

Christ Church Parish

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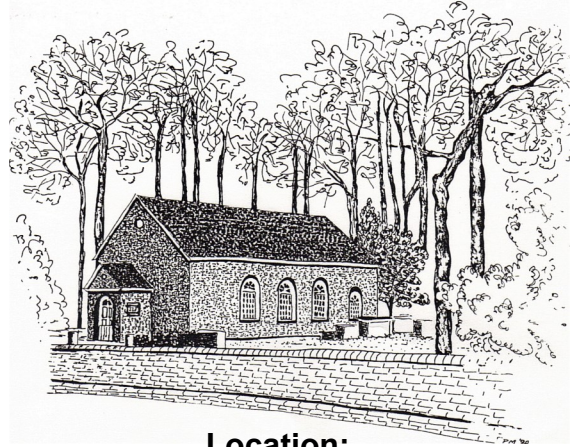
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January
2025

Join us for our Sunday On-Line Facebook Service
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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

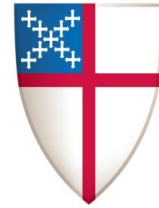
The Rev. Randi Hicks Rowe,
Priest in Charge
The Rev. Bob Prichard, Ph.D.,
priest Associate
The Rev. Deacon Peggy Moncure



The Christ Church Parish

Messenger

January 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

God provides. God provides for our individual needs and those of our families. God also provides for our needs as a congregation. Many years ago when I was a lay person, a trusted pastor said to me, “God always provides the gifts a church needs for its ministry through its people. When new people come, we recognize that these people come bearing spiritual gifts that can strengthen our church’s current ministries or lead us into new ones.”

We’ve been blessed over the past few months with having many guests attend our services. Several have indicated they want to be part of our community permanently. We are delighted to have them join us.

In God’s providence, God also has led guests and new members to this place to strengthen their spiritual walk. We, as a congregation, have something they need. Perhaps, they’ll meet a new friend here who will bring them joy. Or they may find a transforming ministry here.

We are part of God’s provision. And I’d like to encourage all of us to reach out to

Continued on the next

those new faces. We can greet them in church; however, I'd also invite us to go deeper. Perhaps we can invite them to coffee or a meal outside of church. We can learn what interests we may share and what unique gifts and passions they might have.

I also encourage our guests and new members to be proactive. I especially invite them to come to coffee hour after each service. Coffee hours have great food, and they also have great conversations. Coffee hour is an excellent time to begin to get to know folks. I invite the men to attend monthly Brotherhood meetings and the women to attend ECW events. I also invite them to listen prayerfully to announcements and read the newsletter and bulletin boards to discern where they might be called to share their gifts.

The church is the body of Christ. It brings about God's kingdom in the local community. All those God has put in this place are part of God's plan for our church and community. All of us together make a strong body for God's kingdom.

Randi+

FOR ALL THE SAINTS...

So often, we sing of the saints of God...you know the verses by heart. They were such special people, and yet like us. Well, maybe...but the stories are often pretty shocking!

Each Wednesday, at our chapel service, we learn about the "Saint of the Day," and we enjoy a brief discussion on what that saint's life tells us. We look back at ancient saints like Paul and Stephen and modern saints like Elizabeth Ann Seton. Inspired by that, Christian Education will embark on a season of learning about "**The Surprising Lives of Christian Saints.**" This is one of the Great Courses video presentations. We will meet after chapel on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 10:15 in the Great Hall. We come together, watch the video, and discuss whatever we wondered about, or considered interesting, or thought impossible! This format has been easy for us and enriching.

You do not need to attend every session or come to chapel at 9:30 before (but it's worthwhile). You do not need to reserve. You just need to come as you can. We will begin on January 15th. All are welcome!

For I mean to be one too! VR, Grace



Your Christ Church Parish Vestry has been hard at work over the last few months preparing for December and January events in our parish. We have been spending time with our individual ministries and the many committees we are all involved with, as well as preparing for the past Live Nativity event we had a few weeks ago, the past three Advent dinners, and of course, we are now preparing for Christmas events. We are a very active church community, and I have been blessed to have been able to work together with such a great Vestry team in 2024. As 2024 closes and as we enter 2025, the Vestry will lose three valuable Vestry members as their terms have expired. The three members we will be losing will be Karen Brown, Ann DePeyster, and Garry Clay; all three will be truly missed as they have contributed numerous hours of their time and great efforts to help our community run smoothly. I personally extend my thanks and best wishes to all three as they all helped to make my job easier, and of course, they will be missed by all. 2025 will bring three new Vestry members, who will be nominated and voted upon at our Congregational meeting on January 12.

In January 2025, we will be entering a new year at Christ Church Parish, filled with hope, anticipation, and great expectations for our Christ Church community. As Senior Warden, I would like to thank you all for the cooperation, love, and great friendship you have extended to me. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all at Christ Church Parish a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Faithfully,

William A Budd
Senior Warden

Three candidates have been nominated to fill three slots on your vestry beginning in January 2025. Those chosen will serve three-year terms. Here are their bios.

Continued on the next page

Jeannette C. Adkins

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the Vestry of Christ Church Parish. Recently, I had the privilege of chairing the Discernment Committee, which deepened my admiration for the work we do as a congregation.

I previously served a term on the Vestry, where I completed my tenure as Senior Warden. Currently, I am a member of the Finance Committee, as well as the Outreach and Fellowship Committees. Additionally, I serve as a Eucharistic Minister and a reader at the 8 AM service.

My goal on the Vestry is to support our church community by attracting new members while ensuring a strong financial foundation. We have so much to offer, but we need to ensure that those outside the congregation know how welcoming we are.

Evie Wilton

I was born in Richmond, VA, years ago, and St. James Church was there for all of my childhood. I attended St. Catherine's School for 13 years, so I also have a strong connection with St Stephens Church, which was just across the street. I feel so lucky all these years later that the Episcopal Church was a part of my life throughout those times.

I attended Hollins College and VCU and then moved to Colorado, where I was first introduced to the High Episcopal Church. After five years away, I returned to Richmond in 1985. Six months later, I met my husband (Arthur Wilton), and we were married. We moved to Deltaville for our mutual love of sailing, the beautiful rivers, and small-town living, which offered many opportunities for happiness.

I officially joined Christ Church around 1986, but connections go way back. My great Aunt Juju Palmer played the organ here when I was a little girl. I have memories of the Tablets on the wall behind the Altar, walking the peaceful graveyard, and looking at my great-grandparents' headstones.

My sons were raised in this church. We had a very active group of families and a large number of children. During this time, I taught Sunday School, was lucky to be on the search committee for our new minister, and then served on Vestry. I've been an active

member of Altar Guild since Miss Betty asked me to be on her team a long time ago. Again, I'm very lucky.

I am a busy Realtor and also work with my husband and our company designing and building beautiful waterfront homes. My work schedule dictates which service I might be able to attend so have had the luxury of feeling at home at both 8:00 and 10:30 gatherings. I am also a big fan of Wednesdays in the chapel.

I look forward to working hard in this next opportunity with Christ Church.

Sincerely,

Evie

Monica Melendez

I grew up in McLean, where my journey with the Episcopal Church began at St. John's under pastor Bill Myers. In high school, I served as the president of the Episcopal Youth Community (EYC), which helped me develop early leadership skills and deepen my faith. My spiritual path has been diverse, as I navigated between the Episcopal and Catholic Churches over the years.

I spent several years working with the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM), a Catholic music organization, blending my passion for music with my career. Although my academic background is in music, I discovered a love for database theory in the nineties, leading to a long-standing career in Business Systems. For over twenty years, I have been part of Marriott's Global Design Strategies team, working remotely from their headquarters in Bethesda.

Music continues to be a significant part of my life. I occasionally lend my flute-playing skills to the choir, and my mother and I play for Taizé services on the second Sunday of every month. Additionally, I am an active member of the Christ Church Tech Crew.

Last year, I relocated to Hartfield to be closer to my brother and sister-in-law and was fortunate that my mother decided to join me. Through my sister-in-law, Katy Breuer, I became part of Christ Church, continuing my journey within the Episcopal community. As a first-generation American on my father's side, I also recently became a dual citizen of Spain.

◀ December	January 2025					February ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day	2 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	3	4
5 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am	6 Epiphany Bon Fire	7 Endowment Committee 10:00 am AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	8 Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 am Outreach 10:15 am Westminster Canterbury Eucharist 11:00 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	9 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	10 CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm	11 Boy Scouts Cooking Merit Badge Parish Hall Kitchen 8:00 am -12 noon
12 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am Congregational Meering 11:45 am Taizé Service 7:00 pm	13 CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm	14 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	15 Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 am Christian Education 10:15 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm	16 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	17 Finance Committee 9:30 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm	18
19 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am Brotherhood 9:00 am	20 Martin Luther King Jr Day CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm	21 Tech Team 11:30 am Vestry 1:30 pm AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	22 Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	23 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	24 CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	25
26 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am	27 CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm	28 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	29 Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 am CCS Yoga 3:30 pm –5:00 pm	30 AA Group 12 noon—1:00 pm CCS Yoga 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm	31	



From the Deacon's Bench

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John13:34-35)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we begin a new year, I will use something from last year. Well, it's not that far back. It's something from my Christmas Day sermon. I know some were not there for that service. Also, this poem is still relevant as, right now, it is still Christmas, and the message should really last all year.

Howard Thurman was an African American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. He was an amazing man. He wrote an extraordinary poem, “The Work of Christmas”. This poem truly lays out for us what this season really means and the work God has called us to do.

The Work of Christmas

“When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.”

Let us all work together this year to accomplish this awesome plan.

Peace, Peg+



We will be starting a chapter of Daughters of the King at Christ Church this year. Daughters of the King is an order for women in the Episcopal church and other churches with a historic episcopate (bishops). It is called an order rather than an organization because it has a habit and rule of life, and members take lifetime vows. The habit is a Greek Fleury cross with the Latin inscription "Magnanimiter Crucem Sustine," which means "With heart, mind, and spirit, uphold and bear the cross." At the base of the cross are the letters "FHS" which stand for the motto of The Order "For His Sake." We wear the cross every day. The rule of life is to pray daily, serve God, and tell others about the good news of Jesus. Members vow to wear the habit and keep the rule to the best of their ability.

Members of the Daughters of the King are committed to strengthening their relationship with God and to helping others to do so. No fundraising is allowed. The order is about prayer and being with God – first and foremost. Members help each other to keep the rule and grow in their faith.

Members don't simply enroll and attend meetings, nor do we simply ask for a charter for our chapter and receive one. Instead, we enter into a three-month discernment period during which each person studies and reflects on whether she is willing to take the lifetime vows. If enough women discern a call to commit, we will obtain a charter, and the women will become members during a Eucharistic service. Once the chapter is organized, potential new women will undertake the same discernment before committing.

If you are interested in being part of the founding group at Christ Church, please see Rev. Randi or Grace Parker.

Christ Church Parish New Entrance Planters

Vernon W. Norris, Jr., has generously donated two rectangular hummingbird planters in loving memory of his parents, Ruby Lee and Vernon W. Norris, Sr., to adorn the entryway into Christ Church Parish. Vernon has long supported our church in quiet ways and had a big impact.

Alyson Holt searched for appropriate planters and plants, found them, and they are now displayed at the church entrance,

Marilyn South, Altar Guild Chairwoman 8



December was such a busy, festive month for all of us here at Christ Church Parish!

The Live Nativity on December 6 involved much preparation but was worth it. Despite the very cold weather, it was a huge success. We were thrilled to have choir members from our church as well as several local churches. A warm bonfire, plus hot cider, kept singers and visitors cozy throughout the evening. Our Ministry has already met to critique and suggest recommendations for next year. Suggestions are always appreciated. As always, the big hit of the night was Earl, our Nativity donkey.



Thanks to the generous donations of members of our congregation, we received enough home-baked cookies to distribute at the Live Nativity and at the “Lessons and Carols” service at Christchurch School.

Thanks, also, for filling the two collection boxes in the hallway, one for “Toys for Tots” and one for the shoe collection for the Avalon Center, sponsored by Philippi Christian Church. Three “elves” from Outreach bought presents for two young boys; another “elf” wrapped them for delivery to Social Services.

Continued on the next page

Exciting news- The Creation Care Garden is now officially part of the Outreach Ministry. Alyson Holt will expand our outreach to the community. This embodies our philosophy of “Sharing is Caring.”

DeLois Greenwood and Pam McClelland, Co-chairs

Creation Care Garden 2025

It may be windy and cold outdoors, but plans are underway for the spring growing season at the Creation Care Garden. In winter, gardeners love to pour over seed catalogs and plan for summer’s bounty! Due to the generous support of the Outreach Committee and others, we have placed some orders for seeds and supplies for our garden. We have also purchased the materials for two new garden boxes, which will greatly help our production for the Cryer Center. Unbeknownst to me, he had been distributing our produce throughout last summer! He enthusiastically supported our CCG and said, “It’s the best produce we distribute!” His words warmed my heart, and I wanted to let you know that this is not the first time I’ve heard comments like these around town.

A weekly schedule can now be provided for the 2025 growing season. The produce is generally harvested on Sundays or Mondays and packed for distribution. Depending on the rain, watering takes place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. We will continue to pass along more information in the coming months. Please consider being a part of this meaningful ministry in 2025.

Alyson Holt

Let these thoughts guide your actions as our Christ Church Ministries move into the new year.

“Work for a cause, not for applause. Live life to express, not to impress. Don’t strive to make your presence noticed, just make your absence felt.” — Unknown

“The secret to change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.” — Socrates



What Are the Benefits Of And Uses For The Christ Church Parish Endowment Fund?



The Christ Church Parish Endowment Fund serves as a long-term financial foundation for our community of faith.

The purpose of the Endowment is to enable the Parish to more completely fulfill its mission by assuring the ongoing viability of the Parish and developing its ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operation funds.

Contributions to and distributions from the fund shall be allocated within the following designations: Undesignated funds for purposes as directed by the Vestry, Maintenance and upkeep of existing church facilities, Worship and Music, including the funding of non-structural improvements, Outreach and new missions which fund activities to alleviate human suffering and to proclaim the, Christian Education of congregation and church staff, Capital Improvements including renovation of an existing building and new construction, and Cemetery. In addition the Endowment Board may set standards for “named gifts” that could include or exceed these set designations.

The Endowment is managed as a true endowment employing the restriction that the principal shall not be invaded except for extreme financial emergencies or major Capital Improvements.

So far, 79 donors have become members in Christ Church Parish’s 1666 Society which consists of parishioners who have made specific gifts to the Endowment Fund and/or who have notified the Endowment Board they have made provisions for the Endowment Fund in their Estate Plans.

If you haven’t become a 1666 Society member or would like to increase your support, it will be welcomed and appreciated.

Should you have questions, please contact Jack Hellems



Fellowship Partners well with Friendship

Upon reflection on the Fellowship Committee's mission, I think of setting the stage for introductions to Christ Church Parish and our vibrant community of parishioners. Some parishioners have been members of the church for decades and know each other very well in a religious setting as well as in the social world and whirl where they reside in Middlesex County.

If you are new to the area, church, or both, how do you warm up to all the “strangers” and a new church family? This is where the Fellowship Committee can take center stage and be the platform where you can dive into a new church family and find your sea legs. This past year was a frenetic year, including the huge Farewell party for Father Stuart, the welcoming events for Reverend Randi, and a two-day Veterans weekend event for the county and the church.

If you attend any of our social events, even to include Advent or Lenten dinners, you will meet new people, can engage in conversations, discover mutual interests and strike up a budding friendship. We try to offer varied events where we can engage in fellowship and spark friendships. The church family grows in spirit, numbers, empathy and sympathy, friendship and love. The foundation is laid for upward growth and strength in good and hard times.

Our last event of the year will be our Epiphany Bonfire on 6 January at 6 pm in the wide-open field in front of the church. We are collecting dried trees and greens for a raging bonfire where the 12 months of the year melt into the past, and we welcome the New Year with hope and anticipation. Call us if you need help transporting your greenery. We can make “House Calls”.

Meet your neighbors at the hot cider and cookie table at the bonfire, share a warm handshake, and smile. You, too, will have an “epiphany” that we are together off to a grand start, a new beginning where Hope and Possibilities light our way forward.

Happy New Year!
Bev Hart and Mary Lynn Landgraf
Fellowship committee



FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN'S WORK BENCH

Many thanks to everyone who supported the work of cleaning the grounds of the cemetery and Parish Hall for all the events that have taken place over the last few months.

Please be aware that icy walkways and conditions around the church are becoming more common as temperatures drop. Regarding the inside of the Parish Hall and church, please contact me if there are issues with the thermostat temperature settings. We need to keep our cost down, but we also want folks to be comfortable.

Scott Holt

From the Organ Bench

Do you enjoy singing along in church? Perhaps you would consider joining the choir. The following information might help you decide if the choir is right for you.

Although we are an amateur choir, we are serious about our music. It is not an “whenever I feel like coming” type of activity. Participation is a commitment of time and talent. Since we are so few, your presence or absence could be the determining factor of whether we sing a given piece we have been preparing.

We sing each Sunday at the 10:30 service year-round. We appreciate our members' attendance at rehearsals regularly and on time. Our rehearsals are on Sunday morning at 9:00 and one Saturday morning each month, perhaps two at Christmas. Active members are those who attend at least two of three rehearsals. Some members are seasonal or only attend on special occasions.

Because of our limited rehearsal time and choir size, our repertoire is relatively easy. Many are in unison or two or three parts. However, we occasionally tackle more complex pieces. Members who cannot read music will require extra time and effort to ensure they are able to follow the scores. Those who come for a service and have not attended rehearsals may be asked to sit out the anthem that day but are welcome to help lead the rest of worship.

We are blessed to have a small core of dedicated choir members. I can't thank them enough for their time and efforts.

Libby Boyer, Organist and Choir Director

Special January Celebrations

Anniversaries



- 1 Pete & Judy Mansfield*
- 3 Garry & Micki Clay*
- 16 Robin & Sallie Wells*

Birthdays

- 1 Lurlene Samuel*
- 3 Lee Davis*
- 5 Bill Brown*
- 7 Lillian Wilson*
- 10 Stuart Wood*
Dina Parry
- 13 Garry Clay*
Jim Knupp
- 18 Tonya Spears*
- 20 Charles Nance*
- 21 John Hawkins*
Page Wittkamp
- 24 Christopher Hamlett*
- 26 Byron Parker*
- 28 Charles Adkins*





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.

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>
February 2025	January 24, 2025
March 2025	February 21, 2025
April 2025	March 21, 2025
May 2025	April 25, 2025
June 2025	May 23, 2025
July 2025	June 20, 2025
August 2025	July 25, 2025
September 2025	August 22, 2025
October 2025	September 19, 2025
November 2025	October 24, 2025
December 2025	November 14, 2025
January 2026	December 26, 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.