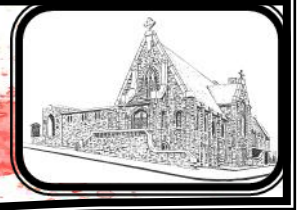


The Rainbow

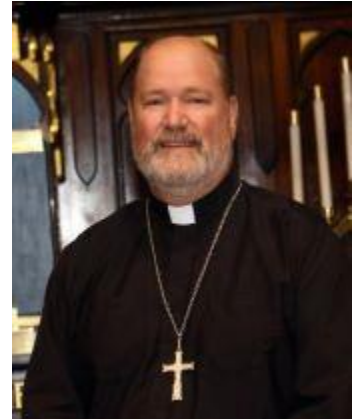


A Letter from Fr. Paul

May 2024

A warm welcome to all! I'm looking forward to all the May flowers. I've noticed a lot of red buds up and down my avenue. It's a beautiful time of year in Bluefield. God's gifts are all around us.

May is a busy time of year; Mothers' Day, Pentecost, Memorial Day weekend. There are many opportunities for celebrations and outdoor activities. For families and students, school is winding down which means summer plans are being made. I'm looking forward to working with many mission trip groups coming into our area. The first team arrives the week of May 27. They are staying at The Highland Educational Project center in Welch and working in the McDowell County and Bluefield areas, performing home repair projects and volunteering at Bluefield Union Mission and the Wade Center. I'm also excited to be taking some vacation time later in July. I hope you all get a chance for some vacation time as well.



This year, on the Holy Day of Pentecost, (May 19) when we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit, we are also celebrating and giving thanks for the faithful ministry of The Rev. Russ Hatfield and his wife Debbie. Fr. Russ has helped Christ Church in many ways over the years as a substitute priest, and as a personal mentor and friend to me. I am excited for this opportunity to honor Russ and Debbie during our service and afterwards at a wonderful reception in Rowley Hall. And, to add to all this excitement, we are also celebrating a baptism! Please, make your plans to attend this special day.

Additionally, in May, we are wrapping up our program year for Children's Sunday School. May 19 is the last day and I hope all our families can attend. I want to thank Elizabeth Clement for her loving children's ministry and all her assistants that have helped throughout the year. Thank You! Plans are being made for a family outing this summer so keep a lookout for more details.

I remember last Memorial Day, weather-wise, was not so enjoyable. I woke up to find my basement flooded and my yards under water. There was just enough grassy area in the front yard for my dogs to go potty. I know many of us had similar experiences. This year, I pray for better weather and a more joyful experience with family and friends as we honor those in the military service who lost their lives defending our country. God bless their memories and their families. I wish everyone a wonderful month of May and a Blessed Holy Pentecost. Christ within us, Alleluia! Paul+

Church Funds *by David M. Kersey*

The Building Endowment Fund was created in 1987, to help provide for the maintenance and improvement of the church real estate and building. The fund was created by the Vestry and turned over to the Trustees for investment and management. In 2007, the trust document was amended so that the annual interest from the fund could be used to reimburse the church for building and maintenance expenses. Once the fund balance reaches a certain level, the principal and income may be used for such expenses. It is intended that this fund continue to grow in value, to be a perpetual source of revenue for maintaining the church property.

The DeBottis Fund was created in 2009. It is an endowment fund which provides support for the general budget of the church. It was created with a testamentary gift from a gentleman who attended the church while he was a student at Bluefield College (now University).

The St. Lucy Fund was created in 2018. It is an endowment fund which provides support for the general budget of the church. It was created with an insurance settlement the church received from contractors who had been hired to clean the interior stone walls of the church, but damaged the stained glass windows in the process.



The Wade Center

Betty Brained, Executive Director of The Wade Center, and Joshua Bolden, Board Member, visited Christ Church on Sunday, April 21. They spoke about all the good work that the center does for our children in Bluefield. The Episcopal Church Men made a donation to the Wade Center.



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT
APRIL 2024
FOOD PANTRY
THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Number of bags distributed: 72

Shoppers: Betty Nash and Bill Denny

Baggers: Tripper Thomas, Peter and Patricia Taylor, Bill Denny, Linda Gillespie,
Delia Kersey

Volunteers: Linda Gillespie, Betty Nash, Bill Denny, Charlie Blevins and Patty
Richardson

Cleaning supplies were also handed out

UNION MISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

One hundred eighty-one (181) meals were prepared, packaged, and served. The menu consisted of BBQ on a bun, coleslaw, baked beans, and a cookie. Volunteers who gave of their time included Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, Patty Richardson - all members of Christ Episcopal Church, WV; Charlie Helmandollar, Sr. Warden at Christ Episcopal Church in Pocahontas, VA and his wife, Fredia. James Fisher, former member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Bluefield, VA.

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BIRTHDAYS FOR MAY

May 2 Sloane Hunter	May 7 Patty Richardson	May 17 Vanessa Hall	May 22 Nancy Faris
May 3 Pat McCoy	May 7 Pat Wimmer	May 19 Barbara Sudduth	
May 5 Vic Bowman	May 8 Chris Justice	May 22 Laurie Arthur	May 27 Elizabeth Hart
May 5 Theron Lewis	May 16 Karen Joseph	May 22 Patricia Taylor	



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 and Debbie 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, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, Rosemary, Eddie Hughes, Doug Truter, Debbie H., Kimberly Norriss, Mark, Donna Thompson-Whitehead, Liz, Joan, Dave and Elvin

Minutes-CEC Vestry Meeting

April 17, 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, Mimi Merritt, Donald Kersey, Becky Beckett, and Bill Denney

Absent: Ted Lewis

Also present was Father Paul Barker

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

Don Kersey led the devotional.

A correction was made to the March minutes. Blue Mountain Rustic and Gem Mine is the correct name of the venue that the Sunday School will visit. Mary Catherine Williams made the motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting and Mimi Merritt seconded the motion, and 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. Reimbursement from the Building Endowment fund for 2023 building maintenance expenses was \$8,000. Supply clergy expense was \$530 for this month (includes pay and mileage). Health insurance expense reimbursements for the past three months were received from the diocese and totaled \$3,564. Both the St. Lucy and Building Endowment funds experienced good growth this month. The balance in the food pantry account exceeds \$15,000. Bill Denney made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Susanne Pulse seconded the motion, and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Becky Beckett gave the Senior Warden's report. The Church has not received an acknowledgement from Bishop Cowden regarding the letter we sent concerning the Church's call of Father Paul Barker to be our next Rector. A couple approached Art Mead and would like to make an anonymous donation to repair the stone by the red door up to \$2,500.00. Peter Richardson made the motion to accept the donation for that particular purpose. Mary Catherine Williams seconded the motion. It was approved. Father Paul will write the thank you note. The committee appointed to review the wedding policy has met and some changes were made. The Vestry will receive the proposed changes before the next Vestry meeting. The Hatfield Reception was discussed. David's Downtown will cater the reception. The congregation will be asked if they wish to donate to a gift for Father Russ and Debbie Hatfield.

Peter Richardson gave the Junior Warden's report. We are waiting for Dunford Roofing and for the vendor regarding the columbarium doors.

Mary Catherine Williams gave the Parish Life report. The mission group that came in April got some things done upstairs. They were able to break down the old ladder. They carried some things that were in the back room down to Rowley Hall. Mary Catherine plans to call the Union Mission to come and pick those items up. In the room next to the game room the youth group carried down the wooden crate that has been there for a long time. We still have a shelving unit that probably needs to be broken down and trashed. We also still have a number of old windows that we need to decide what to do with. We still have the Chrisman tree stand that PEMCO made for the church. Mary Catherine would like to get that broken down and taken to a metal recycler in Bluefield and sale it for scrap. There are other items in that room that need disposed of. There is a couple of tubs of Sunday School items. Mary Catherine has talked to Elizabeth Clement about that and she will check it out. The things that are in the hallway is some things that the Wade Center may be able to use. Paul will be contact with Betty Brainerd and have her take a look at it. Mary Catherine has been in contact with David Kersey about the drainpipe in the window well off the nursery. He said to get rid of it. Mary Catherine may send that to the Union Mission. She was not able to get that area clean up last week because of the weather and will get a couple of the men from the Fellowship Home to come and clean that area. The area outside of the window off Rowley Hall needs some attention also so Mary Catherine will get the men from the Fellowship Home to do that job also. The carpet in the nursery is wet again from the rain last week.

Bill Denny gave the Outreach report. 90 bags were given out at the last food pantry. Eight people assisted with the food pantry. \$1,300.00 was spent on groceries. The Wade Center has a Blessing Box that is replenished every day. Christ Church will take 2 bags of grocery to the Wade Center Blessing Box on Food Pantry Day.

Father Paul gave the Education Committee report. The last Sunday School will be May 19 for the program year. There will be a Sunday School outing at the Blue Mountain Rustic and Gem Mine in Tazewell.

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. Holy Week went well. He thanked everyone who volunteered during Easter Season. Paul will ask Betty Brainerd, the Wade Center Director, to give a talk during Coffee Hour on Sunday, April 21. Paul will be on vacation from April 26 to May 4. We will have Liturgy of the Word on April 28.

New Business: The Finance Committee will revisit the gift policy. Father Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.

PHOTOS FROM APRIL 14, 2024



May 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 The Apostles Saint Philip and Saint James	2	3	4
5 Cinco De Mayo The Sixth Sunday of Easter 10:00 Holy Eucharist	6	7	8 4:00 Union Mission	9 Ascension Day	10	11
12 Mother's Day The Seventh Sunday of Easter 10:00 Holy Eucharist	13	14	15 6:00 Men's Dinner 7:00 Vestry	16 9:00 Food Pantry	17	18 Armed Forces Day
19 The Day of Pentecost Whitsunday 10:00 Holy Eucharist	20	21 10:30 DOK	22 3:30 Union Mission	23	24	25
26 The First Sunday of Pentecost Trinity Sunday 10:00 Holy Eucharist	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

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

May 5, 2024 Dr. James Paine
 May 12, 2024 John & Becky Beckett
 May 19, 2024 Don & Mary Catherine Williams
 May 26, 2024 Jim & Susanne Pulse

Lectors and Acolyte Schedule for May:

May 5 Mike Lilly, Lector Rob Merritt, Acolyte
 May 12 Teresa Paine, Lector Becky Kersey, Acolyte
 May 19 Bill Denney, Lector Becky Beckett, Acolyte
 May 26 Rob Merritt, Lector Katherine Lewis, Acolyte

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



MAY 2024

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