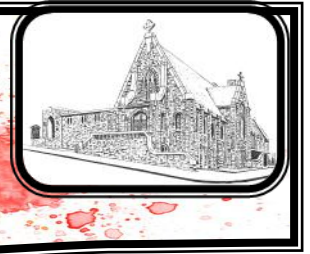


# The Rainbow



March 2024

## **A Letter from Fr. Paul**

A warm welcome to the month of March and the arrival of spring! I'm already seeing some of those small purple flowers popping up in my front yard (crocuses?). Seeing them as I walk out to my truck in the morning puts a smile on my face. Warmer days are coming.

With the coming of spring, comes the Easter season. We close out the month with Palm Sunday on March 24 and Easter Sunday on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Here, at Christ Church, we offer many special services during the Holy Week between those Sundays; There will be a Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m., with the stripping of the altar. On Good Friday, there will be two services: Stations of the Cross at noon and Stations and the reading of the Passion of our Lord at 5:30 p.m. For Palm Sunday we will observe the Blessing of the Palms Liturgy and hear the Passion of our Lord. On Easter Sunday, there will be one service at our regular time, 10:00 am. Please, check out the church activities calendar on our website and attached to the weekly email newsletter and here in *The Rainbow*. With all these special services and Holy Days, make your plans to attend as often as you can!



We remain in our Lenten journey to Holy Week, and along the way we are inwardly reflecting on our lives, repenting where needed, observing some form of self-denial and sacrifice, engaging in God's word more deeply and practicing acts of kindness and service to our neighbors. We are preparing our spirits, our minds and our bodies for new life at Easter in Christ's Resurrection and to celebrate at the Pashal Feast. Stay steady in your discipline, continue to pray for one another and continue to give thanks and praise to God for the many blessings and gifts in your lives. Continue to attend worship and Evening Prayer on Wednesdays in Lent. Keep looking for Christ's presence in all people and in all places.

My prayer is for a happy and healthy March for everyone as we welcome spring, Easter, and the season of longer, warmer days. May God bless you with his grace.

Paul+

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper *by David Kersey*

The Episcopal Church Men hosted a pancake supper for church members and guests on Shrove Tuesday, February 13. This is an annual tradition going back more than 20 years. The menu included pancakes and syrup, both made from a 100-year-old recipe, apples, and sausage. Head chef Jim Pulse and helpers began to cook around 1:30 p.m. and doors opened at 5:15 p.m. One hundred thirty-five people were fed. Records going back to 2005 reflect that the number of persons fed has ranged from a low of 86 in 2012 and 2015 to the high of 175 in 2006. The ECM expressed thanks and appreciation for the kind assistance of the ECW in setting up for the supper and post-dinner cleanup.



This is the primary fundraiser for the church men's group, raising \$2,192 from this year's ticket sales.



## Liam Cole and the Velveteen Rabbit *by Mimi Merritt*

Liam Cole, a 4-year-old member of our Christ Episcopal Church family, received a copy of *The Velveteen Rabbit* autographed by the Barter Theater cast of a performance of the beloved story on Saturday, March 2, at Tazewell Middle School in Tazewell, Va. The show was a presentation of Citizens for the Arts (CART). Liam, who is a student at Westminster Pre-School in Bluefield, W.Va., is the son of Jessica and Jason Cole and grandson of Betty Nash and Charlie Blevins.

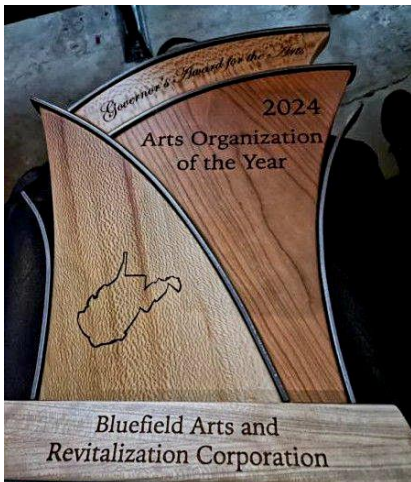
Pictured with the Barter Players cast is Liam (center, front row). Also pictured (left to right, back row) are sponsor Vince Mullins, president and co-owner of Huffman Insurance Agency; Barter cast members; sponsor Leeanne Regon, interim Town Manager for the Town of Tazewell; Joe Beasley, Tazewell Town Councilmember; Tazewell Mayor Michael Hoops; and Elaine Holmes, President of CART (Citizens for the Arts).



## CEC Parishioners Celebrate Arts Organization Win

A local arts organization recently named best in the state of West Virginia for 2024 includes three members of the Christ Church family.

On hand and on stage Feb. 27 in Charleston to receive the award at the Governor's Arts Awards Ceremony were Brian Tracey, Executive Director of Bluefield Arts and Revitalization Corp. (BARC), and Mimi Merritt, a BARC board member. CEC member Peter Taylor also serves on the BARC board. The awards were voted upon by members of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History.



The Governor's Arts Awards focus attention on the importance of arts to cultural and economic development by honoring individuals and organizations whose creative achievements and significant contributions to the arts enhance life in the Mountain State.

BARC is an arts-focused, community-based, not-for-profit organization which uses the arts to create opportunities for education, employment, and entertainment in downtown Bluefield, W.Va. BARC manages the historic Granada Theater, the Raleigh

Street Cinemas – two new movie theaters in the lower level of the Granada, and the Paine Gallery – an exhibit space in the city’s former City Hall named to honor the late Bea Paine, who as a Town Board member advocated passionately to save the historic building from the wrecking ball.

In 2023, more than 20,000 people came to downtown Bluefield for movies, music, community events, and educational programs at the Granada Theater, Raleigh Street Cinemas, and the Paine Gallery, creating foot traffic in the city that benefitted local businesses. BARC’s programming provides area residents with cultural experiences they could not otherwise experience without driving a significant distance from Bluefield. In addition, a community with a range of arts programming attracts businesses, new residents, and visitors, helping to position Bluefield for growth after years of decline.



Minutes-CEC Vestry Meeting  
February 21, 2024

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

Present

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

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

Father Paul gave the devotional.

Mary Catherine Williams made the motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting and Bill Denney seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Vestry members reviewed the financial documents. Financially the church remains in good condition. Income: Unrestricted income significantly exceeded budget due to church members paying a full year of their pledge and making their annual gifts this month. These funds along with a good beginning balance in our operating account will cover our normal expenses for several months. We received \$16000 in special purpose income from the Tierney Foundation for the upcoming third floor roof replacement project. Expense: There were no significant expense variations in the month of January. Balance sheet observations: Both the St. Lucy and Building Endowment funds experienced good growth this month. Art Mead asked about the status of the funding from St. Mary’s for the Union Mission dinners. Mary Catherine Williams made the motion to approve the financial report. Susanne Pulse seconded the motion. The financial report was unanimously approved.

Becky Beckett gave the Senior Warden’s report. She welcomed the new Vestry members. She wanted to let everyone know that the Junior and Senior Wardens meet with Father Paul one week before the Vestry. There will be a Vestry retreat at Christ Church on April 6, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Vestry will review the wedding policy next. Father Paul will appoint a subcommittee to review the current wedding policy. Becky will contact the Diocesan Office for assistance in the review of the letter of agreement with Father Paul.

Peter Richardson gave the junior warden's report. The third floor roof replacement project is fully funded by the 1912 Foundation and the Tierney Foundation. Any overpayment could be used for another project. The Building Endowment Fund reimbursed the church for the 2023 building maintenance costs of \$8,000.00. Art Mead made the motion to authorize the replacement of the Columbarium doors up to \$15,000.00 from the Columbarium Account subject to the Trustees' approval. Mimi Merritt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mary Catherine Williams gave the Parish Life report. There will be a meeting of the Parish Life Committee on March 10, 2024. The Wade Center will host a college age mission group. The Wade Center asked if Christ Church could use the Mission Group for one afternoon. Mary Catherine Williams will have the group clean up a room on the third floor. There will be a Pentecost celebration on May 19, 2024. It will be a celebration for Father Russ and Debbie Hatfield. Father Paul added that Ivy Hart will be baptized.

Bill Denny and Art Mead will co-chair the Outreach Committee. 70 bags were given out at Food Pantry. All gift cards were also distributed.

Betty Nash will continue to head up the Evangelism Committee.

Rob Merritt will continue to head up the Worship Committee.

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 had College for Clergy on February 23 and 24. On March 17, 2024, Christ Church will have a guest preacher, Rev. Erin Morey, from St. Paul's, Pittsburgh. Father Paul will be at St. Paul's in Pittsburgh. In the future, Father Paul will have Altar Guild, Usher, Lector and Acolyte training as well as recruitment. Bill Denny, Rob Merritt and Teresa Paine will hold evening prayer in Lent. Tim and Maggie Mainland will hold a concert on March 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at the Church.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Father Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT  
FEBRUARY 2024  
FOOD PANTRY  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Number of bags distributed: 67

50 gift cards to Grants Supermarket were handed out

Volunteers: Grocery Shoppers: Betty Nash, Charlie Blevins, Bill Denney  
Food baggers: Betty Nash, Tripper and Stacy Thomas, Bill Denny,  
Linda Gillespie, Stanley and Grey Kiser  
Food Pantry Workers: Betty Nash, Mimi Merritt, Charlie Blevins

## UNION MISSION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

A total of 119 meals were prepared and served. Christ Episcopal volunteers prepared and packaged 101 meals and the Mission staff served an additional 18 sub sandwich meals. The menu was Stauffer's lasagna, bread, salad and a cookie. Volunteers who donated their time were Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, Shirley Ofsa and Patty Richardson, all of Christ Episcopal Church, James Fisher, a former member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Bluefield, Virginia and Betty Watson of Bluefield, Virginia also helped.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

A total of 123 meals were prepared and packaged. Christ Episcopal volunteers served 36 on Wednesday and the remaining 87 meals were served by Mission staff on Thursday. The menu was BBQ on a bun, beans, cole slaw, a cookie and soft drinks.

Volunteers at the mission included Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth and Cameron Clement, Art Mead, Shirley Ofsa and Patty Richardson of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, W.Va.; Charlie Helmendollar, Senior Warden, Christ Episcopal Church, Pocahontas, Va.; and his wife Fredia. A former member of St. Mary's Church, James Fisher, and . Betty Watson of Bluefield, Va. also volunteered.



MORE PHOTOS FROM SHROVE TUESDAY!



## March 2024

| Sun                                                                                     | Mon                                                                   | Tue                                    | Wed                                                                           | Thu                           | Fri                                                                                         | Sat           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
|                                                                                         |                                                                       |                                        |                                                                               |                               | 1                                                                                           | 2             |
| 3<br>The Third<br>Sunday of Lent<br>10:00 Holy<br>Eucharist                             | 4                                                                     | 5                                      | 6<br>5:30 Lenten<br>Evening<br>Service                                        | 7                             | 8 Int'l. Women's Day                                                                        | 9             |
| 10 Daylight Saving<br>Begins<br>The Fourth<br>Sunday of Lent<br>10:00 Holy<br>Eucharist | 11                                                                    | 12                                     | 13<br>4:00 Union<br>Mission<br>5:30 Lenten<br>Evening<br>Service              | 14                            | 15                                                                                          | 16            |
| 17 St Patrick's Day<br>The Fifth<br>Sunday of Lent<br>10:00 Holy<br>Eucharist           | 18                                                                    | 19<br>SAINT<br>JOSEPH<br><br>10:30 DOK | 20 Start of Spring<br>(Spring Equinox)<br>6:00 Men's<br>Dinner<br>7:00 Vestry | 21<br>9:00 Food<br>Pantry     | 22                                                                                          | 23 Earth Hour |
| 24<br>PALM<br>SUNDAY<br>10:00 Holy<br>Eucharist                                         | 25                                                                    | 26                                     | 27<br>3:30 Union<br>Mission                                                   | 28<br>7:00 Maundy<br>Thursday | 29<br>Noon Stations of<br>the Cross<br>5:30 Liturgy and<br>Passion of our<br>Lord, Stations | 30            |
| 31<br>EASTER<br>10:00 Holy<br>Eucharist                                                 | <b>Altar Guild: Linda Ammar, Elizabeth Clement, and Lisa Van Dyke</b> |                                        |                                                                               |                               |                                                                                             |               |

### Lector and Acolyte Schedule for March:

|          |                      |                          |
|----------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| March 3  | Linda Ammar, Lector  | Rob Merritt, Acolyte     |
| March 10 | Mike Lilly, Lector   | Becky Kersey, Acolyte    |
| March 17 | Teresa Paine, Lector | Becky Beckett, Acolyte   |
| March 24 | Rob Merritt, Lector  | Katherine Lewis, Acolyte |
| March 31 | Don Williams, Lector | Bill Denney, Acolyte     |

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

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| Lent                       |
| Lent                       |
| Lent                       |
| Mike and Sloane Hunter     |
| Peter and Patty Richardson |

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
200 DUHRING STREET  
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



*March 2024*

Editor: Susanne Pulse ([susannepulse@gmail.com](mailto:susannepulse@gmail.com))

Copy Editor: Mimi Merritt

Contributors: Linda Ammar, Mimi Merritt, Art Mead

Graphic Design: Susanne Pulse