

# The Rainbow



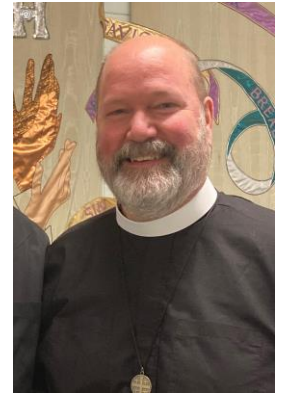
JULY 2023

## A Letter from the Priest

Welcome to July! That's right; this is a letter from your *Priest*. What a wonderful event it was, the celebration of Priestly Ordination on June 17. Christ Church hosted over 100 people in attendance, guests from all over the diocese and nearby states, and performed spectacularly! Again, thank you all who had a hand in all the planning and preparation.

I hope that everyone's summer plans are going well and that you enjoyed the extended Holiday of July 4. Those of you going on vacation; enjoy the time away, be safe and I hope you find moments to take in the beauty and peace that is God's creation. Whether at the beach, on a hike through the wooded mountains, or gazing through an airplane window.

Myself, I am planning vacation time at the end of this month and into the first week of August. My oldest brother, who lives in Ottawa, Canada, will be visiting me that week and I'm excited to spend time with him again, and to show him around Bluefield. We plan to catch a baseball game, check out the art center, hike Pipestem, tour Bramwell and eat out! I know that Bluefield and the surrounding area have so much to offer so, if you all have any special entertaining ideas, let me know! I'll be away that Sunday, July 30 and Fr. Russ Hatfield will be leading service.



It is so wonderful to be now serving Christ Church as your Priest. It is important that our faith community be fully served. It is truly meaningful to be leading a full worship, especially the whole Eucharist, in our beautiful sanctuary, with you all. Our Christ Church family desires and deserves to be fully served. I become more excited each month as we grow, and plan and prepare for the return to pre-pandemic scheduling and offerings. I know we have a couple of months before the beginning of a new program year, but we have so much to look forward to! Our committees that oversee the work that keeps Christ Church moving; Parish Life, Christian Education, Outreach, Evangelism, Altar Guild, Communication, Finance, Worship, Building & Grounds, all are working hard on the goals our Vestry put in place at the beginning of the year. Each committee chair is leading the effort to position our programs to best serve our community. And, an important piece in ensuring that our Christ Church family remains fully served, is to make sure these committees have the hands and feet they need to fulfill the work. So, when your summer time gets closer to winding down, prayerfully consider where your gifts and talents might fit in with one of these groups of volunteers. Where are you being called to serve your church home? We are all ministers of Christ; we are all blessed with special gifts. Reach out sometime soon to a committee chair to express an interest in learning more about what each does. If you're not sure who that person is, contact Emma in the church office or myself, and we will connect you.

Thank you all for your love of, and service to, Christ Church and the Blessing of God Almighty be upon you and remain with you this month and always!

Peace Always, Fr. Paul



A beautiful service of celebration was held Saturday, June 17, at Christ Episcopal Church for the Ordination of The Reverend Paul Barker.

The Rt. Rev. Matthew D. Cowden served as Celebrant and Preacher, noting in his sermon that the day also marked the Commemoration of St. Barnabas.

Also participating in the Liturgy of the service were The Rev. Cn. Jordan Trumble, as Presenter for the Liturgy; The Rev. Denise Giardina, as Deacon; Terry Whittington, as organist and choirmaster; Brian Tracey, as pianist; Amy Yates McClure, as Bishop's Chaplain; The Rev. Susan Claytor, The Rev. Noah Evans, The Rev. Russ Hatfield, Christ Church Senior Warden Becky Beckett, Christ Church Vestry member Mary Catherine Williams, and Andy Muhl as Presenters; David Kersey, Don Williams, and Ruth Barker Long as Lectors; Blaine Barker and Harriss Barker, in the Vesting of the New Priest, for their father; Rob Merritt, Max Busch, and Isaiah Evans as Acolytes; Eric Foster as Videographer; and Peter Richardson, David Kersey, and Peter and Patricia Taylor as Ushers.

As Senior Warden, Becky Beckett presented Paul with a sterling silver clergy cross and chain, purchased with contributions from Vestry members.

Following the service was a festive full buffet luncheon for about 100 in Rowley Hall, catered by Christ Church member David Harden of David's Downtown. David also prepared the many beautiful floral arrangements of roses and other fresh Spring flowers. Jim and Chris Justice contributed wine, and contributions for the event also came from Stan and Grey Kiser, Norma Mahood, and Shelia Brooks.








## **CANTERBURY CLUB *by Patty Richardson***

A summer Canterbury Club Event will be held Sunday, July 16, at 6 p.m. at the home of Peter and Patty Richardson, 117 W. Cumberland Road. Canterbury Club is open to all adult members at Christ Episcopal Church. It is an evening of fellowship for the parish family. Please bring a covered dish to share and your favorite beverage. The hosts will provide water, iced tea and lemonade. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex so we can get an idea of how many people to expect. Hope you can join us.



## **ECW Summer Picnic *by Patty Richardson***

The ECW Summer Picnic will be at the home of Patty Richardson, 117 West Cumberland Road, on Wednesday, July 26 at 5:30 pm. All women of the church are welcome to attend and bring a salad to share with the group. We will be discussing a project for the fall. Hope to see you there!



## **Parish Life Committee Report**

*by Co-Chairs Mary Catherine Williams and Linda Ammar*

The Parish Life Committee has done a lot since our last *Rainbow* report. June was a busy month. We hosted a Mission Group of 18 youth and sponsors from St. Paul Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, PA, on June 13. Some of the team worked around the church on Wednesday, June 14. They pulled weeds on the east side and the Tazewell Street side of the building of the building, and they completed some inside jobs also. This was very much appreciated. Thanks to Patty Richardson for organizing the meal. Linda Ammar, Chris Justice, Mimi Merritt, Delia Kersey, Becky Beckett, Teresa Paine, and Mary Catherine Williams supplied some dishes for the meal.

On June 16 a group furnished dinner for Paul Barker's family. Becky Beckett opened her home for this. Thanks to Peter and Patty Richardson, Becky Beckett, Don and Becky Kersey, Mimi Merritt, Susanne Pulse, Patricia Taylor, and Mary Catherine Williams for their contributions.

On Saturday, June 17, the church sponsored a luncheon after the Ordination Service for Paul Barker. David's Downtown catered the meal. Jim and Chris Justice contributed wine to this event. We also had contributions from Stan and Grey Kiser, Norma Mahood, and Shelia Brooks. About 100 people enjoyed the luncheon. Rowley Hall was decorated very nicely, and people made a lot of positive comments. Thanks to David Hardin for doing the decorations. It was a pleasure to have Bishop Cowden and his wife Melissa with us that day. We had volunteers that helped direct traffic that morning to different parts of the church. We had some volunteers that came on June 20 to get Rowley Hall and the kitchen back in order. I have probably left out some people's names, and I do apologize.

Thanks to Linda Ammar for scheduling a team to water the flowers around the church this summer.

Upcoming events: On July 16, Peter and Patty Richardson will host Canterbury Club at their home. On July 26, Patty Richardson will host the ECW at her house for a salad picnic. Our annual Church Picnic at the City Park will be August 27. Bishop Cowden will be at our church for his annual visit on October 22. The Parish Life Committee will be meeting soon to plan for these events. The Becketts will host the Canterbury Club in December.



## CHRIST CHURCH T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

God loves everyone. No exceptions.

And now you can proclaim this message of love to everyone you see by ordering a T-shirt now on sale from Christ Episcopal Church.

These T-shirts cost only \$18, but we must sell 25 T-shirts before we can place our order. Please remember to pre-pay for your shirt.



### FOOD PANTRY

June 2023 Report

Food Pantry was held June 15, 2023, with volunteers distributing 42 bags of food. Workers included Betty Nash and Peter and Patricia Taylor.



### Minutes-CEC Vestry Meeting June 21, 2023

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry was held in the Library, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present	Absent
Mary Catherine Williams	Vic Bowman
Susanne Pulse	Peter Taylor
Don Kersey	
Peter Richardson	
Betty Nash	
Mimi Merritt	
Becky Beckett	
Also present was Father Paul Barker	

Father Paul called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Mary Catherine Williams gave the devotional.

Peter Richardson made the motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting and Don Kersey seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Vestry members reviewed the financial documents. The financial picture for the church is good. Total unrestricted income is \$25,000 to the good year to date. Total unrestricted expenses are \$3,800 under budget and should remain on budget for the next several months. Betty Nash made the motion that we approve the financial report. Mary Catherine seconded the motion and the financial report was unanimously approved.

Becky Beckett gave the Senior Warden's report. She wanted to thank everyone who helped make the ordination a success. Jim and Chris Justice donated the wine. David Hardin and Terry Whittington donated the centerpiece. Please give Father Paul names of individuals that he may visit. Emma and Father Paul created the Vestry



Notebooks that contained policies, by-laws, parochial reports, along with marriage and burial rites. The Vestry will review the Buildings and Grounds policies and discuss any changes at the August meeting.

Peter Richardson gave the Junior Warden report. The wiring over the Columbarium is completed. The fixtures are on order. Faucets in the women robing room have been replaced. There were leaks over the Memorial Day weekend. Raymond Woody repointed the mortar on the exterior wall outside of the last Sunday School classroom in the Children's Chapel. Peter Richardson is going to recode the door lock on the front door. Mary Catherine Williams and Martha Shewey painted three (3) doors.

Betty Nash gave the Outreach report. There were 42 at the food pantry in June.

Parish Life: Mary Catherine Williams gave the Parish Life report. Peter and Patty Richardson will host Canterbury Club on July 16. Patty Richardson will host the ECW picnic on July 26. The Parish picnic will be on August 26.

Father Paul gave the Education report. Sunday School will begin again a week after school starts. Assistants are needed for Sunday School. Christ Church 101 will be offered to newcomers. A tour of the church building will be conducted and theology will be discussed along with history of the church.


Betty Nash gave the Evangelism report. The Community Picnic will be August 17 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. It was discussed having the picnic on Tazewell Street. Betty will check with the City to see if the street can be blocked off for the picnic. First Presbyterian will help with the picnic. T-shirts are for sell. A sheet is in the narthex if you wish to order one.

Communications. Susanne Pulse gave the communications report. The Rainbow continues to be published once a month and a weekly e-mail is sent out.

Rector's Report: Father Paul will be on vacation from July 27 through August 5. Father Russ Hatfield will assist while Father Paul is out of town. The office doors will be locked when unoccupied. Father Paul is thinking of offering a Wednesday evening service after school starts. The target date is September 6. The Bishop is changing his visitation date from October 7 to October 22.

The next Vestry meeting will be August 16, 2023. There will be no meeting in July.

Pastor Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.



**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, 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, Rosemary, and Eddie Hughes.



**Birthdays:**

July 1 Wendy Harris	July 13 Bonnie Taylor	July 20 Phillip Morgan
July 2 William Clement	July 15 Bill Davis	July 22 Jennifer Slater
July 3 Erin Elam Simon	July 17 David Hardin	July 23 Kray Davis Luxbacher
July 10 Catherine Wimmer-Anderson	July 18 Caroline Wilkinson	July 25 Becky Steorts
July 11 Ben Faulkner	July 18 Don Harris	July 26 Joe Allen
July 13 Peter Richardson	July 19 Tripper Thomas	July 28 Shirley Ofsa
	July 20 John Beckett	July 28 Mike Sudduth

July 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist 6:00 Canterbury Club	17	18 10:30 DOK	19	20 9:00 Food Pantry	21	22 Saint Mary Magdalene
23 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	24	25 JAMES THE APOSTLE	26 5:30 ECW Picnic	27	28	29
30 The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	31	Altar Guild for July: Betty Nash – July 2 and 30; Elizabeth Clement – July 9 and 16; Becky Beckett – July 23				

**The following people have graciously donated flowers for the month of July:**

July 3 John & Delia Kersey  
 July 10 The Marra & Fortune Families  
 July 17 Mike & Kay Sudduth  
 July 24 David & Debbie Faber  
 July 31 Altar Guild

**Lectors and Acolyte Schedule for July:**

July 3 Don Williams, Lector  
 July 10 David Hardin, Lector  
 July 17 Delia Kersey, Lector  
 July 24 Teresa Paine, Lector  
 July 31 Don Williams, Lector

Becky Kersey, Acolyte  
 Rob Merritt, Acolyte  
 Becky Beckett, Acolyte  
 Becky Beckett, Acolyte  
 Rob Merritt, Acolyte

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To our friends and family:



JULY 2023

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