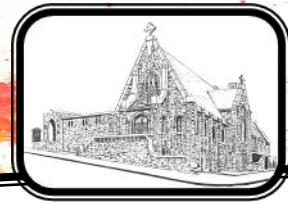


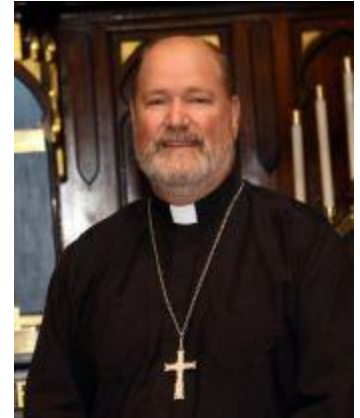
The Rainbow



October 2023

A Letter from Fr. Paul

Greetings to all and welcome to the beautiful and busy month of October! This is a wonderful time of year when I enjoy sitting on my screened-in back porch with my morning cup of coffee, my devotionals, and my dogs, and taking in the beautiful gift that is God's creation. I hope all of you have a special place to sit and feel the Spirit.



We are well into our program year and the church calendar is filling up with plenty of events and activities. As I'm writing this, preparations are underway for the ECW Indoor Yard Sale. What a great way to begin the month off, with a fun community-wide event! Our Christian education offerings of Children's Sunday School and Christ Church 101 are well attended and going strong. At Sunday School services, I so enjoy seeing our children following the Cross and their teachers out to their classrooms and hearing them return at The Peace. I'm also enjoying the adult class. We are halfway through our exploration of interesting topics related to the Episcopal Church and Christ Church; we took a tour of the church and building and learned a bit of church history and basic theology. Next, we will study the way we worship and then finish with how we live out our faith. Bishop Matthew Cowden will be visiting Christ Church October 22. As part of his annual visit, he will be meeting with vestry, leading our worship service, and preaching on Sunday morning. We will host a reception for him following the service in Rowley Hall. Please, make plans to join in and welcome Bishop Matthew and his wife, Melissa.

Our 146th Diocesan Convention is October 26-28 in Martinsburg, WV. Christ Church has 3 voting representatives, (two parishioners and one clergy) and two alternates attending this annual meeting. The theme for this year's convention is *Grow in Christ* and Bishop Cowden adds: "We are called to grow spiritually. We are called to grow in maturity. We are called to grow in outreach and in our work of redemption and repair. We are called to grow in knowledge and love of God and in our relationship with Jesus Christ." Please keep our delegation in your prayers as they represent us in Martinsburg.

I wish everyone many Blessings for the season, and the Peace of our Lord remain with you always.

Fr. Paul

ECW Indoor Yard Sale *by Mimi Merritt*

The ECW Indoor Yard Sale on Saturday, Oct. 7, was a success, thanks to the leadership of Chair Debbie Faber and ECW President Patty Richardson.

Many hands were on deck from Sunday, Oct. 1 through Saturday's sale, as ECW volunteers – and several Christ Church men – set up tables, received donations, priced items, bagged and boxed purchases, and tallied up sales – which a quick initial count announced Sunday by Patty was \$1,200. Thanks to Judge Faber, Father Paul, and Peter Richardson for money skills, heavy lifting and crowd support.

Sheila Brooks and her red pickup truck hauled three loads of remaining items to the Union Mission, and clothing and jewelry remaining after the sale ended will be made available to those attending this month's Food Pantry. Delicious bake sale treats filtered their way into Coffee Hour Sunday morning hosted by Betty Nash, Charlie Blevins and Darla and Keith Olsen.



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2023

FOOD PANTRY

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Number of bags distributed: 30

Volunteers: Art Meade, Betty Nash, Patricia and Peter Taylor

UNION MISSION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

Christ Episcopal Church volunteers prepared and packaged 104 meals at the Union Mission. The volunteers served 94 and the remaining 10 were distributed by the staff.

Menu: Stouffer's Lasagna, roll, salad, brownie and soft drink.

Volunteers: Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, Shirley Ofsa, and Patty Richardson.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

Volunteers prepared, packaged and served 114 meals.

The Union Mission staff prepared 53 roast beef sub meals, making a total of 167 meals prepared.

Menu: BBQ chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, a brownie and soft drink.

Volunteers: Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, Shirley Ofsa and her daughter, Pat Zachwieja, and Rev. Paul Barker of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV; Charlie Helmandollar of Christ Episcopal Church, Pocahontas, VA, and his wife Freida; Betty Watson of Bluefield, VA.

Meals will be prepared and served on the following dates in October:

Wednesday, Oct.11, 2023: Union Mission at 4:00PM

Wednesday, Oct 25, 2023: Union Mission at 3:30PM

(2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month)

Minutes-CEC Vestry Meeting
September 20, 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	
Don Kersey	
Peter Richardson	
Betty Nash	
Mimi Merritt	
Becky Beckett	
Peter Taylor	

Also present was Father Paul Barker

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

Mimi Merritt gave the devotional.

Mary Catherine Williams made the motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting and Betty Nash seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Vestry members reviewed the financial documents. Don Kersey gave the Treasurer's report. Financially the church remains in good condition. We started the year with significant income surpluses which are carrying us through the summer months which traditionally have been slow months for giving. Unrestricted income for the month was \$10,000 under budget but income for the year is \$1100 over budget due to the beginning surplus. \$1300 of unrestricted expense was spent on a computer for our priest. Food pantry income is \$2000 under budget year to date. No other significant unplanned expenses occurred in August. Our funds in our operating account decreased by \$9000 which is due to the income shortfall for the month of August. Our endowment funds decreased by over \$70,000 due to a drop in the stock market. Expected pledges to be received for the rest of the year are \$17,000. As a result I recommend we request a drawdown from the St Lucy fund to be received in October to cover planned expenses. The drawdown should be approximately \$14,000. Mary Catherine Williams made the motion to withdraw \$14,000 from the St. Lucy Fund for the 3rd quarter and place the funds in our general operating account. Betty Nash seconded the motion. The Motion was unanimously approved. Don Kersey also advised the Vestry that we could switch to Frontier for \$99.00 a month with no

contract and no installation fee. We would have to pay a penalty fee to Comcast for cancelling our contract early with them. The Treasurer would send a letter to the parishioners that were behind in their pledges. Betty Nash made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Peter Taylor seconded the motion. The report was were unanimously approved.

Becky Beckett gave the Senior Warden's report. The Bishop's office sent a letter outlining the guidelines and requirements for his visit on October 22, 2023. Please review the optional questions set forth in the letter. Please forward any responses to Emma at the Church office no later than October 1, 2023. The Vestry and spouses will meet with Bishop Cowden on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. for dinner. David Hardin will cater the reception after the service on Sunday.

A subcommittee will be formed to review the building and grounds polices and guidelines headed by Peter Richardson, Junior Warden.

Peter Richardson gave the Junior Warden's report. He is still working on obtaining quotes for the columbarium doors.

Mary Catherine Williams gave the Parish Life report. Parish Life will be providing dinner on Saturday October 21 at 6 p.m. when the Bishop meets with the Vestry and spouses. On Sunday October 22, we will have a reception in Rowley Hall after the 10 a.m. service when the Bishop will be here for his annual visitation. On November 12, we will have a carry in luncheon after the 10 a.m. service. Please bring your favorite dish. The Parish Annual Picnic has been set for August 25, 2024 at City Park in Shelter One. Canterbury Club will at the home of John and Becky Beckett in December. A date will be forthcoming. Anyone interested in hosting this adult gathering contact Mary Catherine Williams at mkw@dlwco.com. Linda Ammar organized a dinner for the Men's Fellowship Home and delivered it on August 10 with the help of volunteers. The flowers volunteers continue to water the flowers. We are hoping to keep them going until after the Bishop's visit. Coffee hour continue to have a host of volunteers that provide this important ministry to our church family. If you are interested in this ministry contact Mary Catherine Williams at mkw@dlwco.com or see her in person. Would be happy to help.

Susanne Pulse gave the communications report. Father Paul, Becky Beckett, Mimi Merritt and Susanne Pulse met before the Vestry meeting to discuss the Church's website. Photographs will be updated. Father Paul has already made changes regarding Sunday School on the website. It was discussed that some older items from the website, such as sermons and bulletins, will be housed on the cloud.

Father Paul gave the education report. Sunday School is going well. The adult classes are also going well. There are about 9 people interested in reception and/or confirmation when the Bishop visits.

Father Paul gave the Rector's report. He will attend a Clergy Retreat at John XXIII, a retreat center in Charleston, West Virginia, from October 9 to 11, 2023. Convention is in Martinsburg, West Virginia October 26 to 28, 2023. Father Paul will be on vacation from October 29 through November 11. Father Russ Hatfield will fill in on both Sundays.

A discussion was held regarding Christmas Eve services since it falls on a Sunday this year. The Vestry was advised to think about this and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Father Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.



Birthdays:

October 1	Michael Parks	October 9	Grace Sudduth	October 21	David Faber
October 3	Sheila Brooks	October 11	Brian McCoy	October 21	Phyllis Walker
October 4	Deak Kersey	October 14	Mike Lilly	October 24	William Allen
October 8	Elizabeth Clement	October 16	Burt Kersey	October 24	Bernadette
October 8	Don Williams	October 16	Emma Slater		Dragotto



Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, Martha Linkous, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Jim and Chris Justice, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Russ and Debbie Hatfield, Mary Lou, Brian, Don Harris, Ted Lewis, Brian, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, Rosemary, Eddie Hughes, Doug Truter, Jenessa, Ameiah, Rebecca Broyles and Beth Kane.

October 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	9	10	11 4:00 Union Mission	12	13	14
15 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist Sunday School Christ Church 101	16	17 10:30 DOK	18 6:00 Men's Dinner 7:00 Vestry Saint Luke the Evangelist	19 9:00 Food Pantry	20	21
22 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist BISHOP COWDEN	23 Saint James of Jerusalem, Brother of our Lord Jesus Christ	24	25 3:30 Union Mission	26 Diocesan Convention	27 Diocesan Convention	28 Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles Diocesan Convention
29 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	30	31	ALTAR GUILD: TERESA PAINE AND LINDA AMMAR			

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

October 1, 2023	Linda Ammar
October 8, 2023	Rob and Mimi Merritt
October 15, 2023	David and Debbie Faber
October 22, 2023	Phyllis Walker
October 29, 2023	Becky Steorts

Lectors and Acolyte Schedule for October:

Lector:	Acolyte:
Brian Tracey	Becky Beckett
Bill Denney	Becky Kersey
Ted Lewis	Mike Lilly
David Kersey	Becky Kersey
Rob Merritt	Teresa Paine

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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To our friends and family:



October 2023

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