

Christ Church Parish

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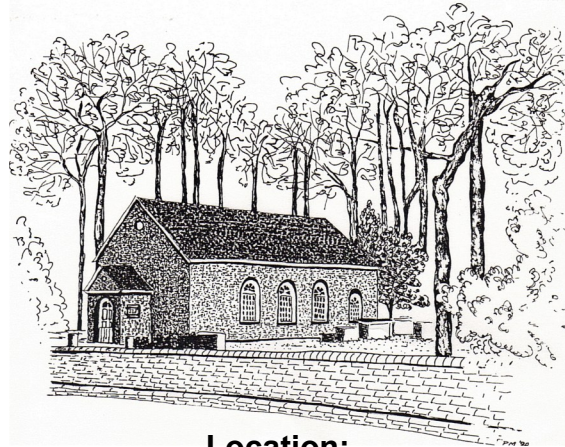
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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February
2025

Join us for our Sunday On-Line Facebook Service
<http://christchurchmiddlesex.thediocese.net/default.asp>



Location:

Routes 33 & 638
Christchurch,
Middlesex County, Virginia

Mailing:

PO Box 476; Saluda, Virginia 23149

Telephone:

804-758-2006

E-Mail:

CCParish1666@gmail.com

Website:

christchurchmiddlesex.com

Services:

Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 AM
Sunday Services: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

The Rev. Randi Hicks Rowe,
Priest in Charge
The Rev. Bob Prichard, Ph.D.,
priest Associate
The Rev. Deacon Peggy Moncure



The Christ Church Parish

Messenger

February 2025



“Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.”

The Lord



be with you.

From Rev. Randi Hicks Rowe, Priest in Charge

I want to share some fun facts about the Episcopal Church this month. I hope they'll be educational and entertaining for both newcomers and those of us who've been Episcopalians for a while.

- The Episcopal Church in the United States was established just after the Revolutionary War to preserve the practices of the Anglican Church in America while being independent from England and its monarchy.
- Eleven presidents have been Episcopalians: George Washington, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, Franklin Pierce, Chester A. Arthur, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Gerald Ford, and George H. W. Bush.
- The Episcopal Church identifies as a middle ground between Roman Catholicism and mainline Protestantism.
- The word “Episcopal” refers to bishops or overseers. One aspect of the Episcopal Church is that we have diocesan bishops who oversee and govern the Church at the diocesan level. The Episcopal Church in the United States has 96 dioceses.

- Apostolic succession is important to us and is defined in two ways. All bishops are ordained by at least three bishops who lay their hands on them in lineal sequence from the apostles. Bishops ordain all clergy. We also understand apostolic succession as a continuance of the apostles' teachings.
- We are a people of the book. Our liturgies, which span thousands of years of faith, are contained in the Book of Common Prayer.
- We have two sacraments. Sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace (Catechism, p 857 BCP). They are Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist. We have five sacramental rites: Confirmation, Ordination, Holy Matrimony, Reconciliation of the Penitent, and Unction of the Sick (which includes unction at the time of death).
- Compared to many Christian denominations, the Episcopal Church is more inclusive of who it will ordain and for whom it will solemnize marriages. The process toward ordination does not exclude anyone based on race, gender, age, or sexual orientation. Priests are allowed to perform marriages of same-sex couples. Priests may refuse to perform same-sex marriages (or any marriages) that conflict with their beliefs or that they feel will not fit with the Church's teachings. Although the Church considers marriage to be a sacramental rite, it is more pragmatic regarding divorce and remarriage than some denominations.
- We have a sense of boundaries in terms of doctrine and practice. The metaphor of a three-legged stool represents our three sources of authority: Scripture, reason, and tradition (the Creeds, Book of Common Prayer, the Didache, and other Church teachings). Within this framework, the Episcopal Church has a large umbrella covering acceptable beliefs and practices.
- We also have a sense of boundaries regarding dioceses and parishes. Dioceses elect their bishops based on who they feel will best serve their context. National church bodies consent to these elections but refuse to give consent only in rare cases. Once elected, a bishop has considerable latitude in diocesan governance as long as he/she doesn't go against doctrine. Except in rare circumstances, no diocesan bishop will interfere with the affairs of another diocesan bishop. Likewise, parishes choose their priests with the consent of the bishop. At least in Virginia, bishops withhold consent only in unusual circumstances. Because all parishes are different, priests do not interfere or publicly

express opinions about priests in other parishes, except in rare circumstances.

• As of 2023, the Episcopal Church in America had 6,223 churches. Almost 9 percent – or 568 – have 20 members or less. About 10 percent of Episcopal churches have more than 500 members. By average Sunday attendance, the largest Episcopal Church is St. Martin’s Houston, which has an ASA of 1,285. Like most mainline Protestant churches, the Episcopal Church’s ASA and membership is decreasing. The total number of members in Episcopal Churches in the USA fell 2.61 percent from 2022 to 2023. The total plate and pledge income across all US Episcopal churches increased 3.64 percent from 2022 to 2023, although that figure is not adjusted for inflation.

Was there a fact here that surprised you? Is there one you want to share with a friend? I invite dialogue among us and with me for anyone interested.

Randi+

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING DISCERNMENT STUDIES

TO BEGIN



Many women have expressed interest in learning more about the Daughters of the King. Beginning on Sunday, February 16, we will begin studies to learn more about the Order on Sundays between the services. The studies will start at 9 a.m. and end at 10. They will not be held on Palm Sunday, Easter, Mother’s Day, or Memorial Day weekend, which means the last study will be on June 1. We can arrange for Zoom participation if necessary.

The studies are exploratory. You can join them and decide not to join the Order.

However, you cannot join the Order without participating in the study. Please grab a pastry during coffee hour following the early service and join us for the study.



At our annual congregational meeting, the Christ Church Vestry began its calendar year on January 12, 2025. Three candidates for the Vestry were nominated and elected to the Vestry by the congregation and began their duties on January 21 at our first Vestry meeting of 2025. These three new Vestry members were Jeanette Adkins, Evie Wilton, and Monica Melendez, replacing Karen Brown, Garry Clay, and Ann DePeyster, whose three-year terms had expired. While we are sad to see Karen, Gary, and Ann leave the Vestry, we thank them for their years of dedication to Christ Church, their hard work, and their active participation in the Vestry. The Vestry welcomes new members Evie, Jeanette, and Monica and thank all three for accepting the challenge to guide and participate in helping to plan the future of Christ Church Parish. We also look forward to a full year of guidance and leadership through the Reverend Randi Rowe, our new Priest in charge.

The Vestry is in the process of organizing for the upcoming Vestry year and will soon announce who will be our liaisons to the various ministries, who will be the keeper of the calendar, and the timing and dates of future Vestry meetings.

Please keep tuned in. We are looking forward to an exciting brand-new year at Christ Church Parish, and our Vestry planning is almost completed. In the meantime, please stay safe and warm, as we have an exciting and challenging year ahead of us.

Faithfully,

William Budd

Senior Warden



Mid-week Eucharist

Please remember that we have a midweek Eucharist here at Christ Church. The service is at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings and is celebrated in the Chapel in the Parish Hall.



From the Deacon's Bench

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In case someone did not see my note posted on the bulletin board, I wish to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU. Your gift to me at Christmas was beyond generous. Serving in this magnificent parish is truly a gift, but your extra special gift to me was much appreciated.

As we approach the warmer months ahead, we are beginning to prepare for our 5th Annual Fine Arts Camp to be held June 16-22. For this mammoth and important event, we need EVERYONE'S help. All volunteers will receive an official camp T-shirt.....what more can you ask for? There are many ways in which you may offer assistance. The following are some of those ways:

- Monitoring students (Don't worry, you won't be left alone 🙋)
- Registering students on Day 1.
- Helping with recreational activities (Scott Holt is our lead person on this, but he can use some assistants)
- Providing cookies, brownies, etc., so our kitchen team does not have to worry about desserts.
- Helping on Sunday before the church service by handing out T-shirts and directing students to proper locations.
- Serving lunch on Sunday. All food is being provided.

Other duties will come up from time to time. Instructions will be given in all areas. You may volunteer every day or just a day or two. All the help is greatly appreciated.

Continued on the next page

Camp Schedule:

Monday, June 16 – Friday, June 20, 2025 – 9:00 am-3:00 pm

(Breakfast (a lite one) and Lunch provided each day)

Saturday, June 21 – 9:00 am-11:00 am - Breakfast (lite) & Showcase Performance)

Sunday, June 22 – 9:30 am-11:30 am (Warm-up and Church Service)

11:30 am – 1:00 pm (Awards and Picnic Lunch for everyone)

Please consider volunteering in some way for this very special event, which reaches out to the children in our community and beyond. You may choose your preferred duty or duties. If you feel called to help, please contact me.

peggy_moncure@live.com or 804-869-3867

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” (1 Peter 4:10)

Thank you. Peace, Peg+



FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN'S WORK BENCH

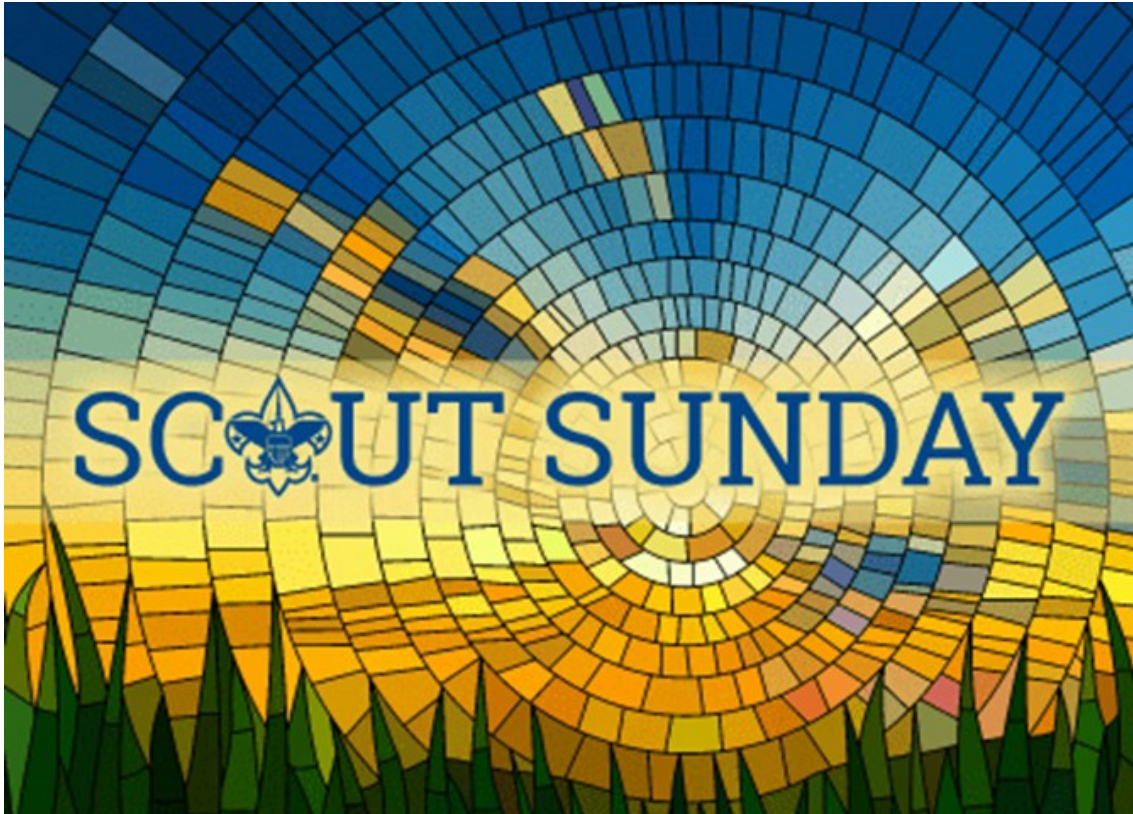
It's February, and it's very cold! There are not many outdoor projects happening at this time.

This is just an important reminder that if you adjust the thermostats in the church or the Parish Hall, please remember to cut them back when you are finished to save costs.

Scott Holt

804-814-8126

◀ January	February 2025					March ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Boy Scouts Cooking Merit Badge Parish Hall Kitchen 8:00 am -12 noon
2 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am Scout Sunday Brotherhood Continental Break- fast 9:00 am	3 CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	4 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	5 Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 am Christian Education 10:15 am Westminster Canterbury Eucharist 11:00 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	6 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	7 CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	8
9 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am Brotherhood Sweetheart Break- fast 9:00 am Taizé Service 7:00 pm	10 Elephant Commit- tee 10:00 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	11 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	12 Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 am Outreach Ministry 10:15 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	13 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	14 Valentine's Day Finance Committee 9:30 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	15
16 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am Daughters of the King 9:00 am—10:00 am	17 Presidents Day CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	18 ECW 10:30 am Tech Team 11:30 am AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm Vestry 1:30 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	19 Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 am Christian Education 10:15 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	20 Fellowship Ministry 9:30 am AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	21 CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	22 Washington's Birthday
23 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am Daughters of the King 9:00 am—10:00 am	24 CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	25 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	26 Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm 7	27 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	28 CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	



Join us for Scout Sunday, February 2nd. Scout Troop 341 and Cub Scout Pack 341 will both take an active part in our 10:30 AM church service, followed by a Pizza Picnic for the Scouts, their families, and the entire church. Of course, there will be pizza, soft drinks, and even a dessert.

Everyone come and enjoy our Scouts and the Pizza Picnic to follow!



The Mission of the Outreach Ministry is to offer assistance to those in need, collaborating with our clergy, others in our congregation, and the community, consistent with our Church's mission (*We are a family of faith, growing in Christ through learning, service, and worship who strive to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.*). Our mission is to strive to love God and our neighbors as ourselves through service to our community,

This year's Outreach Ministry members are DeLois Greenwood and Pam McClelland (Co-Chairs), Susie Loustaunau (Secretary), Jeannette Adkins, Lindsay Adkins, Kathy Clarke, Tom Clarke, Alyson Holt, Peg Moncure, Clayton Neal, Ann de Peyster, Judy Quilter, and Ginger Smither. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:15 a.m., right after Wednesday morning's Eucharist. Service. Anyone interested in outreach to the community is welcome to join us!

The *Middle Peninsula Young-ish Professionals Group* will hold its next meeting in the Fellowship Hall on February 5 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. It is geared towards people ages 25-55 and gives them a much-needed way to meet people in our area. All in this age group are welcome. If you know anyone who might be interested, let them know. For more information, their Facebook website is Middle Peninsula Young-ish Professionals.

Several people signed up to support the Creation Care Garden this spring at our recent Congregational meeting. We are very thankful for their willingness to participate! Folks are needed weekly to water the garden, harvest the vegetables, and package them for distribution to the Food Bank at the Cryer Center. If you are interested in helping, please sign up in the Parish Hall.

During the spring and summer months, we have an exciting opportunity to have a booth at the Urbanna Farmers Market. We will share information with our community regarding Christ Church Parish and all its ministries, including the work of the Creation Care Garden. The Urbanna Business Association is welcoming us to this event without charge.

If you have an interest in representing our parish at the Farmers Market, please contact Scott Holt. (804-814-8126)

Our annual Valentines' gift given out at the Cryer Center will be on Tuesday, February 11. We will distribute gifts during the food pick-up. Last year, warm socks were very much appreciated, so we will be doing this again. And we are adding some chocolates since that was asked for last year. If you have never helped with the bi-weekly food pickups, you are missing the smiles of those showing their appreciation for what is given to them. Our Ministry is thankful for the opportunity to give and receive the gift of generosity.

DeLois Greenwood and Pam McClelland, Co-chairs

KITCHEN TEAM AT WORK!

Recently, our Team cleaned and sanitized the Parish kitchen, which happens quarterly. We are thankful to this group of ladies, but keeping the kitchen clean and organized is the responsibility of all who utilize it. Please review the instructions posted in the kitchen for things you need to know to help with this effort.

Below are two of our team members - Ann Padgett and Jean Hill. Kitchen Team at work!



CHANGES COMING TO THE NEWSLETTER MAILING

We are glad for all those interested in Christ Church and hope everyone can continue receiving our newsletter for as long as they want. However, we also want to be good stewards of our time and money resources. Printed, mailed newsletters are more labor-intensive than emailed ones, which means they cost more. We're happy for folks who prefer or need mailed newsletters to keep receiving them. But we don't want to spend extra money for those who are just as happy (or happier) to receive them via email or no longer wish to receive our newsletter.

So, we are changing our newsletter process, beginning with the March edition. We will make email our primary and default delivery method. You don't need to do anything if you are now receiving the newsletter by email. If you are receiving it by postal mail and are willing to receive it by email, please be sure the church office has your correct email address. We'll send the March newsletter to you that way. If you currently receive a printed newsletter and want to keep receiving it via postal mail, please inform the office and ensure we have your correct mailing address.

If we don't hear from you, we'll send the newsletter to the email we have on file for you. We'll only send printed newsletters to those who request them.

Thank you for being a newsletter reader!

EDITORS NOTE: Contributors, please review the submission dates on page 15 of this newsletter. With the changes stated above, contributors will have a few more days each month to submit their articles. The early submission date in September is due to a vacation.



Over the years, Episcopalians have endured all forms of teasing. Monikers such as "Latin Flunkies" and the "Frozen Chosen" have endured. Let me clarify that we took the "Frozen Chosen" moniker to new heights as we celebrated the Epiphany service and Bonfire on 9 January on our open field in front of the church in 18-degree weather. As we hovered around our lovely pile of dried greens and trees, shivering as we listened to Reverend Randi deliver the Epiphany service, we knew intuitively that warmth, light, peace, and comfort would be ours in a matter of minutes.

Voila! Our ever-vigilant Middlesex County Volunteer Fire Dept. strategically lit the stack of greens and immediately had light, warmth, a sense of anticipation, excitement, and peace. We were captivated by the roar of the fire as the flames leaped into the cold dark air. The pile of greens burning with speed and light told us the Christmas season had officially ended, yet our proof of new and continued life was in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Whatever sadness and burdens were in our hearts that night melted away. The light from the flames and the warmth from the fire spoke to each of us with a sense of new hope, peace, and renewed life.

We stood around the Bonfire as individuals yet also as a community of Christians, mesmerized by the fire and the realization that the year had come to an end. We were bonded in love, with new hope and energy, ready to embrace the future.

The Fellowship Committee works tirelessly to project our image at CCP of warmth, love, acceptance, and inclusion in our parish family. We are working on a new calendar of events for the year and will post it in the March newsletter. There will be Lenten and Advent dinners, a two-day Veterans celebration over Veterans Day, The Marine Corps Run, and much more. For starters, you can count on a fine evening of music this Spring with Clayton Neal and his band.

Continued on the next page

As you walk in the light and love in this new year, think of your own epiphany and how grateful you are to have the omnipresent Lord in your life guiding your steps and warming your heart.

Mary Lynn Landgraf

And Bev Hart

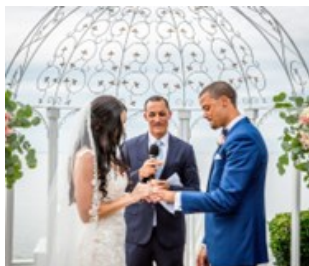
Committee Co-chairs



Burning of the greens.

Special February Celebrations

Anniversaries



18 Henry & Peg Moncure

25 Dixon Cole & Ginny Gale

Birthdays

3 Chip Holt

5 Joyce Reisinger

7 Ann Harris

Thyra Harris

13 Kathryn Humphreys

16 Virginia Miller

20 Sandy Sturgill

21 Sharon Colston

Vel Gray

22 Nancy Campbell

24 Anne Evans

27 Ellen Johnson



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WELCOMED!

This newsletter is for information and articles that are germane to Christ Church Parish. If you are a member of Christ Church Parish you may submit an article of interest for consideration to be published in the newsletter.

To ensure that the newsletter is published and distributed in a manner that all will receive it before the month it pertains to begins, the submission deadlines for 2025 are:

<u>Month Published</u>	<u>Submission Deadline is before</u>
March 2025	February 25, 2025
April 2025	March 28, 2025
May 2025	April 28, 2025
June 2025	May 28, 2025
July 2025	June 27, 2025
August 2025	July 28, 2025
September 2025	August 27, 2025
October 2025	September 19, 2025
November 2025	October 27, 2025
December 2025	November 25, 2025
January 2026	December 29, 2025

All submissions are to be emailed as a **word document** to jeff.of.jamaica@outlook.com Pictures may also be submitted and will be used on a “space available” basis.