



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

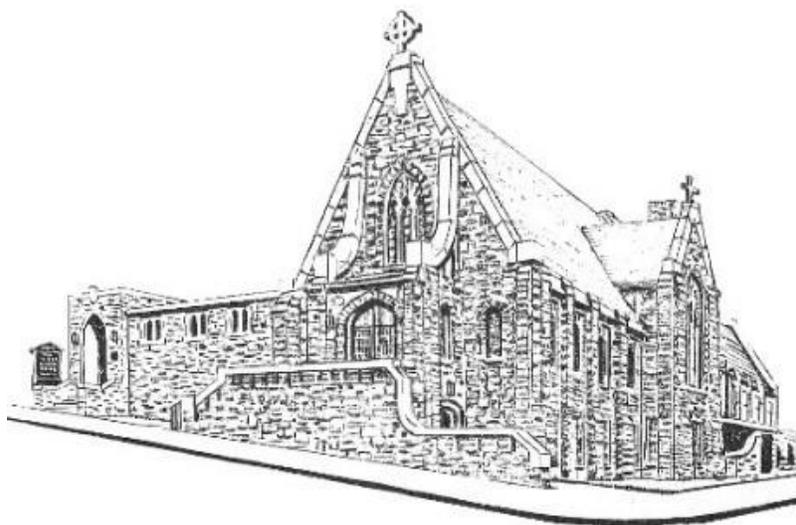
[www.christchurchbluefield.org](http://www.christchurchbluefield.org)



## The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

and being Proper XV of the Church Year

August 15, 2021



This bulletin contains our liturgy today.

As a sign of love and respect during this pandemic era our worship is somewhat different. We hope that you will feel safe in this place and leave edified by our celebration of Word and Sacrament today.

The Vestry of Christ Church encourages everyone, out of love and respect to all, to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Our Parish Nurse can answer any questions you may have about the vaccine. Our ushers can direct you to a Vestry Member or the Parish Nurse for more information.

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time, we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate located in the back of the church. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

Prelude

**Our Service Begins**

Processional Hymn

*When morning gilds the skies*

Hymnal 427

The Opening Sentences

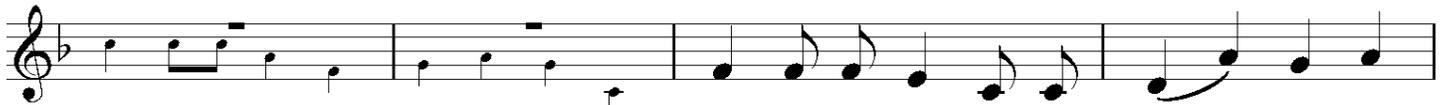
*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

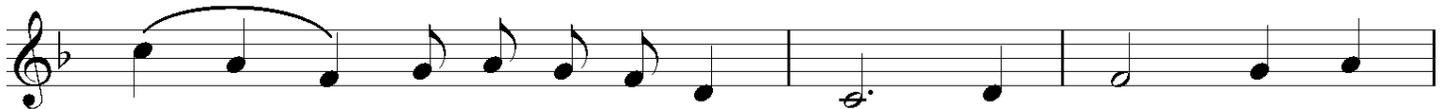
*Celebrant*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Gloria is then sung, all standing*



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly



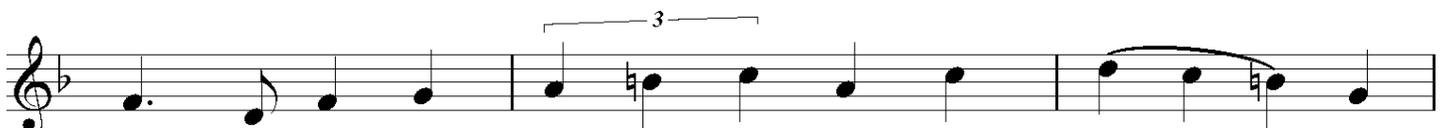
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## The Collect of the Day

*Our collective prayer for the day*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



## We Hear and Respond to God's Word

### The First Lesson

*Proverbs 9:1-6*

Wisdom has built her house,  
she has hewn her seven pillars.  
She has slaughtered her animals,  
she has mixed her wine,  
she has also set her table.  
She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls  
from the highest places in the town,  
“You that are simple, turn in here!”  
To those without sense she says,  
“Come, eat of my bread  
and drink of the wine I have mixed.  
Lay aside immaturity, and live,  
and walk in the way of insight.”

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God!

### The Psalm

Psalm 34:9-14

*Benedicam Dominum*

*The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse*

9. Fear the Lord, you that are his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.
10. The young lions lack and suffer hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.
11. Come, children, and listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
12. Who among you loves life and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?
13. Keep your tongue from evil-speaking and your lips from lying words.
14. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

*Said together*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.



## The Second Lesson

*Ephesians 5:15-20*

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thank be to God!

## Gospel Hymn

*Let thy Blood in mercy poured*

Hymnal 313

## The Gospel Lesson

*John 6:51-58*

*Please stand for the Gospel Lesson*

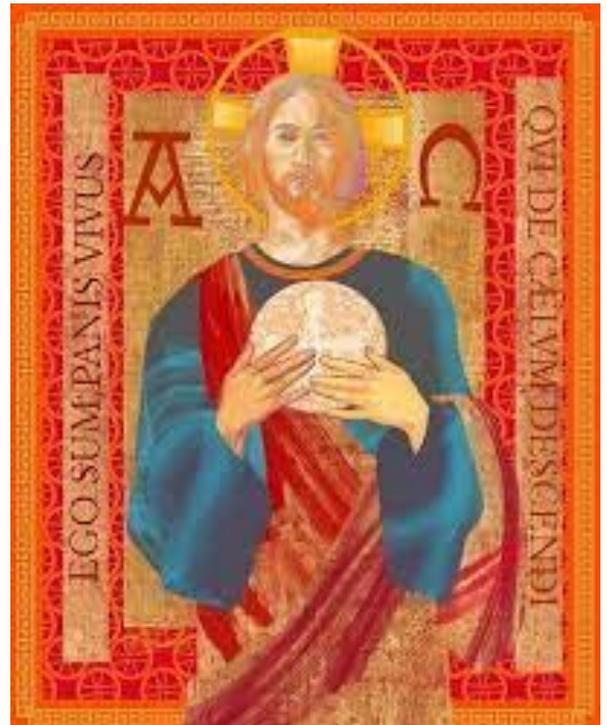
*Celebrant*    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People*        Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So, Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”



*Celebrant*    The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*        Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

The Nicene Creed

*All stand as they are able*

We believe in one God,  
    the Father, the Almighty,  
    maker of heaven and earth,  
    of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
    the only Son of God,  
    eternally begotten of the Father,  
    God from God, Light from Light,  
    true God from true God,  
    begotten, not made,  
    of one Being with the Father.  
    Through him all things were made.  
    For us and for our salvation  
        he came down from heaven:  
    by the power of the Holy Spirit  
        he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
        and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
    he suffered death and was buried.  
    On the third day he rose again  
        in accordance with the Scriptures;  
    he ascended into heaven  
        and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
    and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
    who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
    With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
    He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church\*.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*\*meaning the church universal, that all Christians are one people regardless of denomination*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The intercessor greets the congregation with the following words and leads us in prayer.*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Mike, our own Bishop, Chad, our priest, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For those in positions of public trust, especially Ron and Donnie, our mayors, Jim and Ralph, our Governors, and Joe, our President, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, especially Louisa Bennitt, Luke Beemer, Bea Paine, and Scott Meachum who celebrate birthdays this week, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers, especially those on our prayer list; for our families, friends, and neighbors and for all those we now name before you either silently or aloud...; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, especially the loved ones of Chad and Jennifer Slater, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. Margaret, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

*To you, O Lord our God.*

*The Celebrant then offers the concluding collect for the prayers*

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **The Confession and Absolution**

*The Celebrant then calls the people to confess their sins to God*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*At this time we will greet those around us in the name of the Lord. Please refrain from physical touch during this time so as to ensure proper social distancing for all members of the congregation. Thank you.*



# The Holy Eucharist, sometimes call *The Mass*

Offertory Hymn

*God of grace and God of glory*

Hymnal 594

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*The Celebrant continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

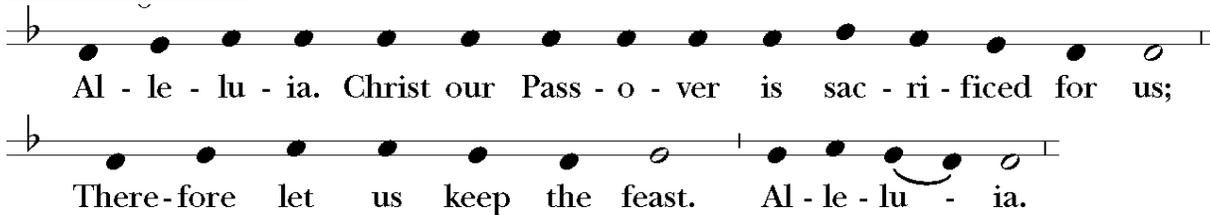
Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.



Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### The Fraction

*The Celebrant then breaks the Consecrated Bread*



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

*The Celebrant then presents the Sacrament to the People*

These are the Gifts of God, for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



### The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*Should you prefer not to receive the physical elements of the Holy Communion you are invited to read the following in silent prayer as the physical sacrament is being distributed.*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

### The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. Everyone, regardless of faith, is welcome to receive a blessing— simply cross

your arms in front of you approach the priest. Each row, beginning in the front, should come up to the chancel step to receive the Blessed Bread. The Chalice cannot be offered at this time by direction of the Bishop of West Virginia. Once the priest has dropped the Blessed Bread in your hand you should return by the side aisle to your pew. Once a row has been Communed, the next is free to come to the chancel steps.

Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

Communion Hymns

*I come with joy to meet my Lord*

Hymnal 304

*Strengthen for service, Lord*

Hymnal 312

Our Prayer after Communion

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing**

*The Celebrant then pronounces the following blessing over the people*

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honor everyone;  
love and serve the Lord;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,  
be amongst you and remain with you always.

*People* Amen!

**The Dismissal**

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with:

*Thanks be to God!*

Postlude



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The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Chad and Jennifer Slater.

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Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted by Parish Life. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. You may remove your mask to eat or drink. Please join us.

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**Participants in Today's Liturgy**

<u>Celebrant</u>	the Very Rev. Chad Slater
<u>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Acolyte</u>	Emma Slater
<u>Lector</u>	Alyson Bowling
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Betty Nash and Mimi Merritt

**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Mabeline Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarete Joplin, Emily Broome, David, Cady, Martin, Marion Lowe, Harry, Ben Rose, Jay Kephart, Rick Longworth, all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kathy, Hamilton Jones, Kensley, John, Kathleen Nieman, Alan Riggins,

Brenda Payne, Buck and Louisa Sowers, Elizabeth Kane, Betty, Matt, Eric, Gaines family

**Birthdays This Week:** Louisa Bennett, Luke Beemer, Bea Paine, and Scott Meachum

**Attendance Last Sunday:** 44

### **Calendar of Events**

Sunday – August 15	Bagging Groceries after Church
Thursday – August 19	Food Pantry 9 – 11:00 am
Wednesday – August 25	Serving Dinner at Union Mission 4:00 pm
Friday – August 27	Bishop Candidates at St. Stephen's, Beckley
Sunday – August 29	Church Picnic 10:30 am at Lotito Park
Sunday – October 24	CEC Building 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### **Announcements:**

**Coffee Hour:** A sign-up sheet for hosting Coffee Hour is located in the Narthex. Please consider signing up to host this important fellowship ministry!

**Confirmation Class:** Bishop Klusmeyer will be joining us on Sunday, October 24 to help us celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of our church building. Fr. Chad will be holding classes for those interested in confirmation at that time. Please see him for more information.

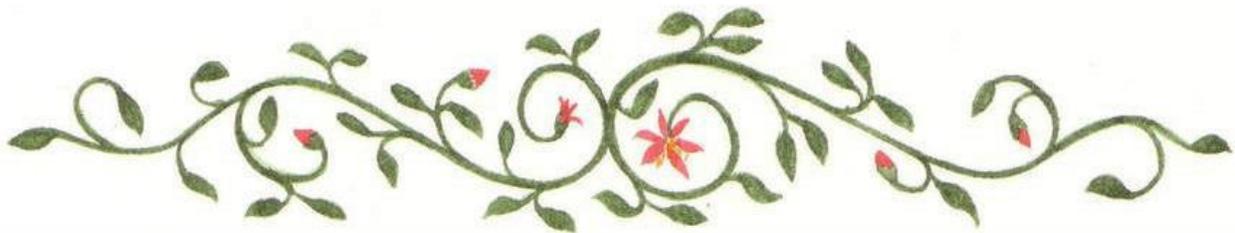
**Dinners at the Union Mission:** We will resume our service preparing and serving dinner at the Bluefield Union Mission in the month of August. Please see Art Mead for more information. Thank you!

**Bishop Candidates in Beckley:** Candidates for Bishop Coadjutor of West Virginia will be announced soon. They will be conducting a tour of the Diocese the last week of August. These candidates will be at St. Stephen's Church, Beckley, on the evening of Friday, August 27 (time to be announced shortly). Please consider attending to get to know who these individuals are and their vision for our Diocese!

**Memorial Donations Accepted for Fall & Winter Pansies:** Our beautiful Columbarium Garden will be planted with pansies this fall to last through the

winter months. If you would like to contribute to the cost of purchasing the pansies for the Garden, please send your check to the church office with "Pansies" in the memo line. If you would like your name published, along with who you give the donation in memory or honor of, please include that information with your check.

Sunday School teachers: So many of us were blessed with wonderful Sunday School teachers who have made lasting impressions on our lives. Now is the time to return the blessings we were given by serving the children of our parish. It doesn't take a Biblical scholar to teach kids about God--just a desire to make an impact on a young person's life. We are looking for both Sunday School teachers and Nursery Volunteers for the upcoming year. We do not yet have a firm date on when these programs will start this fall or what exactly they will look like. The Christian Education Committee will be meeting sometime in the near future to work out details. With your help we can develop a responsible and edifying program for our young people. If you feel that God may be tugging on your heart to help teach Sunday School, please see Fr. Chad or Elizabeth Clement for more information.



### **Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish**

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mr. David Kersey

Mr. Peter Richardson

Rector

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden