

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

April 2021

Dear people of Christ Church,

With the Easter season upon us and the celebration of God's revelation of the profound depth and nature of God's redeeming love encountered in Jesus overcoming death and the grave, I find so many more ways to appreciate with fresh eyes what God has done for us. We realize that nothing, I mean literally nothing, can separate us from the life of Christ.

The resurrection experience overcoming so much includes pandemics. I find this Easter as a hard time to consider if I am going to be a person of despair or a person of hope. In our often frustrating struggle to gather the community in worship and fellowship, my anger can make it tempting to give up or to take undue risks. My anger can lead to despair because I am not getting what I expected or want as we talk about re-gathering. Be it exhaustion from being isolated for over a year, fear of an uncertain future, concern and anxieties about what is going on now, the petty attitudes and struggles can easily drain away the hope of Easter.

Or I can seek to encounter the resurrection afresh in turning away from the despair, trusting in God's creative love and being a person of hope. My hope is that Christ will take this experience and give us new appreciation for our language of the "community of the baptized" representing the body of Christ to the world as we re-start the parish life and activities. I also hope that we will greet one another, old and new, with such joy as to draw others looking for a community of Christ's disciples to join us at Christ Church. This become a vision of possibilities for seeing the risen Lord proclaimed as our life and light as we work our way out of this long night of the past year.

You and I have a choice to make for how we engage the next part of our faith journey with Christ and with one another. For me, I prefer the energy of hope in Christ rather than despair. With that hope in Christ also comes the realization that we have changed. We have much to be and do as a people of hope moving ahead into the possibilities. It is not going to be easy. We have some real challenges to face with our future. We still do not know when we will be fully re-open. We have our stewardship challenges. We will also realize who is here and who is not here.

Since I do not think that we can simply pick up where we left off last year, I am going to start with some of the basics of re-starting Christ Church. It will be as basic as the recommendation to wear names tags - big print - so everyone can re-introduce themselves to the stranger behind the mask. It will also be more sophisticated such as Martin and I are in the process of developing a small group conversation opportunity to explore what we have just come through. I will be sending out information about what it means to be a re-start as with changes in the parish over the past year. Our committees such as Parish Life, Pastoral Care, and Finance are working on the re-start process now. Other committees work on programs for the fall.

This is a huge effort for all of us to be a part of. Our Lord gives us a call to follow as we say "Alleluia! He is risen!" To answer this call also means that we have to get moving. If you have been still too long, you know that getting moving again is a slow and stiff process. However, getting moving is the start and keeping moving is the key. It will take some time for us to get our balance back and remember how to work together once again. I look forward to doing that with you as we re-start Christ Church and see what God calls us to do next.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
rector@christchurchwinchester.org

April 2021



From the Clergy

“Christ is risen, he is risen indeed, alleluia!”

This greeting we use in the Easter season expresses the central truth of Easter. We say it at the beginning of each service so that we do not forget what the season of Easter is really about, who it is really about. That Jesus has been raised from death to new life is true all the time, of course, not just in the Easter season, but we take time in our worship to focus on it, to reflect on it, and to read the accounts of what happens after Jesus is raised.

This year, I’m thinking in particular about an encounter the disciples have with Jesus in John’s gospel, which happens not in Jerusalem, but in Galilee. The disciples seem to have returned to their lives before they began following Jesus, and gone back to fishing. Even though they have already seen Jesus alive once, they don’t yet know what to do about his appearance, or understand how their lives will change. All at once, they encounter Jesus on the beach—although they do not recognize him at first. It is here that Peter has his encounter with Jesus, and promises to feed his sheep.

What the disciples finally start to recognize in their lakeside encounter is that because Jesus is alive, he is still calling them. They still have a mission and a purpose as his disciples. None of that ended at the Cross—it changed, and became something new. And all of the ways they failed Jesus, the ways they deserted him and denied him, can be forgiven. They can learn to live with the past because of Jesus’s continuing presence with them. As Rowan Williams writes in his book on resurrection, “To know that Jesus still invites is to know that he accepts and forgives.”

I think this encounter with Jesus will have a lot to say to us this Easter. As we continue the slow process of re-opening, of beginning to look forward to whatever is next in our lives, part of our call as the church is to figure out how to understand what happened in the past year, and to learn how to move forward in our mission together. The past will not go away, and neither will the ways the pandemic has changed us as people and as a church community. But new life and new understanding continue to be possible with Christ. Christ continues to be present with us, and will not leave us or fail us. He continues to call us to follow him, even right now. We’ll need longer than the seven weeks of Easter to do this work, but we can trust that whatever happens, we can continue in hope. Alleluia, Christ is risen—and we keep following him!

Faithfully,



The Rev. Martin Geiger, Assistant Rector
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540-662-5843, Ext. 2, or direct 540-773-5564

From the Clergy

Springtime Porch Sittin’



As the weather turns beautiful, the clergy would be happy to do some porch sittin’ or driveway socializing. Would you like a visit? We’ve had a lot to process over the last year, and if you’d like some conversation, some prayer, or just a chance to catch up, Webster and Martin are ready! Email or call either of them to set up a time to visit outside your home. This offer is open to everyone, whether or not you’ve had a major life event happen - just a chance to connect in person again!

Christ Church Annual Meeting—April 18, 2021

On Sunday, April 18, we will have our Annual Meeting at Christ Church. It was previously scheduled for April 11, but we are delaying a week as we work out logistical issues!

For those of you who may not have attended an annual meeting before, here is what you will find: First of all, it is the meeting where the congregation elects a new class of four people to serve on the Vestry. The Vestry is the group that serves as “agent and legal representative of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the Parish to its Clergy.” The members help the rector in mutual ministry of worshipping and serving our Lord. Of course, my favorite diocesan canon for vestry is: “Each Vestry member shall extend personally a hearty welcome to newly baptized, confirmed, received, or transferred members of the congregation.” Adult communicants in good standing are allowed to vote at the meeting. If you are not sure if you are technically a member at Christ Church, please call the Church Office prior to the Annual Meeting. We encourage those new to the parish, or not yet members, to attend the meeting because this is a good way to see what is going on at Christ Church.

While this year may be different, we usually hear reports from officers of the Vestry—Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer—about the parish. We usually have the annual meeting between the church services to have as much of the faithful community attend as possible; to remind ourselves what nourishes us as a parish which is our worship of our Lord Jesus Christ and the opportunity to break bread at His table. Please watch for more details and be sure to be with us on Sunday, April 18, for this important part of our parish life.

Church Calendar

Sundays @ Christ Church

Watch Weekly Email Updates for news on in-person worship.
(Sign up on website for email updates.)

10:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
See www.christchurchwinchester.org for link.

Evening Prayer Online
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

APRIL

Please watch for announcements via email, website, Facebook, or church bulletin on services, meetings, and events at Christ Church.

Some committees and groups are meeting using Zoom online. Please check with your group to see if they have anything scheduled!

Committee & Group Meetings

Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Alleluia Singers	Sun: 8:45 am
Online Bible Study	Wed: 10:00 am
Knit Unto Others	3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
Men's Fellowship	2nd Sat: 7:30 am
Outreach Committee	4th Tues: 7:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Women's Book Studies	Tues: 10:30 - Noon Thurs: 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm
Youth Group	2nd/4th Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm



**Look for
Christ Episcopal Church Winchester
and like us to stay up-to-date on the latest news!**

**The Rector's day off is Friday.
The Assistant Rector's day off is Monday.
The Church Office is open by appointment only.
Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843**

The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

April Birthdays

- 2 Martin Tabaka, Dan Wall
- 3 Larry Pettinger
- 6 Toni Sloan
- 7 Stewart Wiley
- 8 Mary Rodriguez
- 11 Joe Wingenbach
- 12 Brock Whipkey
- 14 Dixon Whitworth
- 16 Sylvia Petrie
- 17 Dennis Wise
- 18 Kevin Kennedy, Kathy Nerangis,
Maria Nelson
- 19 Michael Mohn
- 20 Leslie Harper, Tom Wise, Don MacDonald
- 22 Laken Whipkey
- 23 Ruth Gregory
- 24 Joan Claybrook
- 27 Melissa Ferguson



April Anniversaries

- 8 Larry & Connie Pettinger
- 18 Gil & Margie Kesser
- 19 Bernie & Rosemary Swope
- 26 Scott & Leslie Harper

celebrate!

Please Note:

We will publish birthday and anniversary information only with explicit permission. Please contact the Church Office if you wish to be added to or deleted from these lists. Please keep the Church Office informed of any changes to your address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Altar Flowers for April 2021

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and...

- April 4 & 11 Easter flowers
- April 18 In loving memory of Dot & Jim Andrews and Martha & Jim Nerangis by Nick and Kathy Nerangis
- April 25 In loving memory of Dr. & Mrs. F. Dixon Whitworth and Mr. & Mrs. William T. Sutton by Dixon and Kay Whitworth

For your summer calendar:

Regrettably, we will not have Vacation Bible School again this summer. Our very large VBS group meets in classes indoors in many small spaces where social distancing is difficult. It's not likely that we'd be able to gather for the full group activities, music, and games that generate so much of the fun and energy that make VBS great. There are still many adults who are not yet vaccinated, including parents. We have to be able to offer the safest environment for our children as possible, so we will wait until 2022!

Happily though, we are beginning to be able to look forward to worship for our children in outdoor and indoor settings at Christ Church and will offer programming through the summer. Please continue to watch for news via weekly email updates and the website!

From the Treasurer

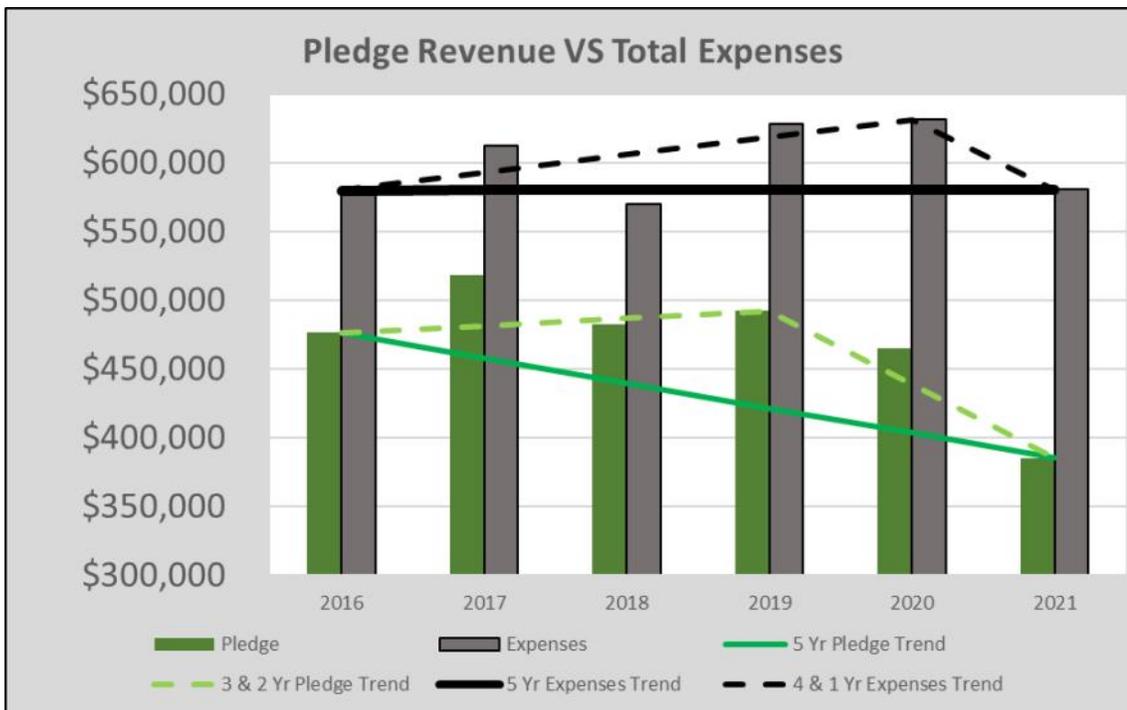
Looking at the Year Ahead

2021 YTD Update:

2021	Month of February Results			YTD through February 2021		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenues	\$26,175	\$38,960	(\$12,785)	\$104,061	\$81,560	\$22,501
Expenses	\$40,931	\$43,711	\$2,779	\$81,175	\$78,819	(\$2,357)
Net Position	(\$14,756)	(\$4,751)	(\$10,005)	\$22,885	\$2,741	\$20,144

The table above shows the summary Revenue and Expense totals for Actual and Budget for February and year-to-date.

Five Year Budget Analysis:



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Pledge Revenues VS Total Expenses	82.1%	84.6%	84.6%	78.3%	73.7%	66.3%

For many years, based upon budget history, pledge revenues typically amount to between 80% to 85% of the Total Expenses for the year. The other revenue categories (Un-Pledged, Plate, and All Other Revenue) then fill in the remaining 15% to 20% and allow the budget to balance.

During the time period 2016-2021, Christ Church has gone from fully-staffed, to under-staffed (no assistant rector) and back to fully-staffed. Looking at 2018, you can see when budgeted expenses were clearly down in

From the Treasurer

comparison to the other years shown.

When we are at full staff, and we keep everything pretty much the same, we expect expenses to increase slightly each year due to salary increases, annual increases in medical insurance costs for employees, and possibly utility expense increases as well.

The graph clearly shows that budgeted Pledge Revenues have dropped quite a bit since 2017 and have dropped steeply in 2020 & 2021 (down to just 66.3% of Budgeted Expenses).

PLEDGES FALLING ISSUE = MAJOR CONCERN

There are several distinct actions/reactions that have occurred the past two years:

1. The Church Treasurer reported to the Vestry that “PLEDGES ARE FALLING! PLEDGES ARE FALLING!” There were then efforts to see what expenses could be cut. In 2021, there were dramatic cuts in programs and employee hours to help reduce total expenses!



2. The 2020 PPP loan we received was like being rescued! It allowed us to keep all our employees full-time through 2020. It was as if we had an anonymous large \$\$\$ donor help us balance the 2020 budget so we would be tempted* to postpone (“kick the can”) addressing the “PLEDGES ARE FALLING Issue” to the next year—when we would be back attending church in person and when pledges could return to normal!



3. In 2021, with pledges down severely due to the continuation of the COVID 19 pandemic, **we had to budget getting a second PPP loan** along with cutting some staff hours which still resulted in a planned deficit budget for the year.
4. **WE WERE APPROVED FOR A 2nd PPP LOAN!** In the first quarter of 2021 we applied for and got confirmation that we have been approved for a second PPP loan. Assuming this new \$85K loan will once again be forgiven, we will come much closer to balancing the budget at the end of 2021. Instead of having a deficit of about \$100K at year end, the budget now plans for a \$15,000 deficit.



We CANNOT postpone addressing this PLEDGES FALLING issue any longer!

If this trend continues, we will face reducing program funding and reducing staffing hours further than we have done for 2021.

* Tempting as it might have seemed, we have NEVER “kicked the can.” There have been “Pledge Falling” discussions at Vestry meetings, Finance Committee meetings, and Stewardship Committee meetings. Unfortunately, those meetings have been limited due to the pandemic in 2020 and into 2021. This topic will continue to be discussed and reported on during 2021!

From the Parish Nurses

Preventing Memory Loss

Welcome to spring! Yes, we will continue to social distance, wear our mask, and wash our hands, in addition to getting our COVID vaccines.

We would like to focus on ideas of how to deal with our “year-long cognitive impairment” due to the pandemic. According to Dr. Lyons (neurologist) in a recent Winchester Star article, much of memory loss issues in later years can be “within our control” by choosing good food, exercise, and quality education early in our lives. Some suggestions include the following in your diet: seafood (unless allergic), fresh vegetables, fruits and moderate amounts of alcohol and caffeine. Focus on a steady intake of vitamin D, folates, flavonoids, and certain lipids. The Mediterranean and DASH diet used to lower blood pressure have been widely publicized. These foods include: peppers, squash, carrots, nuts, berries, beans, whole grains, fish, poultry, olive oil, and limited servings of wine, which does have anti-inflammatory properties.

Foods to avoid (when possible) would be that delicious red meat selection, butter, and other forms of saturated fat, cheese, pastries/sweets (Oh, my!) and, of course, fast foods and fried foods. These are suggestions and if eaten - in moderation.

For exercise, try walking your dog at least once a day. Walk and walk some more, as tolerated. Weight-bearing exercise is an excellent way to strengthen our legs and take a friend with you. Social interaction is a MUST. Also, take care of that hearing loss! If you can't hear, how can you interact? We can't go back in time but we can make small changes that will make a difference in our daily activities and our interactions with family and friends.

See you next month!

Your Parish Nurses, Rosalie & Helen

From the Outreach Committee

CCAP Collection for April

Each month, CCAP asks Christ Church parishioners to donate a specific item in need for their clients. As spring is here, some of our neighbors will be headed back outdoors to live. In April, CCAP is asking we donate **waterproof tarps** and **poly rope**. These are available at the Harbor Freight Tools online or at the local store located at 1131 Berryville Avenue (Rt. 7). CCAP would also like donations of **sleeping bags** and **2-3 person tents**.

You can leave your donations on the table marked for CCAP donations in the foyer of the Parish Hall each Wednesday between 9:00 am and noon. Or call Jim Taylor at 703-403-5264 or email annjimtaylor@verizon.net to make other arrangements.

Thank you for your continued support! You can learn more about CCAP, what they do, and volunteer opportunities at www.ccapwinc.org.

