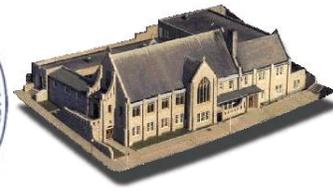




• Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, West Virginia 24701 •
 • 200 Duhring Street • 304-327-6861 • editor@cecbf.org •



• Established 1889 •
 The Beacon on the Hill

Volume 25, Number 3 Christ Episcopal Church January 2017

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).



Rev. Chad Slater

Writing over one hundred years ago, Professor James Denney of Scotland called these three commands “the standing orders of the gospel.” They are “standing orders,” he explained, because they always apply to every Christian in every situation. I love looking at the original Greek text because it can give us a different perspective. In the original Greek text of this verse the imperatives are all in the present tense. You could translate it “continually rejoice, continually pray, and continually give thanks.”

While a nice thought, it’s somewhat difficult to do. Given the state of current world affairs, or even the trials of day to day life, it seems like an impossible challenge to be joyful all the time. Who has time to pray continually? Some days, at least for me, it’s a reach to find many things to be thankful for. I don’t believe we would have any problem if the text said,

“Rejoice sometimes; Pray occasionally; Give thanks when you feel like it.”

It’s the modifiers that trip us up: “Always... Continually...In all circumstances.”

This suggests that the real impact of the Gospel comes at surprising moments. After all, the message that Jesus brought to us, preached, taught, lived, and died for is not a message for our times of happiness and wholeness. Instead, the message of Christ seeks to lift up the lowly and mend the brokenness of our lives. The Gospel message comes to us when we don’t feel joy. It comes to us when we don’t want to pray. The Gospel message calls when we can’t think of a reason to be thankful. It is at these moments we discover our faith and the meaning behind the words of Christ when He said, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” These simple “standing orders” from Paul’s letter to the church in Thessaloniki are rather like commands. They reveal the true life-changing power of Jesus Christ. When Christ enters a life—enters our hearts and minds—He changes it from the inside out so that we have both the power and the desire to rejoice, to pray, and give thanks even in the worst moments of life.

The key to maintaining a life filled with Christ is to constantly encounter Him. We can do this in many

ways. When we come to church and receive the Holy Eucharist we can taste and see the presence of our Lord. When we come to God in prayer we can lift the burdens He is already familiar with up to Him. We have relationship with Christ when we seek to come into His presence. Christ never leaves us—never wanders off. We, however, have a tendency to do wander from Christ.

2017 is now upon us. For many of us 2016 was not a banner year—take your own personal pick of reasons. With a new year we have the opportunity for a new chance, a new lease on life. At our Ingathering Sunday this past autumn we collected cards that asked for commitments of more than money. The church asked for your commitments of time and talent. We promised to pray for the work of the church, dedicated our time to God’s service and worship, and offered back to the Almighty the gifts of talent He has richly bestowed upon us. No one is keeping score of these commitments but you and God. Use the commitments you have made on that card to deepen your relationship with God. Work diligently to fulfill these “standing orders” so that you can live into the richness of God’s mercy and love...for this is God’s for you in Christ Jesus.

May you have a happy and blessed New Year!
 Amen!

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 January Altar Flowers donors
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 Annual meeting election results
- Page 4:** Thanks for your contributions
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 House blessings
- Page 5:** January calendar





Canterbury Club 6 PM Sunday January 8
at the home of Carl and Linda Thomas, 345 Mountain View Avenue
Bring a friend and your favorite dish and beverage

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LET'S START TODAY'S SERVICE OFF WITH OUR ANNUAL POST-HOLIDAY BREATHING EXERCISES

News from DoK

Next DoK 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 17



Our Daughters of the King, Margaret of Scotland Chapter, will meet next at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 17, in Hobson Library. Our Study will be on the Holy Spirit.

We had six members present last month.

Please contact Mary Catherine Williams at 276-326-2411 if you have questions or comments. All women from Episcopal, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic churches are eligible for membership.

Our Prayers are offered

For Healing and God's Presence for our members, and relatives and friends of our members:



In sure and certain hope of the resurrection, we commend our prayers for Dorene Dimes, Jim Mahood, Wanda Myers, Bonnie Taylor, Joe & Janice Sanders, Karen Hayes, Grace Litzenberg, Amanda, Raymond Slater, Harold Paul, Velma Walker, Sharon Curry, Zac Carter, Doug Thompson, Betty Compton, Isaac Meade, Kimberly Shrewsberry, Amanda Shrewsberry, Donna Keffer, and those unknown to us who have died. We pray that God will grant his peace to all who mourn.

To list someone for addition to the Prayer List, please contact the office, email secretary@cecbf.org, or the at (304) 327-6861. Please note that the prayer list in the Sunday Bulletin is purged at the end of every month. If you want names to continue, please contact the church office.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

On extremely bad days, if our Sunday service is canceled, it will be posted on our church website at: www.christchurchbluefield.org, WVVA-TV Channel 6, and on www.WVVA.com. If you do not have access to a computer or television, you may telephone The Rev. Chad Slater at 304-325-5730 or (Cell) 304-543-5296 or Senior Warden David Hardin at 304-327-8040 or (Cell) 304-320-2322.

December 15 Food Pantry report

- Grocery shoppers: Frank and Bernadette Dragotto
- Food Baggers: The Clement family, Patricia Meachum, Kipp Cortez and Jim Pulse (hope we haven't missed anyone)
- Bags prepared: 120
- Refreshments furnished by: Linda Thomas and David Hardin
- Food Pantry volunteers: Frank and Bernadette Dragotto, Macon Clement, Linda Thomas, Tom Coughlan, Mimi Merritt, Mary Catherine Williams, Becky and John Beckett, and Father Chad Slater
- Kerosene vouchers awarded: 57
- Special gifts for month: Blankets, donated by parish



The food pantry will be collecting the following items during January : **Blankets**

PLEASE NOTE!! Food Pantry hours are now 9-11AM

January altar flowers

The following persons have graciously offered to donate altar flowers during the month of January:



- January 1: Norma Mahood-Bay
- January 8: The Clement Family
- January 15: Tom Coughlan
- January 22: Jay Kephart
- January 29: Mr. and Mrs. David Kersey

We thank them for their kindness and generosity.



**Christ Episcopal Church
Draft Vestry Minutes
December 7, 2016**

Present: David Hardin, Linda Ammar, Cameron Clement, Marc Meachum, Rob Merritt, Dee Puckett, Teresa Paine, Patty Richardson, The Rev. Chad Slater, rector and Frank Dragotto, treasurer.

The December meeting of the Christ Episcopal Church vestry was called to order on December 7, 2016 by Senior Warden, David Hardin. Mr. Hardin declared a quorum.

Linda Ammar led the vestry in a short devotion. The **minutes** of the November Meeting were passed on a motion made by Marc Meachum and seconded by David Hardin. The **treasurer's** report was given by Frank Dragotto. The expense reports for October and November were tabled until a parish assistant is in place to put the reports in order.

The **Senior Warden** gave his end of the year report. He touched on the activities and projects done by the church this past year. The **Junior Warden**, Dee Puckett reported the S and R Refrigeration installed a new condensation pump on the furnace and repair some leaking pipes.

The commission reports are:

Communication: The commission is continuing to send out the monthly newsletter and is planning to start work on the updated website.

Evangelism: The Evangelism Commission will continue to advertise the church via Facebook.

Education: Volunteers are desperately need to sit in on the children's Sunday School class to adhere to "Safeguarding God's Children" suggestions.

Finance: The finance commission presented the 2017 Proposed Budget for Vestry approval. The deficit budget was approved for presentation to the Annual meet-



ing on a motion by Patty Richardson and a second from Teresa Paine.

Outreach: The committee continues to be very active with the Food Pantry on the third Thursday of the month. Additional outreach projects include serving dinner at the Union Mission on the fourth Wednesday of the month and providing dinner for the Mercer County Fellowship Home. An ingathering of Christmas snacks and treats supplied an abundance of "goodies" to be taken to the Fellowship Home.

Parish Life: A champagne and cookie reception will be held after the 11:00 Christmas Eve service. The need to have a coffee machine for this event and for coffee hour was discussed. Marc Meachum and Frank Dragotto volunteered to purchase a coffee machine for the church.

Worship: There will be two Christmas Eve services at 4:30 pm and 11:00 pm. No service on Christmas Day.

Rector's Report: Father Chad continues to visit shut-ins but has had to limit his time for this due to not having a parish assistant. He has also interviewed candidates for the position of parish assistant.

New Business: David Hardin and Father Slater thanked the outgoing vestry members, Cameron Clement, Wanda Myers, and Patty Richardson for their service. The nominating committee reported that those running for vestry positions are: **Kathy Burge, Suzanne Pulse, and Mary Catherine Williams.** Delegates to the annual convention have not been decided upon, but will be presented at the annual meeting.

With there being no further business, Father Chad dismissed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Richardson, Acting Registrar

Evangelism Tip:

Do you know someone who grew up at Christ Church but does not attend now? Do you know anyone who had previously been a member, but for whatever reason no longer comes? It's not difficult to invite people to someplace they are already familiar with. Ask them to join you one Sunday, give Fr. Chad a call, or drop by the church sometime!

Congratulations new church officers!

Vestry:
Susanne Pulse, Kathy Burge and Mary Catherine Williams

Trustee:
David Kersey

Convention delegates:
Becky Beckett and Susanne Pulse

Convention alternates:
John Beckett and Wanda Myers



Pulse Burge Williams Kersey Beckett Beckett Myers



Thanks to everyone who contributed to the hats, scarves and gloves drive that we had for the Food Pantry in November. There were not many items left. We probably will do this again for November Food Pantry 2017. As the winter sales start, you might buy some items that you can bring to the church and we can store them. And of course if you knit or crochet you can continue to do that.

*Thanks again,
Susanne Pulse and Mary Catherine Williams*



Miles of Pennies

By Mary Catherine Williams

What is the Miles of Pennies (M.O.P.) Grant? The Miles of Pennies Fund was established in 1988 on the 100th anniversary of The Church Periodical Club. The Miles of Pennies Fund Committee awarded its first grants in 1991. The maximum grant given by Miles of Pennies is \$844.80 which represents one mile of pennies. The grants serve the needs of children from kindergarten through high school wherever there is a need.

A few months ago we placed a jar on the table in Hobson Library to collect money to send to CPC. We sent a \$34.76 check to our Diocesan CPC chairman for the Miles of Pennies Grant. This was a good start. We didn't make the mile of pennies, but we did 217 feet 3 inches!

We hope to have some CPC coin boxes soon so you can take them home to put your coins in. Our next CPC Sunday will be October 8, 2017.

The Rainbow Recipe of the Month

From Virginia Hospitality cookbook (1975)
Cream of Peanut Soup



Ingredients:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 ribs celery, chopped | 1 c. milk |
| 1/4 cup butter | 1 c. light cream |
| 1 small onion, chopped | 1 c. peanut butter |
| 2 tbsp. flour | Salt and pepper |
| 2 c. chicken broth | paprika |

Directions:

Brown celery and onions in butter. Add flour and chicken broth and bring to a boil. Add milk and cream. Strain. Add peanut butter and simmer for 5 minutes. Season to taste. Yields 6 servings or 8 cups.

January 1, 2017

House Blessings

A house blessing is an ancient tradition that can be found in Protestantism, Orthodox Christianity, and Roman Catholicism. These blessings are usually performed by a pastor or priest who sprinkles holy water as he or she walks through every room of the house, accompanied by the residents of the house, whilst praying for those who live there. House blessings date back to the early days of Christianity.

Traditionally, house blessings are done at the start of the New Year. If you are interested in having your home blessed for the New Year, please contact Fr. Chad. He will be happy to make arrangements during the first days of January to come and bless your home.

Editor's note: The Rainbow Recipe of the Month is a regular feature in The Rainbow. Please submit your recipe for consideration. Bring it to the church office or E-mail to editor@cecblf.org

Don Williams, Editor
412 Ridgeway Drive
Bluefield, VA 24605-1630



Office hours are 9-2 Monday through Thursday

Volume 25, Number 3

Christ Episcopal Church

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Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 The Holy Name No Senior Class 9:45 Beginner and Junior Class 10:00 Holy Eucharist Followed by coffee hour Choir practice afterwards	2 Office Reopens	3	4 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Saint Margaret's Chapel	5 	6 Epiphany Office Closed	7
8 Epiphany 1 9:00 Senior Class 9:45 Beginner and Junior Class 10:00 Holy Eucharist Followed by coffee hour Choir practice afterwards 6:00 Canterbury Club at the home of Linda and Carl Thomas, 345 Mountain View Avenue	9 	10	11 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Saint Margaret's Chapel 6:00 p.m. Men's Dinner In Rowley Hall 7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting in Hobson Library	12	13 Office Closed 	14
15 Epiphany 2 9:00 Senior Class 9:45 Beginner and Junior class 10:00 Holy Eucharist Followed by coffee hour Choir practice afterwards	16 February Rainbow Deadline 	17  10:00 DoK Meeting in Hobson Library	18 The Confession of Saint Peter Apostle 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Saint Margaret's Chapel	19 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry	20 Office Closed	21
22 Epiphany 3 9:00 Senior Class 9:45 Beginner and Junior class 10:00 Holy Eucharist Followed by coffee hour Choir practice afterwards	23	24	25 The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Saint Margaret's Chapel	26 	27 Office Closed	28
29 Epiphany 4 9:00 Senior Class 9:45 Beginner and Junior class 10:00 Holy Eucharist Followed by coffee hour Choir practice afterwards	30	31	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; color: white; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">2017</div>			

NOTE: If you have information for a Sunday service bulletin, please remember that the church office needs it by Tuesday if possible. Please send an E-mail with your information to secretary@cecbf.org or call 304-327-6861.

If your birthday is not in our database, please contact Don Williams at 276-326-3338 or editor@cecbf.org

Please contact Dee Puckett, Junior Warden, if you notice needed building maintenance. Call Dee at 276-322-1832 (Home), or 304-320-4640 (Cell).

- 4 George Clement
- 4 James Dyer
- 4 Patty Wilkinson
- 6 Buck Sowers

- 9 Adam Lowe
- 10 Linda Thomas
- 15 Mark Williams
- 20 Teresa Paine

- 24 Catherine Beemer
- 26 Maude Baker
- 26 Frank Wilkinson
- 29 Benjamin Slater



Christ Episcopal Church
 200 Duhring Street
 Bluefield, West Virginia 24701-2910
The Rainbow—January 2017



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Canterbury Club Jan. 8 at the home of Carl and Linda Thomas

To our friends and family:



Our mission statement:
 Christ Episcopal Church will live,
 Celebrate, teach and radiate
 The joy of Christian discipleship

Parish Staff

The Rev. Chad Slater, Rector
 Terry Whittington, Organist & Choirmaster
 Vanessa Hall, Sexton
 Phone: 304-327-6861
 304-325-0075
 Email: secretary@cecbf.org

The Rainbow Editorial Staff

Patty Richardson, Communications Commission chairman
 Don Williams, Editor and Webmaster
 Website: www.ChristChurchBluefield.org
 Editor E-mail: editor@cecbf.org



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