



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



September 2022

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

Seven months have elapsed since I began my ministry as Rector of Christ Church, and (at least from my perspective) our time together has confirmed what the Search Committee and I believed last Fall, which is that I am a good fit for the priorities and concerns of this congregation, and you are a good match for my gifts and personality. This brings us to a point where Bishop Mark is ready to celebrate the new ministry we have begun together and that will hopefully continue for more than a few years. With apologies for the comparatively short notice, on the evening of Wednesday, September 21, Bishop Mark will visit Martinsville and lead us in a service of Holy Eucharist that highlights how the rector and congregation share the ministries of the church and commends each of us into the other's care. The worship will begin at 7:00 pm, with light dessert afterward in the Parish House; I invite and encourage all of you to attend.

In Christ's love,  
Fr. John

### **10:30 Service**

With the conclusion of summer, our Sunday service will return to a **10:30 am** start beginning September 4.

### **Choir Rehearsal**

Choir rehearsal will resume on **Thursday, September 8 at 7:00pm** in the choir room.

### **Sunday Bible Study**

Beginning September 11, our Sunday Bible Study will read and discuss highlights of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Consisting of 66 chapters composed over a few centuries, Isaiah is one of the most wide-ranging and beloved books of Hebrew Scripture. It includes both stinging condemnations of human failures to follow God's will and glorious promises of God's continuing love. Bible Study meets in the Parish House at 9:30 am, and all are invited to join the conversation.

### **Monday Study Group**

The Monday Study Group is currently going *Beyond the Dirty Pages*, taking a guided tour through the *Book of Common Prayer* to discuss those services and resources that we rarely if ever use on Sundays. We meet in the Parish House (entering by the front door) and begin with a light supper (soup and bread) at 6:30 pm, with the study running from 7:00 until 8:00 or shortly thereafter. All are welcome to join; if you are coming, please give the office a heads-up (276-632-2896 or [christchurchmvl@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchmvl@gmail.com)) so we can set a place for you.

### **Wednesday Eucharists**

Our Wednesday services now include cookies! At Noon on Wednesdays, Eucharist is offered in the Chapel (accessed by the glass doors at the back of the church building). The service is entirely spoken and includes a homily on the saint of the day, with fresh-baked cookies available after; please let the Gallops or the Buddes know if you'd like to be involved in the baking. This is a good opportunity to worship for those who have conflicts or difficulties on Sunday mornings, those who would prefer to enter the building when there are fewer

people present, those who want to receive communion and go home in under forty minutes, and those who wish to worship with the community more often than every Sunday.

### **Loaves & Fishes**

Loaves and Fishes is returning to the church undercroft. Meals will be served in the undercroft on the last Wednesday of each month beginning at 5:00pm - 5:45pm. For folks who would prefer to take their meals home with them, carry out boxes are available. There are limited parking spaces behind the church for people with mobility issues.

Masks are required for unvaccinated adults. Hand sanitizer is available for use.

### **Trivia Night**

Fr. John is hosting a Trivia Night in the Undercroft on September 30 at 7:00 pm. Trivia is similar to *Jeopardy* (answering questions on a wide variety of subjects, with a prize for the winner) but played in teams of up to six and with everyone writing down their answers (so no need for a fast buzzer finger). Fr. John's questions will incorporate multiple media (with picture- and music-identification categories) and many different topics (academic, pop culture, and church-specific); generational diversity will likely prove beneficial to teams. Players are invited to bring their own beverages and snacks, if desired.

### ***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.

**A 50/50 raffle is planned and tickets are available NOW from Vestry members and the church office. The cost is \$10 per ticket or \$100 per book, with maximum winnings of \$2,500.**

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

**Bishop's Visit**

The Rt. Rev. Mark Bourlakas, Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, will be visiting Christ Church on Sunday, October 23 for confirmation and reception at the 10:30 service. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this celebration.

**Grace Network** - Our Grace Network Assignments for **September: Saltine Cracker Box**. For the month of September: **dish detergent, deodorant, laundry detergent**. 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.