

The Rainbow



August 2023

A Letter from the Fr. Paul

Greetings and Happy August! This is a wonderful time to get in our last bit of summer fun; squeeze in a vacation or a road trip, have a few more cookouts, shop for back-to-school. I enjoyed my time off mostly staying at home and doing some projects here and there. I did enjoy visits from family members, an outing to Ingles Farm in Radford as part of the Ingles Festival and a day trip to Pipestem that included a wonderful visit to The South Appalachian Folk Life Center. The center is on a 60+ acre farm that houses mission groups from all over the region who come into the area and perform volunteer work for folks in need. Christ Church parishioners Tim and Maggie Mainland direct the center when they're not playing music at special events. I learned so much about the center and its history. Thank you, Tim, for the wonderful tour!



As we journey out of the summer break and into a new program year, starting in early September, there are many planned events to look forward to. I'm looking forward to the Community Picnic with our neighbors at Immanuel Lutheran and First Presbyterian on August 17. This will be a wonderful time to get back together and socialize with friends we haven't seen in a while and make new ones. I'm also excited about our Christ Church Annual Picnic and service at the city park, Sunday, August 27 at 10:30 am. I hope to see many of you at both special events.

Also starting up again in September will be our Christian Education offerings. Sunday School for children will begin September 10. We will continue with the well-received breakout sessions during worship. Children of all ages will be led out of church by our teachers to the Sunday School rooms, participate in the lessons planned, and then return to the service at the peace in time for communion. Thanks go out to Elizabeth Clement for working so hard on the lesson plans and for getting our education space ready. Sunday School will then be offered every other Sunday. For adults, I will be teaching a 4-session course called "Christ Church 101". Each session will be an introduction to an area of interest about Christ Church and the Episcopal Church. We start with a tour of the church and its building, then we'll learn more about Episcopal church history and theology. Next, we'll look at the way we worship and wrap up with practicing and acting out our faith. This class will be every other Sunday, beginning September 17, halfway through coffee hour and will last about 30-45 minutes. It is open to any adults interested in learning more about Christ Church and the Episcopal Church and is also intended to serve as preparation for adults interested in being formally confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church. The timing of the course coincides with Bishop Cowden's visit to Christ Church on October 22. Please, contact me or Elizabeth Clement with questions about these education offerings.

I wish you all a wonderful August and I pray that your end of summertime is full of joy!

Blessings and Peace Always,

Fr. Paul



Longtime Christ Episcopal Church member John Nelson Kersey, 86, of Bluefield, VA, died Saturday July 8 in Charleston, WV.

Married 62 years to Christ Church member Delia Kersey, John was a varsity football player at Duke University and played in the Orange Bowl. He was drafted as a lineman to the Philadelphia Eagles, but chose to go into business instead. He and his father founded Lawnel Corporation in Bluefield.

He was also a long-time member of the Rotary Club.

John was preceded in death by his son, William Barton Kersey. In addition to his wife, Delia, John is survived by two sons, J. Nelson Kersey, Jr. and wife Erika of Warrenton, VA, and Kyle S. Kersey and wife Tara of Christiansburg, VA; sister, Betsy Sagady and husband Ron of Princeton, WV; brother, Tom Kersey of Bluefield, VA; grandchildren, Katherine, Zach, Justin, Luke, James, Sean, Rachel, Edgar, Lucelle, John-Francis, Owen, and William, and the Petersons, Kyle, Ashley, Sophia, and Josie; and nieces and nephews.

The family received friends at Mercer Funeral Home on Sunday, July 30, and a memorial service was held Monday, July 31, at 11:00 am at Christ Episcopal Church with Father Paul Barker officiating. Son Nelson shared stories of his father, including his parents' courtship as students at Duke, a 1957 program he located on EBay of a game in which his father played against Maryland, and family beach vacations.

A Committal and placing of the ashes followed the service as family and friends gathered in the Church's Memorial Garden while the bells tolled. A reception followed in Rowley Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Christ Episcopal Church, 200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701 or to the Bluefield Union Mission, 2200 Bluefield Avenue, Bluefield, WV 24701.

SUMMER CANTERBURY CLUB

A summer Canterbury Club was held at the home of Peter and Patty Richardson on Cumberland Road on July 16. The outdoor event was attended by around 30 adult members of the parish attending. The weather was beautiful and the contributions of food were all outstanding. Father Paul provided the blessing for the event and a great evening of fellowship was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Becky Kersey for her help in kitchen clean up. Anyone wanting to host a Canterbury Event may do so by contacting Mary Catherine Williams.



The Community Picnic will be held on Thursday, August 17, from 5:00-6:30 pm in the parking lot below the church. The First Presbyterian and Immanuel Church will be helping Christ Church with this project. A sign-up sheet for helpers is in the narthex. Please sign up. See Betty Nash, Evangelism Chairperson for more information.



The **annual parish picnic** is right around the corner, Sunday, August 27, to be exact. For those of you who have not attended this event (casual dress, of course!) it is worth taking the time to mark your calendar so you won't miss it! This year's picnic will be held at Shelter 1 of the City Park. Our church service will be held at 10:30 a.m. (note the time change) and a carry-in picnic-style lunch will be held immediately following the service. David's Downtown will provide fried chicken, tea, lemonade and ice. Paper products, utensils, cups and bottled water will also be provided. Just bring your favorite side dish or dessert and come ready to eat. Any help would be appreciated before the service and afterward. Contact Mary Catherine Williams at mkw@dlwco.com if you have any questions. Thanks in advance for your help.



Parish Life Committee Report
By Co-Chairs Mary Catherine Williams and Linda Ammar

Parish Life will meet in St. Margaret's Conference Room on August 20 after coffee hour to discuss upcoming events this fall and winter.

Last month our list of people who contributed to the Ordination luncheon left off Art Mead. We apologize for leaving him off.

Up-coming event:
Sunday, August 27, we will meet at City Park, Shelter One, at 10:30 for Holy Eucharist followed by our annual church picnic. Fried chicken, tea, lemonade and ice will be provided by David's Downtown. Parish Life will supply paper products. Bring your favorite side dish and enjoy the day. If you want, you may bring a folding chair. Music will be provided by Brian and Lise Tracey.

Thanks to Peter and Patty Richardson for hosting Canterbury Club at their home July 16. About 30 people attended. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in hosting a Canterbury Club. You can contact Mary Catherine Williams at mkw@dlwco.com.

Date to remember: October 22. Bishop Cowden will be with us that day.

Linda Ammar is planning a meal for the Men's Fellowship Home. She has also been in charge of scheduling the watering of the flowers in the Memorial Garden and out front in the containers, and in front of the Christ Church sign. Thank you Linda.

SUSAN HARDESTY'S GRAPE SALAD

Make a day ahead

Mix together:

1 cup Cream Cheese (8 oz) 1 tsp vanilla
1 cup sour cream 1 and ½ to 2 lbs (or more) small seedless grapes (red are best)

Put on top:

1 cup brown sugar and 1 cup chopped pecans



SAVE THE DATE -- OCT. 7

ECW Indoor Yard Sale -- Rowley Hall

Search your closets and storage spaces for gently used items that you no longer need, and donate them to the ECW. Also start saving shopping bags to help us.



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT FOR JULY 2023

No Union Mission Report

FOOD PANTRY JULY 17, 2023

Number of bags distributed: 41

Volunteers: Patty Richardson, Betty Nash, Elizabeth Clement, Charlie Blevins

Please Keep the Following in Your

Prayers: Delia Kersey and Family, Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, Martha Linkous, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Fr. Russ Hatfield, Mary Lou, Brian, the Merritt Family, Don Harris, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, Rosmary, and Eddie Hughes.

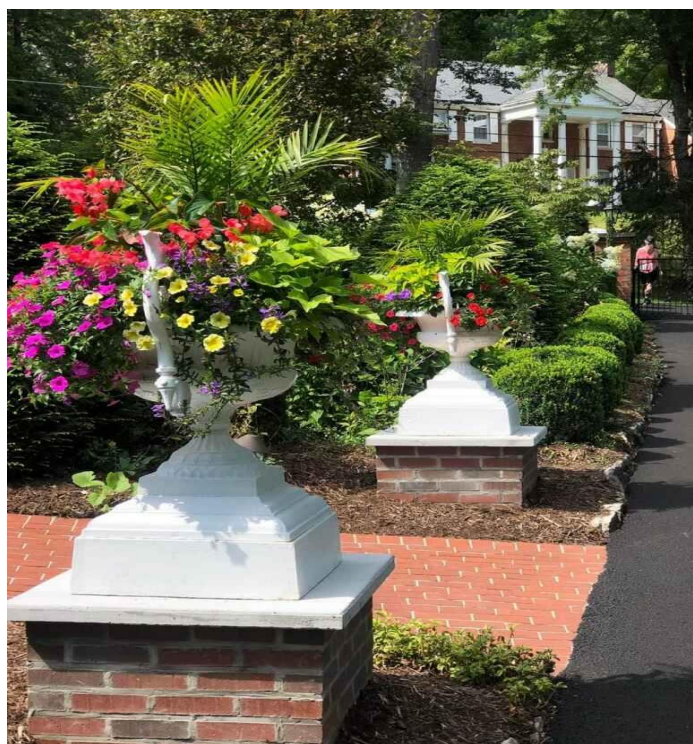
Coffee Hour Host/Hostess for August:

August 6 Lori Hypes/Becky Beckett
August 13 Shirley Ofsa
August 20 Rob & Mimi Merritt
August 27 Church Picnic @ City Park 10:30
September sign up is on White Board outside Library

August Birthdays

August 3 Michelle Parks	August 10 Theodore Lewis	August 23 Susanne Pulse
August 3 Sue Troutner	August 11 Alyson Bowling	August 25 Mary Lynne Williams
August 4 Bryce Wimmer	August 12 Emma Bennett	August 29 Dee Puckett
August 6 Kyle Kersey	August 16 Louisa Bennitt	August 31 Peyton Wimmer
August 10 Stan Kiser	August 19 Scott Meachum	August 31 Delia Kersey

THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE



ECW PICNIC



August 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ 10:00 Holy Eucharist	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	14	15 Saint Mary the Virgin, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ 10:30 DOK	16 6:00 Men's Dinner 7:00 Vestry	17 9:00 Food Pantry	18	19
20 The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist Parish Life Committee Meeting after Coffee Hour	21	22	23	24 Saint Bartholomew The Apostle	25	26
27 The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 Holy Eucharist PICNIC AT CITY PARK	28	29	30	31	Altar Guild for August: August 6, 2023 Linda Ammar and Patty Richardson August 13, 2023 Elizabeth Clement and Betty Nash August 20, 2023 Elizabeth Clement and Betty Nash August 27, 2023 Parish Picnic – Altar Guild Members	

**The following people have graciously offered
to donate flowers for the month of August:**

August 6, 2023 David Hardin
 August 13, 2023 Paul & Rebecca Broyles
 August 20, 2023 David and Debbie Faber
 August 27, 2023 Bill Davis

Lectors and Acolyte Schedule for August:

Lector:	Acolyte:
Rob Merritt	Katherine Lewis
David Kersey	Becky Beckett
Teresa Paine	Katherine Lewis
Linda Ammar	Becky Kersey

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



August 2023

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