30 in the Undercroft**, we will continue our study of the Crusades, discussing the Third and Fourth Crusades. All are welcome to join (and encouraged to stick around for the Noon Eucharist in the Chapel).

Kings Grant Eucharist – September 3

Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant monthly. The next service will be **September 3 at 2:00 pm**. After that, the service will move to the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm on October 13, November 10, and December 8.

The Church office will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day.

Women's Group Meeting – September 8

It's time for our Women's Group to meet again. Please plan to join me on **Tuesday, September 8th at 5:30 in the Parish House**. Water, wine, and soft drinks will be provided. If you can provide a snack item, wonderful; if not, bring yourself. **If you plan to attend, please sign up at Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia or call the church office.** The discussion will be the upcoming events and how the group can help to make the gatherings successful.

Funeral Liturgy Planning Workshop – September 9

On **September 9 at 10:30 am in the Undercroft**, Fr. John will offer a workshop on planning an Episcopal funeral liturgy. Like writing your will or arranging your burial plot, planning your funeral service well in advance of your death is a way you can both express your wishes to your spouse, children, or other heirs and reduce their stress when you do die by making less work for them (and for your priest). This workshop could also be useful if you want to think about future funerals for parents that you might have to plan. All are welcome and encouraged to stick around for the Noon Eucharist in the Chapel.

Public Theology – September 9

Public Theology meets on **September 9 at the Ground Floor** (1 E Church St); food and drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be available from the usual menu. We begin gathering at **6:00 pm**, with the program going from 7:00 to 8:00.

Choir

St. Christopher's Choir of Christ Church resumes with Thursday evening rehearsals (in the choir room, accessed via the glass doors into the Undercroft) beginning **September 10 at 7:00 pm**. On Sunday mornings, our choir graciously lends 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.

Sunday Breakfast - September 13

We are celebrating the end of summer with breakfast on **September 13**. Food will be available from **9:00 am until 9:45 am** (or it runs out); please join us for some or all of this fellowship time before the 10:30 service. If you are planning to attend, please sign up on the Church's website at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#), but if you find yourself able to attend and have not signed up, come anyway!

We would also appreciate your help in preparing the food; items may be dropped off in the Undercroft kitchen on Saturday (September 12) between 2:00 and 4:00 pm or on Sunday after 8:00 am. Please use the above sign-up. Please feel free to bring any of your breakfast favorites.

Bible Studies

After our summer hiatus, the regular Bible studies resume in September. Beginning **September 14, Monday nights from 7:00 to 8:00** will consider the Revelation to John, a book that mixes beauty and horror while notoriously frustrating our efforts to interpret and apply it to our present lives. Sunday mornings from **9:30 to 10:10, starting September 20**, will read through the Gospel of Mark, the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels. Both studies meet in the library of the Parish House; no reading in advance is required, and all are welcome whether you attend consistently, sporadically, or only once.

Orchestral Concert – September 19

On **Saturday, September 19 at 4:00 pm**, **First United Methodist Church of Martinsville** (146 E. Main St.) will host the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus from Ukraine as part of the Greater Love Tour 2026. The concert is free (a free-will offering will be received, with all proceeds going to the ensemble) and the seating is open.

Third Sunday Supper and Evening Prayer – September 20

Join us on **Sunday, September 20 at 5:30 pm** at a new opportunity for fellowship and worship! We will begin with Evening Prayer in the Chapel (accessed through the glass doors at the back of the church building) before adjourning to the Undercroft for supper, which will be a potluck. You are invited to contribute a main dish, side, salad, or dessert to share, but are also welcome to bring just yourself. We hope that, in addition to giving us another occasion to socialize, this service will allow members who can rarely attend on Sunday mornings or Wednesdays at Noon to join us for worship and give us a chance to invite our friends and neighbors to a low-pressure service and meal.

Loaves & Fishes – September 30

We are always looking for volunteers to help prepare/serve/clean up, as well as folks to bring desserts and fruit to distribute. For September and October, we are also looking for individuals or groups to organize the meal (pick the menu, compile the shopping list, and coordinate volunteers to do the shopping and cooking). As is often the case, we plan to skip Loaves & Fishes in November (Thanksgiving Eve) and December (the week between Christmas and New Years). **The September 30th Loaves & Fishes is being hosted by Ron Probst with help from Kelly Cain. Come out and show your support.** Sign up at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) to donate items or help with preparing and serving.

Raffle Tickets

Tickets for the 50/50 raffle are on sale from your Vestry members (Rives Coleman, Susan Critz, Jay Dickens, Butch Hamlet, Michael Hodges, Steve Keyser, and Linda O'Dell). The cost is \$10.00 per ticket or \$100.00 per book, with the maximum winnings of \$2,500.



(artwork by Claire Warner Coleman)

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE
THE DAN PRINCE AND GENE MEDLEY MEMORIAL OYSTER ROAST
RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY

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

Tickets are **\$60 per person** for this all-inclusive event. Make your reservation by signing up on the **registration page** or calling the church office at 276-632-2896. Take advantage of the convenient credit or PayPal options (**a small fee applies \$2.58**). Check or cash may also be dropped off or mailed to the CEC office (311 E. Church St. Martinsville, VA 24112).

The deadline for reservations and payments is Monday, October 26th. **No** money will be accepted at the door. Please sign up at **Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia** as soon as possible so the correct amounts of food can be purchased and prepared well in advance of the event.

Your help in making the CEC Oyster Roast a success year after year is greatly appreciated.

For any questions, contact Rives Coleman at rcoleman@rivessbrown.com, or 276-732-2859 or Ron Probst at rlpsystems@gmail.com or 276-224-5433.

Oktoberfest – October 3

Christ Episcopal Church is once again participating at the Oktoberfest on **Saturday, October 3rd**. We will have bookmarks and balloons to give to folks, along with St. Francis medals for attending pets.

We need volunteers to set up and take down. We would love for church members to give an hour of their time to work the booth, fill & handout balloons, be “Balloon Wranglers,” and help assemble the St. Francis medals with ribbon and tie them on the pets. Please consider signing up with your name and contact information beside the time slot that works for you at **Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia.**

Most of all, as we all continue to find ways to encourage newcomers and grow the body of CEC, this event is an excellent opportunity to introduce the community to our wonderful church in a very low-key way. Hoping you will consider joining us on October 3!!!

Blessing of the Animals – October 4

For the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who among other things is famous for preaching to a flock of birds and otherwise expressing his reverence for all of God’s creation, we will offer a short service for the Blessing of the Animals. On **October 4 at 3:00 pm**, you are invited to join us with your dogs, cats, and any other pets in the **Gathering Place** (the benches between the Parish House and the church building) unless the weather is inclement, in which case we will be in the Undercroft.

Trivia Night – October 7

Please join us on **October 7** for an evening of fellowship and a game of Trivia hosted by Fr. John! The meal, beginning at **6:00 pm, will be a Dip or Treat Potluck**: bring your favorite dip (ranch, hummus, caramel, etc.), spread (pimiento cheese, chicken salad, Nutella, etc.), and/or vessel to get dips and spreads from the dish to your mouth (carrots, chips, sliced bread, sliced apples, etc.) to share, or just bring yourself. The game, which should conclude by 8:00 pm, will (much like February's Trivia night) feature questions relating to October. This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends (especially those whose knowledge base differs from yours) to join us at Christ Church.

Annual Meeting – November 15

After the 10:30 service, the congregation proceeds to the **Undercroft** for lunch and annual business including election of new Vestry members, overview of the finances, and presentations reviewing the previous year and looking forward to the next.

Bishop's Visit and Church Membership

In the Episcopal Church, there are several paths to official membership. **Baptism** by water, in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is full membership in the body of Christ, and is available to those (of any age) who have not been baptized previously; all Christians, baptized in any denomination, are welcome to receive communion. For those baptized as infants or young children, **Confirmation** is a mature public affirmation of faith made before the Bishop that confers administrative membership (such as voting rights at the annual meeting and eligibility to run for vestry) in that particular church; such membership may then be transferred from one Episcopal church to another. **Reception** is when the Bishop welcomes someone confirmed in another Christian denomination into the Episcopal Church, and is administratively equivalent to confirmation. **Reaffirmation** is available for those who were previously confirmed but desire to publicly reaffirm their baptismal vows before the Bishop, often after a period of prayerful discernment and/or an extended hiatus from involvement in a church community.

Our new Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Karin MacPhail, will be visiting Christ Church for Sunday worship on **February 7, 2027**. This is the next opportunity for anyone desiring to be confirmed, be received, or reaffirm their baptismal vows at Christ Church, and is one of five days in the year (along with the Baptism of Jesus, the Great Vigil of Easter, Pentecost, and All Saints Sunday) that is particularly appropriate for a baptism. **If you are interested in confirmation, reception, reaffirmation, or baptism next February, please talk to Fr. John before November.**

Picture Policy

We are in the process of developing a new website, which we hope will go live after the Oyster Roast; in recent weeks, we have been collecting recent pictures and taking new ones to enliven said website. If you are 18 or older and attend worship, fellowship, or other church events and **DO NOT** want pictures of you to appear on our website, please email or mail a message to Deborah stating as much. If you are the parent (or legal guardian) of a child under 18, please send us written permission without which we will not post pictures of your child. With a few exceptions (primarily staff), we do not identify people by name in pictures on the website.

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

Comfort and heal *Sue (Rosser), Julia (Hall), Mallory, Ginger C., Jay J., David C., Ashley F., Michael (Martin), Jim A., Ruby (Stultz), Valerie B., LaRue (Powers), and Jean*; and 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 6 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 13 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 20 The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	September 27 The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Lector Prayers	Bob Bushnell	Pete Scouras	Ann Gardner	Will Zimmer
Chalist	Dawn Stone Tom Webster	Rives Coleman Steve Keyser	Bob Bushnell Hank Long	Natalie Coleman Tom Webster
Acolyte				
Ushers	Hank Long Rives Coleman	Dan Cahill Michael Hodges	Ben Beeler Ben Lewis	Gus Barber John Swezey
Camera Operator	Vicki Crosby	Natalie Coleman	Linda O'Dell	Rives Coleman
Counters	Butch Hamlet Linda O'Dell	Butch Hamlet Linda O'Dell	Butch Hamlet Linda O'Dell	Butch Hamlet Linda O'Dell
Nursery Attendants	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis

Altar Guild Team #3 – Page Beeler, Karen Jones, Nancy Spilman, Ellen Maxwell, Ben Beeler

Please remember that if you cannot serve on your scheduled date, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. If, however, you cannot find a replacement, please contact your chairperson. Fr. John Adams – Lectors, Chalist, Acolytes, and camera operator; Ben Beeler – Ushers; Deborah Searce - Counters

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for **September: Boxed Dinners (Hamburger Helper)**. For **September: dish detergent, deodorant, laundry detergent, and hygiene items**. You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.