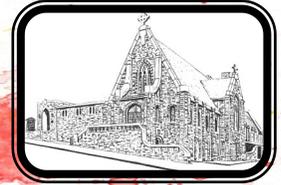


The Rainbow



January 2019/Rainbow 1901

Episcopal Church Men Christmas Dinner

By Frank Dragotto

Our Episcopal Church Men (ECM) enjoyed a tasty Christmas meal on Wednesday, December 19.

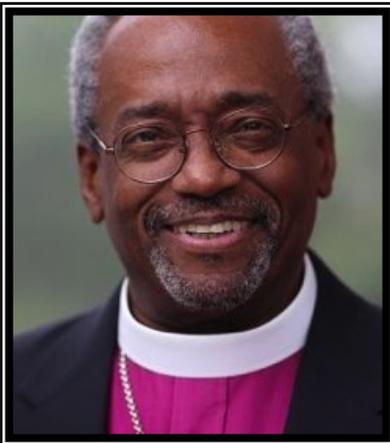
Thirteen Christ Church members welcomed 14 members from the Bluefield Fellowship Home at the dinner. All enjoyed a meal of ham and turkey with all the trimmings, supplied by David's Downtown.



Contents:

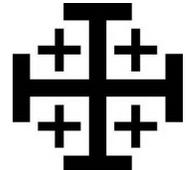
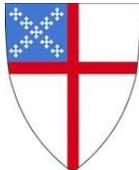
- Page 2: Food Pantry; ECW; DOK
- Page 3: Fellowship Home; Vestry Minutes
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Bishop Michael Curry to Visit Roanoke



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be in Roanoke on Sunday, January 27, 2019, for a revival service at the Berglund Center. The service is free to the public. We are working on a plan to carpool to the service, with some interested in driving over the night before and some the morning of the service.

If you are interested in helping to coordinate this carpooling, please see Elizabeth Clement or Father Chad.



Christ Episcopal Church - 200 Duhring St Bluefield, WV 24701 - 304.327.6861



Report by Linda Ammar

Various members of Christ Church came together on Sunday, December 16 to bag groceries that had been ordered by Betty Nash. On December 20 the Food Pantry handed out 125 grocery bags and distributed 83 kerosene vouchers. John and Carol Georgis prepared refreshments, and scarves, hats and gloves were given to those in need. Volunteers who gave of their time were Betty Nash and Charles Blevins,

Macon Clement, Tom Coughlan, John and Carol Georgis, Mimi Merritt, Patty Richardson, Peter and Patricia Taylor, Linda Thomas and Mary Catherine Williams.

Report by Mary Catherine Williams

Some of the knitters and crocheters from our church meet most Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. for Stitch Nite at Bluefield Yarn Company. One night the topic of Christ Church Food Pantry and the special items that we provide our Food Pantry Friends came up. We were discussing hats, scarves and gloves that we have as our special items for December and January, and one of the ladies said that she would crochet some things for us. Pictured is Tammy Barrett Todd of Princeton, who made about 20 hats and scarves for the Food Pantry. What a blessing for our Food Pantry Friends. Thank you, Tammy, from Christ Church.



Report by Patty Richardson

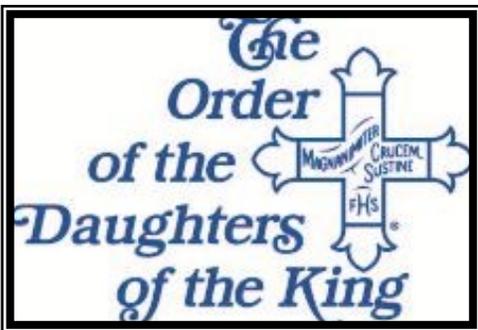
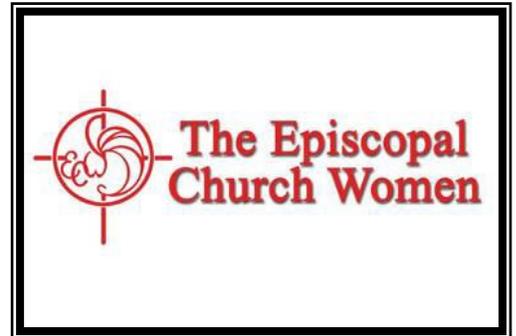
The Christ Church ECW met on December 5 in Rowley Hall for their Christmas Dinner.

A short business meeting was held at which the ECW voted to provide the Salvation Army with shower mats to ensure safer conditions for those using the facilities. Suggestions were made as to how to get the news out that the shower program at the Salvation Army was ready to be used. Many thanks to Betty Nash for heading up this project. Also discussed were the cookie boxes for shut-ins, and plans were made for assembling the boxes for Father Chad to distribute.

The nursery refurbishing project was reported on by Mary Catherine Williams.

Due to uncertainty of weather conditions in the winter, the ECW plans to suspend meetings during the winter months and will meet again in the spring. ECW projects will continue to take place during those months.

After a lovely dinner enjoyed by members and their guests, the Slater family, Father Chad led a holy Eucharist service for the ECW.



By Mary Catherine Williams

The next meeting of Daughters of the King (DoK) will be January 15 at 10:30 a.m. in Hobson Library. Our study will be on Dinah. We had five members present in December. For anyone interested in attending a meeting, we meet the third Tuesday of each month in Hobson Library. You may contact Mary Catherine Williams at 276-326-2411 or mkw@dlwco.com or any DoK member. We are listed in the 2018-2019 church directory on page iii. The Daughters of the King is an Order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it.

Membership includes women in the Episcopal, Lutheran, Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. Locally, our group includes two members from Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Our St. Margaret of Scotland Chapter was chartered May 2002. We have 14 members in our chapter. Our Motto of the Order is as follows: For His Sake.... I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do. Lord, what will you have me do?"

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Fellowship Home Report

Report by Linda Ammar

For the third year Christmas snack baskets were delivered to the Fellowship Home on Thursday, December 20th. Thanks to everyone who made this outreach event possible. The men at the home are very appreciative.



Minutes of the Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church Bluefield, West Virginia December 19, 2018



Present: Rob Merritt, Don Kersey, Frank Dragotto, Dee Puckett, Teresa Paine, Susanne Pulse, Mary Catherine Williams, Father Chad Slater, Elizabeth Clement and Alyson Bowling.

The December meeting of the Christ Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order on December 19, 2018, by Rob Merritt who declared a quorum.

Dee Puckett led the vestry in a short devotion.

The treasurer's report was given by Frank Dragotto. The financial reports reviewed. Dee Puckett made the motion to accept the financial report. It was seconded by Teresa Paine. The motion passed unanimously.

Senior Warden's Report: The interfaith event on December 13, 2018 was a success. The Annual Meeting was a success.

Junior Warden's Report: Dee Puckett thanked everyone who helped her during her term as Junior Warden.

Communications: Work on the January Rainbow continues.

Education: The Sunday School participated in the Bluefield Christmas Parade on December 15, 2018. They won third place.

Evangelism: The Christ Episcopal Shirts will be ready by Friday, December 21.

Finance: Frank Dragotto made a motion that the Annual Meeting be moved to January. The By-laws have to be amended to move the Annual Meeting date.

Outreach: Food Pantry is Thursday, December 20. 95 to 100 bags are ready to be given out.

Parish Life: There will be a reception after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Worship and Spirituality: A Taize service that was tentatively scheduled for December was postponed.

Rector's Report: There will be two (2) Christmas Eve services: 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Laurel Thompson will play the harp at the 11:00 p.m. service. Bishop Curry will speak at the Berglund Center in Roanoke, Virginia on January 27, 2019. Two assistants to the Bishop of Southwest Virginia met with a few members of Christ Episcopal Church and the community regarding the property of St. Mary's. A new director is needed for the Alter Guild. A survey will be developed by the Vestry to be distributed to the congregation later in 2019. Canterbury Club will be at the home of Linda Thomas on January 6.

New Business: It was discussed moving the Vestry meeting from the third Wednesday of the month to another day.

Old Business: None

There being no further business, Father Chad dismissed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Pulse, Secretary



By Mimi Merritt

Several members of Christ Church attended a “Beginning of Winter Gathering” hosted by the Appalachian Interfaith Alliance at the Islamic Society of Appalachian Region (ISAR) mosque on December 13.

The Alliance is a group of citizens of the region dedicated to fostering understanding between practitioners of different faiths focused on building bridges, not walls. The event was planned by Christ Church member Dr. Rob Merritt of Bluefield College and ISAR member Dr. Khalid Iqbal, a pediatric cardiologist of Bluefield, Virginia. Dr. Iqbal serves as president and caretaker of the mosque.

The theme of the event was “Loving the Other,” which Father Chad Slater addressed in his remarks to the group.

“As a Christian, loving the other is the single most important thing we can do,” he said. “Never mind that that’s what God told us to do, it’s what common decency dictates we should do. And while we so often fall short of the commandment to love others, to love those different from us but still a part of the beautiful family of God, God still loves us, and for that I say, “Thanks be to God.””

Following a delicious dinner prepared by ISAR members, speakers included Father Chad, Dr. Iqbal, Dr. Ihsan Safi, Rob Merritt, and other members of the gathering, who emphasized the similarities of the Abrahamic religions, including “Love thy Neighbor” found in the Hebrew Bible, the Quran, and the New Testament.

“When Jesus said to ‘...love your neighbor,’ he knew that our neighbors would not look like us, think like us, pray like us, vote like us; he knew that. That was his point,” Father Chad said. “God calls us to love one another, not just for some pipe-dream utopia, but because each of us has worth. Each of us has worth. Whether we think so or not, each of us has worth.”

Rob Merritt interspersed the remarks with poems he wrote and that others had written that emphasized faith’s common ground.

While eating and afterwards, attendees gathered around tables and engaged in friendly, informative conversations. This may be the highlight of these events: one-on-one dialogues with members of another faith.

Father Chad, who attended with his children, Emma and Ben, told the gathering that one of the most important aspects of these events was that many participants came as families, communicating to their children an important message of love and goodwill.

“Bart Ehrmann, one of my favorite Biblical scholars, once said, ‘There are few things more dangerous than inbred religious certainty.’ And he’s right,” Father Chad said.

The purpose of the gatherings, organized for 10 years by the Appalachian Interfaith Alliance, is to inspire relaxed discussions around dinner tables while traveling the road of spiritual understanding.

In addition to Father Chad, his children, and Rob, Christ Church members who attended were Delia Kersey, Elizabeth Clement, and Mimi Merritt.

A larger gathering including members of other faiths is planned for the spring. Members of the mosque expressed interest in coming to speak at Christian churches.

Reflecting with father Chad



Welcome to 2019! The promise of the new year is always one of hope...but what do we hope for? For me, I think each year I hope for more life—more moments of laughter and love mingled with fellowship and fun. I hope to find in moments of ordinary life small reflections of God in my life. To do this, of course, I must look in both those moments of joy and those of sadness.

I'm reminded at this season of new beginnings and hopefulness of a poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox. She wrote *The Year* way back in 1910.

What can be said in New Year rhymes,
That's not been said a thousand times?
The new years come, the old years go,
We know we dream, we dream we know.
We rise up laughing with the light,
We lie down weeping with the night.
We hug the world until it stings,
We curse it then and sigh for wings.
We live, we love, we woo, we wed,
We wreath our brides, we sheet our dead.
We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,
And that's the burden of the year.

Over the course of a year we have countless opportunities to look for God. It's easy to reflect on happy moments or major life milestones to find God and God's blessings. It's a burden to look for God in moments of trial. It's a burden to look with hope toward the new year knowing that it will bring sadness as well as joy—so we tend to focus on expecting the joy. What makes that burden easier is resting on the knowledge that God is there, loving us and experiencing these ups and downs with us. All we have to do is look for Him.

Perhaps that dedication toward looking for God would be the best New Years' resolution we could make.
Amen.

Glory in the Highest

December 2018: Celebrating of the Birth of Our Lord



By Jennifer Slater

The Four Corners Sunday School took home third place when members participated in the Bluefield West Virginia Christmas Parade on December 15, 2018. From Christ Church, participants were Emma Slater, Ben Slater, Niko Parks and Ramona Parks.



Above: CEC collected gifts for families in need

Below: CEC women preparing cookies for shut-ins



Above: Father Chad enjoys a cupcake at Vestry meeting



By Jennifer Slater

The Four Season's Sunday school had a Birthday Party for Jesus at the Presbyterian Church. The kids had pizza and some games and crafts!



Happy Birthday Jesus



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 The Epiphany 9:00 Senior Class 9:30 Junior Class 10:00 Holy Eucharist Choir Practice 6:00 Twelfth Night Party at Linda Thomas'	7 Office open by appointment	8	9 3:00 Prepare Dinner for Union Mission	10	11 Office Closed	12
13 First Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 Senior Class 9:30 Junior Class 10:00 Holy Eucharist Choir Practice	14 Office open by appointment	15 10:30 DOK Hobson Library	16 6:00 Men's Dinner 7:00 Vestry	17 9:00 Food Pantry	18 Office Closed	19
20 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 Senior Class 9:30 Junior Class 10:00 Holy Eucharist Choir Practice	21 Office open by appointment	22	23 4:30 Prepare Dinner Union Mission	24	25 Office Closed	26
27 Third Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 Senior Class 9:30 Junior Class 10:00 Holy Eucharist Choir Practice Bishop Curry's Visit - Roanoke VA	28 Office open by appointment	29	30	31		

Altar Guild Members
January 2019:

Patty Richardson
Linda Thomas
Betty Nash



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

- January 6: Norma Mahood-Bay
- January 13: The Clement Family
- January 20: Tom Coughlan
- January 27: Jay Kephart



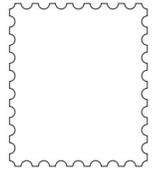
4	George Clement	11	Lee Rose	24	Howard Troutner
4	James Dyer	15	Liliana Bennitt	26	Frank Wilkinson
4	Patty Wilkinson	15	Mark Williams	29	Benjamin Slater
6	Buck Sowers	20	Teresa Paine		
10	Linda Thomas	24	Catherine Beemer		

Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street

Bluefield, WV 24701

The Rainbow—October 2018



To our friends and family:



January 2019

Rainbow1901

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