

The Rainbow



JULY 2024

The Diocese of West Virginia was well-represented at General Convention 81. In addition to Bishop Matthew and the official deputation, Melissa Cowden coordinated programming for bishops' spouses; Fr. Paul Barker represented the Highland Educational Project (HEP) in the exhibit hall; Catherine Saxe supported the HEP booth and the deputation on site; and Fr. Andy Bird, Kristi Evans, Tiffany Arnett, and Vicki Iber volunteered throughout General Convention.

Carrying on the deputation tradition of bringing snacks and treats representative of home dioceses, our deputation showed hospitality to attendees by giving out hundreds of pepperoni rolls and pepperoni roll stickers.

The House of Bishops and House of Deputies worked on nearly 400 resolutions throughout the convention. While many were passed on consent calendars each day, some resolutions came to the floor for debate



Highlights of General Convention included:

The election of the next Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York Bishop Rowe will take office on November 1.

The House of Deputies re-elected Julia Ayala Harris for a second term as President and elected the Rev. Steve Pankey as Vice President for the next triennium.

Approval of the Navajoland Area Mission becoming the Navajoland Missionary Diocese, allowing them greater autonomy including the ability to elect their own bishop.

Approval of the merger of the Dioceses of Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan into the Diocese of the Great Lakes

Approval of the merger of the Dioceses of Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, and Milwaukee into the Diocese of Wisconsin.

Other legislation included:

- Celebration of the 50th anniversary of women's ordination to the priesthood
- Taking steps to make the denominational health plan more affordable and sustainable
- Strengthening non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ clergy
- Authorizing alternate liturgies for Good Friday in order to address anti-Semitism in the texts
- Receiving a prayer to remember the Indigenous children forcibly taken to boarding and residential schools

- Changing Lesser Feasts and Fasts to remove a known white supremacist and add a commemoration for the Consecration of Barbara Clementine Harris, the first female Bishop in the Anglican Communion

To paraphrase the Gospel of John, there are also many other things that General Convention did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the emails that would be written.

MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT
JUNE 2024
FOOD PANTRY
June 20, 2024

Number of bags distributed: 46

Volunteers: Lee Rose, Linda Gillespie, Betty Nash, Charlie Blevins, Lilly and Liam Cole

Toothbrushes were also distributed this month.



Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 9, at Christ Episcopal Church for longtime member Norma Jean Dawson Mahood-Bay. The church was filled with friends and more than 25 family members, including Norma's two daughters, Jean Mahood and Julia Mahood; Julia's husband, Rex Macey; and their sons, Noah and Samuel Mahood; and Norma's only surviving sibling of seven Dawsons, Lou Stoker.

The Rev. Canon Chad Slater, former rector of Christ Episcopal, delivered the homily. The Rev. Russ Hatfield, close friend of the church and retired rector of the Tazewell County, Va., cluster of Episcopal parishes, served as assisting priest. The Rev. Paul Barker, current priest of Christ Episcopal served as Celebrant. Participating in the service were Terry Whittington, organist; Rob Merritt, acolyte; Teresa Paine and Mimi Merritt, readers; Becky Beckett and Patty

Richardson, altar guild; and Mary Catherine Williams and Linda Gillespie, ushers.

Norma's ashes were strewn in the Memorial Garden after the service, and a beautiful reception followed in Rowley Hall, catered by Christ Church member David Hardin. A magnificent centerpiece of roses and magnolia leaves adorned the serving table, matched by smaller centerpieces at each dining table.

It was said by many that Norma would have approved.



Below, *The Rainbow* publishes a reprint of a profile feature on Norma, published originally in 2019. *By Mimi Merritt*

On a recent sun-filled afternoon, Norma Mahood-Bay was enjoying the lovely mountain view from her home in Bluefield, Va., where she surrounds herself with beauty: artwork, including many paintings by close friends and family, as well as her own; music, which she plays on her hammer dulcimer and mandolin; the fruits of her cooking, both beautiful as well as delicious; and, of course, the ever-changing spectacle of nature her windows display.

A long-time resident of the Bluefields, Norma has been a member of Christ Episcopal and has attended St. Mary's as well. Although she grew up in Bramwell, one of seven siblings, Norma migrated to Bluefield, W.Va., by way of Roanoke and Miami, Fla., in 1961, when at 24 she married Dr. Jack Mahood, a Bluefield dermatologist.

Norma attended nursing school at Jefferson Hospital in Roanoke and worked for a short time at St. Luke's before moving to Miami to work at Jackson Memorial Hospital. But before she left town, she had met Jack Mahood, who courted her long-distance for two years before the couple eventually married, bringing Norma back to West Virginia and Christ Episcopal, where for many years she sang in the choir, served as a chalice bearer and Altar Guild member, and in the 1980s became a licensed lay reader.

"Jack and my family came first," Norma said, sharing a slice of her freshly baked Linzer Torte. Although she sometimes volunteered her nursing skills and filled in at Jack's office in the early days, Norma mostly enjoyed the busy and fulfilling life of raising her girls, Jeannie and Julie, and making a home in the family's house on Groveland Drive.

When her daughters left home for college, Norma looked for a new adventure and decided to take an art class at Bluefield College. This led to an English class taught by Mickey Pellillo, who drilled down on writing skills. Norma continued taking classes, eventually earning a bachelor's degree in behavioral science with a minor in science, but not before completing the class she had put off until last: "Death and Dying," taught by Dr. David Armbrister, whose words left a lasting impression.

"I asked him, 'what is it you say to someone who has lost someone close,' and he said to me that one thing you should never say is 'I know exactly how you feel,'" Norma said. "He told me you should just say 'I'm so sorry,' and then, give them a hug."

While working toward her degree at Bluefield College, Norma wrote columns and feature stories for the Lifestyles section of the *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*, a job that was to last 13 years.

"I could go out and write about anything I wanted to," she said.

Norma continued her education at Hollins College, earning a master of arts in liberal studies. It was during this time that Jack's health began to decline, and in January 1999, after 38 years of marriage, he died.

At the time, Father Bill Morgan was priest of Christ Episcopal, and through Jack's illness and death he provided Norma great support. Eight months later, Father Morgan died suddenly of a heart attack, and Norma cannot speak of either of these losses without tears.

It was a very difficult time, but, as Norma said, "I read something I truly believe: wherever you are, it is where you are meant to be." And in 2000, Norma embraced joy again; in November of that year she married Elmer Bay, a retired pharmacist who had lost his wife to illness. This began a new phase of her life, with winters in Florida where she loved taking art classes. In a new home in Bluefield, Va., Norma attended services at St. Mary's.

Loss and sadness struck again, however, when, in 2016, just a week before their 16th anniversary, Elmer died following a long struggle with cancer. Just ten months later, in September 2017, Norma was having an annual physical check-up at the Greenbrier Clinic when an EKG revealed shocking news: at some time previously she had suffered a heart attack.

“And I hadn’t even known it,” she said.

She was rushed by ambulance to Raleigh General, where stents were placed in her heart, and she began cardiac rehabilitation upon returning home to Bluefield.

Both her daughters now live in Atlanta and remain very close to Norma, despite the geographical distance. Like their mother, they have many talents and interests.

Jeannie, an artist who majored in studio art at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, earned a master’s degree in art therapy at the University of Louisville and worked as an art therapist for several years before relocating to Atlanta, where now she serves as Executive Assistant to the Dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip, a 7,000-member church.

Julie, also a talented artist, studied art at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, spending a summer between her junior and senior year at Parson’s School of Design in New York. She worked six months in London before becoming a graphic designer in New York and then Atlanta, where she met her husband, Rex Macey, a financial advisor. Among her many accomplishments, Julie has taught at The Portfolio Center in Atlanta and is now an award-winning beekeeper who teaches the skill to inmates at a women’s prison in Atlanta.

The couple has two sons: Noah is a senior linguistics major at Yale University, and Samuel, an Eagle Scout in his senior year in high school, is now a sophomore at Furman University.

“I’m very blessed, with family and good friends,” she said. “I count my blessings all the time.”

What’s up next for Norma?

There’s always more to learn. Teachers have become close friends; classes in watercolors from Florida artists Nan Reinking and Jackii Molesick began lasting friendships, another watercolors class with Southwest Virginia artist Ellen Elmes bonded the two, and instruction in the hammer dulcimer with Jeff Sebens at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, N.C., where Norma enjoys learning folk arts, launched another friendship.

And her dream? To go trout fishing.

“I just want to get lost in the wilderness, haul in a trout, clean it, and fry it up in a pan to share with friends,” she said, with a laugh. And she’ll probably do it. And capture the scene in a watercolor.

Minutes-CEC Vestry Meeting - June 19, 2024

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

Present: Mary Catherine Williams, Susanne Pulse, Peter Richardson, Art Mead, Donald Kersey, Ted Lewis, Mimi Merritt, and Bill Denney. Absent: Becky Beckett. Also present was Father Paul Barker

Father Paul called the meeting to order and declared a quorum. Mimi Merritt led the devotional.

There was a typographical error in the May, 2024 minutes. Bill Denney’s name was spelled incorrectly. With that correction, the minutes were approved.

The Vestry members reviewed the financial documents. With continued support by pledges and gifts, the church will remain in good condition financially. YTD Unrestricted income is on track year to date. Two months’ worth of power bills were paid this month. Both the St. Lucy and Building Endowment funds experienced a loss this month due to stock market pullback, and the balance in the food pantry account exceeds \$11,000. A quarterly payment from the St Lucy fund was received this month. The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Father Paul gave the Senior Warden's report since Becky Beckett was absent. Gina Vescio was hired as the Sexton. She quit not long after being hired because she thought the work exceeded the pay for the position. Father Paul and Ms. Vescio are working together to see if a schedule can be worked out so that she can continue as Sexton. Ted Lewis suggested that the Church talk to Connie Saunders. Her employment agency supplies cleaning personnel for Bluefield State University. A tea set thought to be silver-plate was donated to the Church several years ago. It has not been used. The Church has decided to offer it for sale. Peter Richardson moved that it be put in the Bulletin and the weekly e-mail for sale for a price of \$300 or more. Ted Lewis seconded the motion. It was approved. Becky Beckett spoke to Canon Chad Slater and he assured her that Paul Barker's installation will be scheduled soon.

Peter Richardson gave the Junior Warden's report. The new roof for the third floor is complete. We have an invoice for \$31,300. Peter Richardson will ask Emma, Church Secretary, to pay it immediately. There is a large Norway spruce tree very near the roof that should be removed because it threatens the new roof and the building foundation as well. Trinity Tree Service will remove the tree for \$1,150. Peter Richardson made a motion to accept the bid to remove the tree. Bill Denney seconds the motion. The motion is approved. The Columbarium doors should be installed before Labor Day. Raymond Woody, stone mason, can repair the steps. Wallace Wiring will meet with Peter Richardson to talk about installing a video screen for the front door for the Secretary. Two men from the Fellowship Home will work on cutting the vines by the driveway.

Mary Catherine Williams gave the Parish Life report. On June 22, 2024, the adult and youth groups cleaned up at the church. The picnic is scheduled for August 25, 2024, at Bluefield City Park. Brian and Lisa Tracey have agreed to do the music for the picnic service.

Bill Denney gave the Outreach report. 59 bags were given out at the last food pantry. Snacks will be available at the next food pantry. We hosted the St. Paul work team. Father Paul said he would like to have a presence at Move In day at Bluefield State.

Father Paul gave the Education Committee report. Betty Nash instructed the Sunday School children on bagging for the food pantry. The next Sunday School will be July 28. The Sunday School family outing is scheduled for August 3.

Susanne Pulse gave the communications report. The Rainbow and the weekly e-mail are still being produced. The Sunday morning service is livestreamed.

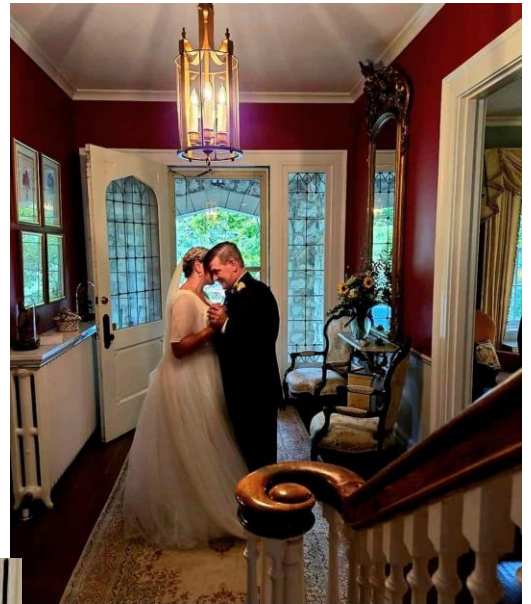
Father Paul gave the Rector's Report. He will be out 6-20-24 to 6-28-24 to attend General Convention; 7-13 to 7-15 for vacation; and 7-20 to 7-21 to go to Peterkin to meet with the Bishop. A discussion was held on the Wedding policy. It was tabled and will go back to the subcommittee for further review.

Father Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.

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, Fr. Russ Hatfield and family, Mary Lou, Brian,, Don Harris, Ted and Katherine Lewis, Brian, John and Becky Beckett, Jim Paine, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Jim, Joan, Gray, Eddie Hughes, Doug Truter, Beth Kane, Debbie H., Kimberly Norriss, Mark, Donna Thompson-Whitehead, Liz, Joan, Dave, Mospay Shott Forbes, Allen, Everyly Nowlin, Sandra, and Felicia Birthdays:

Beckett Wedding Announcement
Keith Scott Beckett, son of Christ Episcopal Church members John and Becky Beckett, was married to Tonya Louise Quesenberry in a small ceremony on June 14, 2024. The wedding took place at The Breezes, John and Becky's home.

Canon Chad Slater, former Rector of Christ Episcopal officiated the wedding. Becky, a member of the Christ Episcopal Vestry, serves as Senior Warden.



Recently discovered silver plated coffee and tea serving set at Christ Church. Anyone interested in purchasing, please contact the church office. Minimum offer accepted \$300.00



July 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6
7 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Liturgy of the Word	15	16 10:30 DOK	17	18 9:00 Food Pantry	19	20
21 The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	22	23 SAINT MARY MAGDALENE	24	25 JAMES THE APOSTLE	26	27
28 The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	29	30	31	ALTAR GUILD: Chris Justice		

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

July 7 The Marra and Fortune Families
 July 14 Mike & Kay Sudduth
 July 21 David & Debbie Faber
 July 28 Elizabeth Burton

BIRTHDAYS:

July 13 Peter Richardson
 July 13 Bonnie Taylor
 July 15 Bill Davis
 July 17 David Hardin
 July 19 Tripper Thomas
 July 20 John Beckett

Lectors and Acolyte Schedule for July:

July 7 Don Williams, Lector
 July 14 Don Williams, Lector
 July 21 Cameron Clement, Lector
 July 28 Bill Denney, Lector
 Becky Beckett, Acolyte
 Bill Denney, Acolyte
 Becky Kersey, Acolyte
 Mike Lilly, Acolyte

July 25 Becky Steorts
 July 26 Joe Allen
 July 28 Shirley Ofsa
 July 28 Mike Sudduth

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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To our friends and family:



JULY 2024

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