

THE ANGELUS

Volume 70 Number 9

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

May 2020

Dear People of Christ Church,

As we move ahead over the next few weeks, there are a lot of unknowns which we are constantly reminded about: return to worship, return to the office, return to school, return to being able to go out, etc. However, while there is so much unknown, there are also some things that we do know.

For example, you know that the staff at Christ Church is continuing to work on making sure our parish continues to function in ways that help us to be a community of disciples of the risen Lord. How we are doing that work has changed, that is for sure. Staff are working from home and utilizing technologies to get work done. So, if you are wondering about best way to reach staff, the phone is still the best since they can check voicemail remotely. Emails, website and Facebook postings will continue to get timely information to you as well.



Worship is another example of business not as usual. Ted and Martin and I are continuing Sunday worship videos and we are trying to involve parishioners. We are following the bishop's request not to use the full sanctuary until restrictions are lifted. So, we continue to use Zoom from our homes. Thanks to the staff, everything from finances and ministries to new video and internet capabilities are on the table for us to learn and share with you through this challenging time.

The Vestry continues to touch base with you by phone, which really helps us know not only how you are doing, but also how we can get in touch with you. If you have not been called by a member of the Vestry, please call the church office (540-662-5843, Ext. 4) and let Noelle know your contact information so we can reach you. The Vestry is also working to deal with the financial realities, making sure the parish facilities and staff are cared for.

We are in a new reality, that is for sure. Not so long ago, if anyone told me that I would have to do worship via video, I would have told them that it would take a cold day in hell or something crazy for me to make a video. Well, we have definitely had something crazy going on. Now we will be looking at an even greater stretch for me, which is remote Bible studies online! And, Martin is doing online Evening Prayer. No, this is not my ideal, but it is a way to find community while we are apart.

No matter what, the main thing I ask of you is to be safe. We will reach a point when we can gather, and we will be smart about how we do it. We are rethinking worship based on what is safe and we will also have an incredibly clean and disinfected church, as we diligently continue to wipe things down. However we come out of this crisis, I want as many of you to be there with us as possible. To do that, we need to be safe.

Please continue to pray and give thanks for the medical personnel and everyone else caring for the ill and all those who are working to make sure we all have what we need. Hold the victims of this virus and their families in your prayers. Please call the clergy or the Vestry if we can help you with something. Keep an eye on your neighbors. Please be safe and stay healthy.

Faithfully,

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

May 2020



From the Clergy

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we move into the season of Easter, I think many of us are realizing how long and how difficult the challenge of dealing with coronavirus is going to be. We are facing a period of profound uncertainty, where we do not know how long we will be dealing with the challenges of working from home, or keeping public spaces and events shut down. Particularly as we enter into May, many of us are dealing with the disappointment of canceled events – graduations and celebrations, events like the parish retreat, even the Apple Blossom Festival. Although all of us are worried about bigger things as well – our health and the health of the people we love, the economic turmoil we are all living with – these are still real disappointments. We are dealing with both fear and worry, and with the reality that our life seems more boring, with fewer things to look forward to.

One of the places I have turned as I've considered both of these challenges, is the Benedictine monastic tradition. Benedict's Rule reflects frequently on the virtue of stability as part of monastic life. For Benedict, stability meant staying in one place, as part of one monastic community. He was concerned about monks who traveled from one community to another, always sure that the right community was just around the corner. For Benedict, growing deeper in your relationship with God happened when you avoided that kind of wandering, when you took the time to stay put, and learn from the community that was around you.

There are crucial differences between Benedict's situation and our own. We did not choose to stay put as we're currently doing, and we are not under vows of obedience like Benedict's monks were. But I think there are lessons for us in the virtue of stability, as we try to practice the love of God and neighbor right now. The tiredness and the boredom many of us are dealing with right now can also be an invitation to look for God more deeply, to encounter God in new ways in old routines. This is the assumption underneath practices like the Daily Office, or meditation – that in saying the same words every day, faithfully, we will make space in our lives to listen to God. Practicing stability can help us hear God's voice amid the many other things that call for our attention. So, if we find ourselves doing the same things every day, I encourage you to try to make those tasks opportunities for prayer, for listening for God, who is always inviting us to greater and deeper love. May this very strange season of Easter be a time where God continues to be present with you, guiding you forward.

Faithfully,



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



*Image from
faithandworship.com*

**Join Martin for Evening Prayer on
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom.
Email or call Martin for instructions
on how to log in.**

From the Outreach Committee

Staying at home and practicing social distancing is difficult for actively caring and generous people like Christ Church members! There is no doubt the need is currently overwhelming and we'd like to help everyone. And we will engage in outreach activities again, in person - soon. Keep checking our website and Facebook page for up-to-date information. The Outreach Committee is continuing to meet (via Zoom) and discuss options to help those in need.

"What programs we can support going forward, however, is dependent on what we all do today. One thing you can do is to keep your pledge as current as possible. We cannot live into our call to provide life-sustaining support to others if we do not have it ourselves," reminds Martha Griffin.

The following organizations, with whom we often partner, and their staff are still working very hard to minister to our neediest friends and neighbors in the community:

Evans Home for Children: Currently, ten school-aged children are being housed along with four house parents and one toddler. You can go to www.evanshome.org or call 540-662-8520 to find out what they need.

Winchester Rescue Mission (WRM): The WRM is sheltering about 35 women and men, feeding an additional 45 to 65 non-resident guests nightly, and providing groceries to 30+ people six days per week. In addition, WRM has been designated to set up and operate the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Homeless Shelter in the former National Guard Armory on the Shenandoah University campus. During normal, i.e. non-Coronavirus, times, WRM volunteers would prepare and serve meals and staff the Food Bank. However, times are not normal and, to preclude coronavirus spread, volunteers are not allowed into the Mission to perform these functions. Also, it is NOT recommended that parishioners go to the Mission to drop off food or other items. Donations of cash and gift cards (either to restaurants or grocery stores) can be mailed to Winchester Rescue Mission, 435 North Cameron Street, Winchester, VA 22601 or you can go to the WRM website <https://www.winrescue.org> to donate.

Congregation Community Action Project (CCAP): CCAP temporarily suspended its operations over coronavirus concerns, though CCAP volunteers have remained active in the community, partnering with other nonprofit groups like the Salvation Army. CCAP's Board of Directors continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will reopen when it's safe for clients and volunteers. In the meantime, CCAP will continue to partner with local groups and share the resources it has. For more information about CCAP, follow its Facebook page or visit its website at www.ccapwinc.org. CCAP also has set up a temporary email during this time at ccapinformation112@gmail.com.

Bright Futures, our Panda Ministry partner, continues to provide food packs each week for 900+ school children in the local area through the local school districts. Monetary donations can be made via MySchool-Bucks at <https://bit.ly/BFmonetarygift>. You can donate as a guest and do not need an account. Donations of product can be dropped off at the Bright Futures Distribution Center located at 178 Indian Hollow Road at any time and should be placed in the bins located at the entrance of the center. Additional information can be found at <https://bit.ly/2J8XTqy>.

Please continue to support local businesses, if you can. The Women's Lunch Group, for example, wants everyone to know that the Firefly Café and Bakery, their monthly meeting host, will re-open in coming days for takeout and delivery. Please check their Facebook page (Firefly Café and Bakery) for updates!

Church Calendar

Church Services

Sunday

Holy Communion Rite I 8:00 am
Holy Communion Rite II 10:30 am

Wednesday

In the Pilgrim's Chapel at noon
(Healing Service 3rd Wed)

Second Monday

6:30 pm All Abilities Worship —Sanctuary



All on-site services, meetings and events are canceled in May.

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

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

Committee & Group Meetings

Senior Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Alleluia Singers	Sun: 8:45 am
Daytime Faith Study	2nd/4th Mon: 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
Treasure Box	Wed & Fri: 10 am-4 pm, Sat 10 am-1 pm
Women's Lunch Group	1st Thurs: 11:30 am
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.**

Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843

Church Calendar

May Birthdays

- 2 Anne Drury, Pam McKinley, Katy Wiley
- 3 Jo Pilette
- 4 Karen Jagiello
- 6 Jane Troup
- 7 Wayne McKinley
- 8 Jackson Stock
- 13 Teresa Jacobsen
- 14 Liz Lindon
- 16 Bob Read
- 18 Zoe Conrad
- 19 Linda Russell, Ryan Hinkle
- 21 Barbara "Bobbie" Gouldthorpe
- 22 Linda Miles, Cole Jones-Purdy,
Bob Puttock
- 24 Wilborn Roberson
- 26 Kay Wise, Greg Jacobson
- 27 Sara Bicking, Tim Waldie
- 28 Alix Cooper
- 29 Bill Drury, Walt McIntosh, William Walsh
Caroline Wingenbach



May Anniversaries

- 4 Glen & Paula Opheim
- 7 Ruben & Mary Rodriguez
- 8 Jim & Ann Taylor
- 14 Rob & Trish Boyd
- 18 Dan & Jody Wall
- 19 Gerald & Cheryl Crowell
- 24 Michael & Janie Mohn
- 25 Charles & Joyce Casey

celebrate!



Happy Apple Blossom, friends!

Christian Formation News

Each week, Sunday School families are receiving an email link to the lesson for the upcoming Sunday. It's posted on the church website and includes the focus of the lesson, points on how to talk to kids about the reading, and separate activities for older and younger children, which are quick and easy to do at home, and a suggested prayer.

When Martin leads us in Evening Prayer online on Wednesdays, there will be an additional prayer available to parents for use and learn with their children throughout the week. The prayer will change every week and parents are encouraged to repeat it daily with their families whenever they pray together each day. Look for it on the church website.

Vacation Bible School, our great summer outreach for our children and the community, is being postponed until summer 2021. Together with our partner Grace Lutheran, this decision was made based on the uncertainty about when we will be able to gather again in groups. (About 300 kids and almost 100 helpers is one of those big groups!) There is still enough uncertainty about the course of the pandemic to take any risk at all with our children and staff. The materials for this summer had already been purchased so, by postponing the program until next year, we will also not have to add that expense to next year's budget.

From the Treasurer

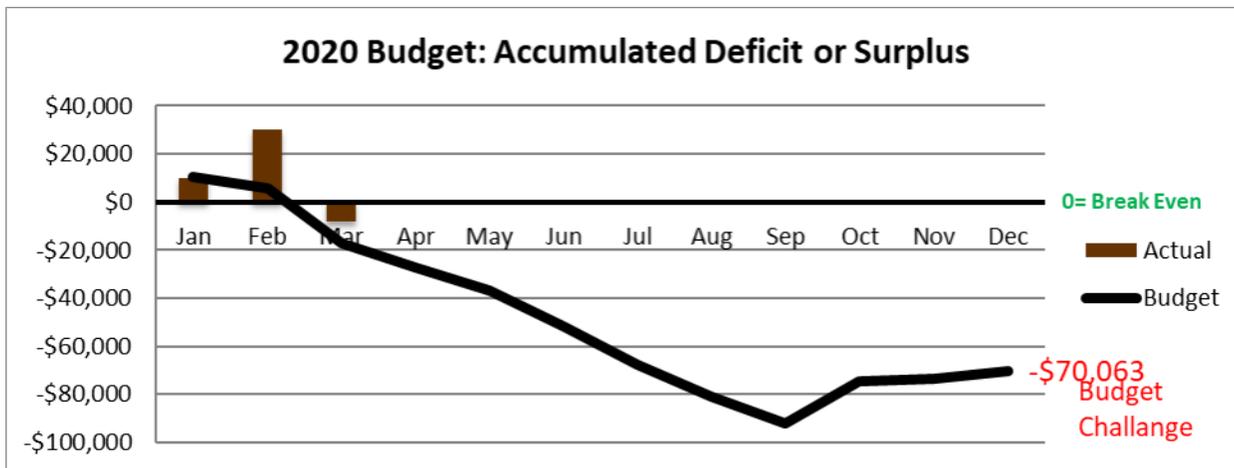
First Quarter Finances



2020 Vision (1st Quarter)

Problem: This May Angelus ONLY has data through March.

- You will see from the “roadmap” below that for the first quarter, we were about on budget (at an actual deficit of \$-8,097 compared to a budget deficit of \$-17,267). This was due to some early full-year gifts we received in February, as well as some year-end gifts that got counted in January.
- Due to COVID-19 and church services being canceled, **March was WAY BELOW BUDGET.**
- March actual revenue was ONLY \$19,410 compared to an expected budget revenue of \$41,900!



Here is a summary table to that gives more detail about our March results and the YTD results for the 1st quarter of 2020:

	March Actual	March Budget	March Diff	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Diff
2020						
Revenues	\$19,410	\$41,900	-\$22,490	\$136,631	\$135,030	\$1,601
Expenses	\$57,455	\$65,131	-\$7,676	\$144,728	\$152,297	-\$7,569
Net Position	-\$38,045	-\$23,231	-\$14,814	-\$8,097	-\$17,267	\$9,170

Cash Flow & Looking Ahead

As of mid-April, when writing this article, we can project April results and plan for May:

- The budget for April calls for a deficit month of \$-9,966.
- However, we are projecting a deficit month of about \$-7,032.
- This is primarily due to expense reduction of 20%.

Revenue rebounded from March, in part, because we had three pledges paid in full. However, revenue is still down 17% for April.

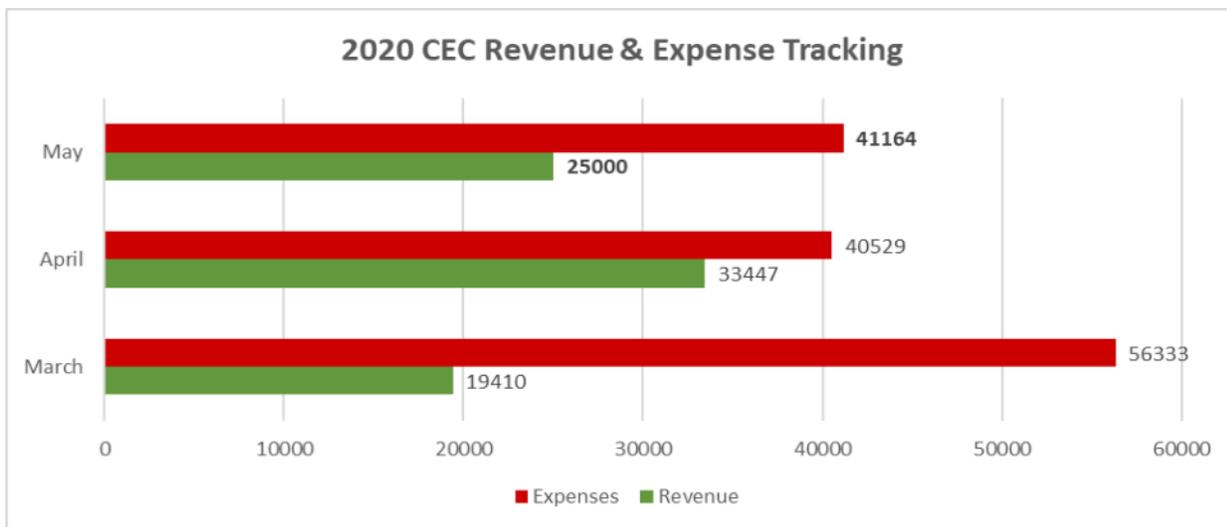
From the Treasurer

Unfortunately, we are projecting a **continued downward revenue trend of 35% in May, unless we all make efforts to support the church** by maintaining our giving (to both pledged and unpledged revenues).

Maintaining our giving: We need your help NOW!

- Weekly or monthly givers – keep current, or if you are behind, try to get caught up.
- Quarterly, Semi-Annual, and Annual givers – consider giving a portion of your support NOW rather than at mid-year or year-end.

The bar graph below that shows expenses in red and revenues in green. The picture is clear: our revenues are falling short and **we really need to reverse the downward revenue trend!**



New Charitable Giving Incentives

The CARES Act, signed into law on March 27, 2020, includes several provisions that affect charitable giving this year.

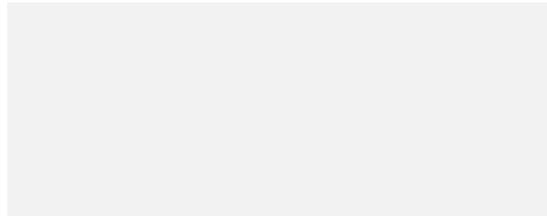
1. New charitable deduction for taxpayers who do not itemize. Beginning in 2020, individuals can deduct \$300 in charitable contributions from their gross income even if they do not itemize their deductions. The donation must be cash/check. Appreciated securities and gifts to a donor-advised fund do not qualify.
2. No cap on charitable deductions for taxpayers who do itemize. Donors who itemize their deductions can usually deduct cash contributions up to 60% of their adjusted gross income. For 2020, that cap is lifted, and donors contributing cash/check to charity may deduct up to 100% of their income. Again, this is only gifts of cash/check, and only gifts made directly to charity (not to donor-advised funds).
3. No required minimum distributions, but qualified charitable distributions still possible. The CARES Act eliminates required minimum distributions (RMDs) from many retirement plans in 2020. Under CARES Act, it is still possible for donors who are 70 ½ or over to contribute up to \$100,000 directly to a charity without paying tax on the distribution.

This is only a summary and donors should always consult with their own professional advisors before making a gift.



THE ANGELUS
Christ Episcopal Church
114 West Boscawen St.
Winchester, VA 22601-4116

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Winchester, VA
Permit No. 216



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Nurses' Musings

Spring allergies are still an issue during COVID-19! Symptoms include itchy, watery eyes, a runny nose and sneezing, maybe a scratchy throat. If you have allergies, try over the counter medicines. Shower before bed to wash off pollen.

If your symptoms include fever, persistent dry cough, difficulty breathing, confusion, lack of taste or smell, or extreme tiredness, please use the Valley Health Hotline for COVID 19 at 540-536-0380. Hours are M-F 8:00 am-8:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am-6:00 pm. You can speak with a health care professional about your symptoms.

COVID 19 is spread by respiratory droplets when a person coughs, sneezes or speaks.

We should all continue to:

- Wash hands often—for 20 seconds with soap and water, dry with towel.
- Clean surfaces with disinfectant.
- Wear a cloth face mask when in public and keep a safe distance from others.
- Cover sneezes and coughs.
- Avoid touching your face!

And if stress is taking a toll on you right now, try some deep breathing, exercise daily, get plenty of sleep, take breaks from TV and news, eat well-balanced meals, avoid alcohol and unprescribed drugs.

Hope to see you in church soon.

Your parish nurses, Helen & Rosalie