



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,

Many thanks to the large number of you who checked in on me while I was down with Covid in the middle of August; not a day went by during that week without at least a couple people texting or emailing, both to offer to bring anything I needed from the grocery or drug store and just to make sure I was alright (at least by ‘you’ve got Covid’ definitions of alright). Fr. Nick described y’all to me as the “nicest,” and while being sick was very unpleasant, I am grateful to have received such straightforward niceness during my illness.

Rather than belabor that point or force a segue to another, I encourage you to read through the rest of this newsletter. The Vestry is considering a couple of ministry initiatives on which we would welcome your input, there is a new opportunity for Christian education starting, and more.

- Fr. John

Pray for Sue, Julia, Betty, Nathan, Pete, Tom, Linda, Leandra, Jack, JoAnn, Austin, Ann, Barry, Mark, Mike, Michael and Cathie.

Men’s Club Dinner

Men’s club will meet on Wednesday, September 6, with refreshments starting at 5:30 and dinner served at 6:30. The team for this month is George Lyle, Bob Weatherall and Mike Hodges.

It is very important to sign up at the following link: [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmvl.org\)](http://www.christchurchmvl.org) and show up if you sign up, to make the economics work in providing dinner.

The cost has been increased to \$20 per person due to inflation.

Kings Grant Eucharist

Covid permitting, Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant on the first Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm. The next services will be on September 7 and October 5.

Monday Night Study – The Sermon on the Mount

On Monday nights this Fall, we will be studying the Sermon on the Mount, the extensive collection of Jesus’ teachings found in Chapters 5 through 7 of the Gospel according to Matthew. We meet in the Parish House for about an hour beginning at 7:00 pm; our first session will be on September 11, when we will introduce the Sermon on the Mount and begin with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). All are invited to attend; no homework is necessary, and each session will be accessible to both regular and irregular attendees.

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on Wednesday, September 13, at Mountain Valley Brewing (4220 Mountain Valley Rd, Axton). Rev. Jennifer Coffey will offer her thoughts about calling and self-care, in a program postponed from May. We begin with socializing and food around 6:00, with the discussion going from 7:00 to 8:00.

Loaves & Fishes - September 27, 2023

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

Andy and Tara Williams plan the meals, and the food is delicious! **We need volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up. Volunteers are also needed to send desserts and fruit. Please sign up on the Church's website under Volunteers > Loaves & Fishes to help or to bring something.** Donations of either may be brought to the Office or Undercroft in the days leading up to each meal. We have resumed our prior custom of serving dine-in only, with leftovers distributed as takeout only at the end of the meal.

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for **September: Grits.** For the month of **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.

Nursery Open; Volunteers – Nursery Attendant - Wanted

The Nursery (located off the Undercroft) is now open during the 10:30 service on Sunday mornings for children [up to 6 years old]. Following Safe Church guidelines, in order to keep it open, we must have two adults present who aren't related to each other. **Please sign up on our website under volunteers – Nursery Attendants if you are interested in volunteering.** Note that all volunteers must have either taken Safe Church, Safe Communities training within the last three years or be willing to take the training. **We are in need for the following volunteers during each Sunday in September.**

If you have a trusted sitter who might be interested in being hired as our regular nursery attendant, please give their contact information to Deborah.

Server Schedule for September

Altar Guild Team #2 – Page Beeler, Frankie Smith, Janice Cain, Ruth Foley,
Rita Hodges, Ruby Stultz, Valerie Payne

September 3 – Will Zimmer, reader; Natalie Coleman, Dawn Stone, chalicers; Ben Beeler, Michael Hodges, John Swezey, ushers; Pete Scouras, acolyte; Andy Williams, camera operator; Hank Long, Ruby Stultz, counters; **2 volunteers needed, nursery**

September 10 – Bob Bushnell, reader; Beverly Lyle, John Swezey chalicers; Jay Dickens, Ben Lewis, Gus Barber, ushers; Elizabeth Maxwell, acolyte; Andy Williams, camera operator; Natalie Coleman, Ruby Stultz, counters; **2 volunteers needed, nursery**

September 17 – Jay Dickens, reader; Hank Long, Tom Webster, chalicers; Rebin Titus Will Smith, Rives Coleman, ushers; Tyler Johnson, acolyte; Andy Williams, camera operator; Natalie Coleman, Ruby Stultz, counters; **2 volunteers needed, nursery**

September 24 – Kelly Cain, reader; Jay Dickens, Rives Coleman, chalicers; Hank Long, Dan Cahill, Kyle Trent, ushers; Andy Williams, camera operator; Natalie Coleman, Ruby Stultz, counters; **2 volunteers needed, nursery**

Christ Episcopal Church Invites You To
The Dan Prince & Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast
Friday, November 3, 2023 - 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 20
(cash or check only) ADVANCED PAYMENT REQUIRED
NO TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR

Raffle Tickets on Sale from Vestry Members and Church Office!
Outside Rain or Shine - Casual Dress

Oyster Roast Dinner Tickets are ON SALE NOW

The Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast
is scheduled for Friday, November 3, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Make your reservation online at

[Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmvl.org\)](http://christchurchmvl.org)

or by calling the Church office at 276-632-2896.

Your prompt payment is your confirmed reservation.

Payment is due when the reservation is made, NO money will be accepted at the door.

In addition to your presence at this festive social gathering and fundraiser for Christ Church, **we would greatly appreciate your help in making it happen**, particularly if you have not done so before. We need volunteers to help gather supplies, prepare food, and set up the space, as well as cleaning up after and otherwise making the night run smoothly; if you are interested in helping, please contact a member of our 2023 Oyster Roast Committee. Jay Dickens, Hank Long and Pat Bondurant Russell.

Bake Sale & Silent Auction

We need volunteers to help bake brownies, bars, cakes, and pies. Also volunteers to make soups, casseroles, and sauces. Please sign up under volunteers on our website and let us know what you will be bringing and the quantity. *****Please list the quantity you are donating on the email line of the sign up.***** Brownies and bars will need to be individually packaged in servings of six (6). Generous portions are appreciated (2x2). Cakes, pies, soups, casseroles, and sauces will need to be in/on serving pieces which will not need to be returned to the creator. We will set up drop off for Thursday and Friday, November 2-3. Details to follow!

Silent Auction

If you have any large ticket items that you want to donate, please contact Susan Smith.

Annual Meeting and Vestry Election

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church (including the election of new Vestry members) will be after the 10:30 service on November 12. If you are interested in being nominated to serve on Vestry, please talk to any of our current Vestry members.

Angel Tree

Over the past couple of months, the Vestry has been considering the future of the Angel Tree ministry. For many years, in the weeks leading up to Christmas, members of Christ Church would buy presents for children of incarcerated parents and the youth would throw a party for those children during which the presents were delivered. Since the Covid shutdown, we have collected money that we sent to the national organization. The Vestry has been making inquiries and wrestling with possibilities in the hope of discerning a way that we can support local children in need around Christmas without overtaxing our energy as a parish. We are hoping to have a general plan in place after our meeting on September 20; if you would like to be involved in this year's Angel Tree ministry, please contact any member of the Vestry.

Sidewalk Pantry

A member of Christ Church (who wishes to remain anonymous) recently offered to fund the construction and installation of a Sidewalk Pantry, and the Vestry is currently discerning whether (and how) to accept this generous gift. Like the Little Free Libraries visible around town, Sidewalk Pantries are small cabinets, easily accessible to passersby, that can be stocked with non-perishable food, bottles of water, toiletries, and/or other such items that might be helpful to those in need; for many churches across the US, they have provided a tangible but low-stress way to follow Jesus' command to love the least of these our neighbors. In Martinsville, a Sidewalk Pantry would be particularly helpful in serving the homeless, itinerant, and others who cannot access services from Grace Network. Before getting bogged down in practical concerns (like precise location), the Vestry is hoping to hear from many parishioners your thoughts: 1) In the abstract, would you be in favor of having a Sidewalk Pantry on church property, or would it make you more likely to withdraw your presence and support from the church? 2) If a Sidewalk Pantry were installed, would you be willing to contribute a plastic bag's worth of goods every second or third month to help keep it stocked? Please contact any member of the Vestry so we have as much input as possible.

Altar Guild Open Dates

We have the following open dates for **altar flowers** if anyone wants to do a memorial in loving memory of... in honor of... or in thanksgiving for... someone. You can do this as a one time or to continue it from year-to-year. **It is a first come first served basis. October 22.** Please let Deborah know if you're interested. **These dates are for this year.** It depends on the number of Sundays in each month as to how the memorials fall.

Fire Relief

If you are interested in giving to help those affected by the recent fire in Hawaii (which destroyed Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Lahaina in addition to thousands of homes), we encourage donations to Episcopal Relief and Development (<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>).

Dear Clergy, Wardens, Administrators, and Formation Leaders,

We are offering a newly updated Safe Church, Safe Communities training via Zoom this fall for those that need a certification or refresher.

Clergy, lay leaders, staff, and volunteers should all be up to date with their safe church certifications for safety reasons and to be in line with diocesan policies.

The date and time for the training and registration link are included below. If you plan to attend, **registration is required to receive your unique Zoom link.**

Safe Church, Safe Communities Training

[REGISTER HERE](#)

We will offer another Zoom/in-person Safe Church training in the spring. If you are unable to attend and need a certification before then, please plan to complete a training using the Praesidium online portal. [Click here](#) for more information.

If you have any questions, please contact me at pames@dioswva.org.

Sincerely,
Patti Ames
Canon for Christian Education
The Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia