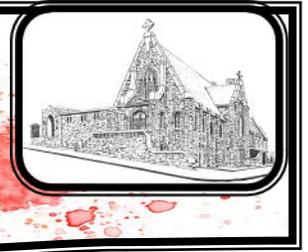


The Rainbow



Our current Church building was completed in 1920. The original coal fired steam boiler served us well for over 50 years and was replaced with a modern gas fired boiler over 30 years ago. The steam radiators throughout the Church are original, as are most of the steam pipes. The steam pipes which provide steam heat to the undercroft, nave and sanctuary run through chase tunnels under the concrete floor of the undercroft. Below you will see a photo of one of those chase tunnels and the current piping. If you look very closely, you can see steam leaking from a pipe about half way down the tunnel. As a result of similar leaks, we replaced most of those pipes about 13 years ago at a cost of \$65,000.00. You will see from the other photo on this page what those “new” pipes now look like. In addition to pipe deterioration, we have regular problems with zone valves which direct the steam to different parts of the Church, depending on need for heat. Through November of 2019, the Church spent more than \$9,000.00 on property maintenance, most of which has been on going repairs to the furnace, zone valves and steam pipes.

The new heating system described in the November 25, 2019 solicitation letter will allow us to isolate the



undercroft, nave and sanctuary from the steam hearing system. Not only will the heat in those areas of the Church will become more reliable, those areas will be cooled by the same system during the summer months. Hopefully our expense to maintain the steam boiler system will decrease measurably, but we will still be reliant upon that system to heat the remainder of the Church.



Undoubtedly, we will have to replace the remaining steam

heat in the future, as it is only a matter of time before the remaining steam pipes deteriorate to the point of being unusable and/or the zone valves become unrepairable.

The cost of the new system for the undercroft, nave and sanctuary is approximately \$120,000.00. The Vestry has arranged to take \$60,000.00 of that expense from the DeBottis Fund, and is attempting to raise the balance of the cost. We hope to raise more than the balance and to either use less than the \$60,000.00 from the DeBottis Fund or reimburse the fund, as much as possible, knowing that we will need to replace the rest of the heating system in the not too distant future.

The steam radiators in the Sanctuary, Rowley Hall and kitchen areas will be replaced with ductless heating/air conditioning units. Those units will use electricity, which in turn requires an upgrade in the electrical service to the Church.

The electrical work is tentatively scheduled to start during the first full week of January and it will take approximately two weeks to complete.

The existing radiators along one side of the Nave already have been disconnected from the furnace because of leaks in their steam supply lines. Those radiators will be removed during January. The installation of the heating and air conditioning units on that side of the Nave is tentatively expected to start the first week of February. The existing radiators on the other side of the Nave will be left in place for the remainder of the heating season. They will be removed at that time and replaced with the balance of the heating and air conditioning units.

All of the heating and air conditioning units will be connected to six condensing units which will be installed along the exterior wall of Rowley Hall on the Tazewell Street side.

REFLECTIONS *By Father Chad Slater*

Happy New Year!

I always stay up on New Year's Eve to watch the ball drop in New York City and celebrate the start of another year. (Although, perhaps "stay up" is a bit strong... Jennifer and I have been known to go to bed and set an alarm for 11:55 p.m. and go promptly back to sleep at 12:01 a.m.!) Others may go to the Lemon Drop here in Bluefield, wait for the antique clock to strike twelve in their own home, or attend a festive party at a friend's house. I also know many others who simply go to bed on December 31 and wake up on the morning of January 1 with little to no fanfare. Some say that the New Year's Eve is just another night, New Year's just another day, the change of the calendar page just another year.

However you welcome the possibilities that a new year brings, there is a certain truth to those who look at this holiday as "another year."

Each time the ball descends from its tower above Times Square we have another year—another opportunity—to be hopeful and faithful with God. Another year to love radically, care ceaselessly, and praise God for the many blessings bestowed upon us. We can thank the psychological effects of changing that page on the calendar for reminding us of the hope we have to make ourselves and our world a better place.

New Year's Day is the celebration of the gift of another year. A year with extraordinary possibilities for ourselves and the work we do for the Kingdom of God. It's another chance—another dawn of new and exciting ways to share in God's grace. It's never "just" another year. The new year, like the dawn of each and every day should be for us, is the beginning of another opportunity to be blest and be a blessing.

*Another year is dawning,
Dear Father let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with thee.
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.*

*Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness,
The glory of thy face.
Another year of leaning
Upon thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting
Of quiet, happy rest.*

*Another year of service,
Of witness for thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.
Another year is dawning,
Dear Father, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for thee.*

--Frances R. Havergal



One Hundred Years of Friendship

by Mimi Merritt

In celebration of 100 years of friendship between Christ Episcopal Church and Immanuel Lutheran Church, the two congregations came together once again for a joyous Festival Service of Holy Communion at Immanuel Lutheran on Dec. 29, the first Sunday after Christmas.

The friendship began when the first Christ Episcopal Church was destroyed by fire on Christmas Day of 1919, and its parishioners were invited to worship at Immanuel Lutheran the very next Sunday and for a period extending a year and a half. Although Christ Episcopal assumed some of the heating costs for its use of Immanuel Lutheran, the church was apparently made available on a rent-free basis.

Participants in the Dec. 29 liturgy included Father Chad Slater and the Rev. Dr. Tom Conley as officiants and the Rt. Rev. W.M. Klusmeyer, Episcopal Bishop of West Virginia, as Celebrant. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Robert Humphrey, Bishop of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Jim Bartlett was organist, and lectors were Cathy Sadler and Elise Bowling of Immanuel Lutheran and Don Williams of Christ Episcopal. Alyson Bowling of Christ Church was intercessor.

The choir was composed of Christ Episcopal members Dr. John Moir and his wife, Sandra, and their son, Brendan, and daughter, Diana. Dr. Moir sang a solo, "I Wander as I Wander," and Sandra and Diana performed a duet, a traditional Polish Lullaby.

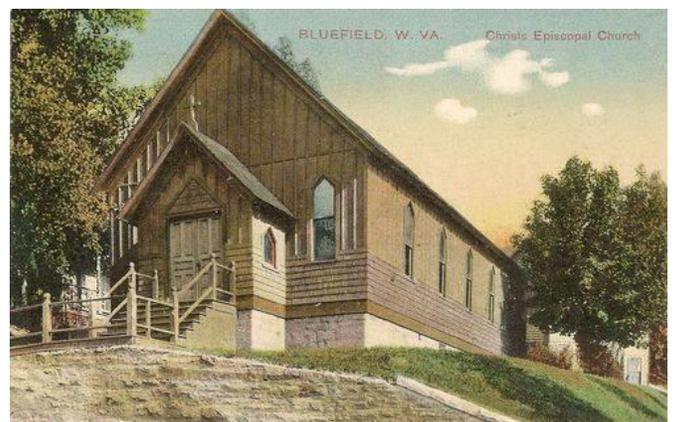
Acolytes included Ben Slater.

Following the service, everyone was invited to Rowley Hall at Christ Episcopal for a festive reception of fellowship and delicious food.

One Hundred Years Ago

On Christmas Day, 1919, the people of Christ Episcopal Church gathered in their small white clapboard building on Duhring Street. When their worship service was over each returned to their homes. Shortly thereafter, a nearby resident ran to the door of the adjacent rectory shouting that smoke was coming from the church. The fire department was summoned and was able to contain the fire. While the little burned to the ground the nearby rectory was "scorched" but otherwise safe.

The rector at the time, Rev. Jennings Wise Hobson, sent a telegram to the Episcopal Bishop of West Virginia, the Rt. Rev. William Gravatt in Charleston that read, "Church burned to the ground yesterday so suddenly nothing saved." What started the fire was a matter of debate. The sexton blamed the rector for leaving "popish candles" on the altar while the rector originally blamed the sexton for not attending to the heating system properly. A letter sent to Bishop



Gravatt by Rev. Hobson stated, “The cause is unknown. We surmise that the furnace pipe became dislocated and the flame running free reached the floor of the church; hence the result.”

Regardless of the cause, the growing congregation needed to find a place in which to conduct their services, as well as the serious business of rebuilding the church. While records from the time are not complete we do read that the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church invited the congregation of Christ Episcopal to join them for worship on the first Sunday after the devastating fire. For the next year and a half the people of Christ Church met at Immanuel Lutheran. The first several Sundays the two congregations worshiped together. At some point they began using the building at separate times. In none of the records is it noted that Immanuel asked for any rent or compensation for this hospitality (although it appears Christ Church did pay for some of the heating costs in their temporary home).

In 1999 the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America entered into the Call to Common Mission—an agreement of full communion and cooperation between the two traditions. It is with pride we can say that our two congregations had entered into friendship and respect more than 80 years before our denominational bodies.

Compiled by resources from the Bluefield Daily Telegraph, the Vestry records at Christ Episcopal Church, and the book, the Flair and the Fire by Eleanor Meyer Hamilton.

The Christmas Candy Cane *Submitted by Bea Paine*

As a Christmas Message for this year we thought it might be good to remind us all of the *Meaning of the Candy Cane* and how it relates to the birth of our Lord Jesus, His earthly ministry, and His sacrificial death on the Cross for our salvation.

Many years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a candy that would symbolize the true meaning of Christmas – Jesus. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy: white to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus, and hard candy to symbolize that Jesus is our Rock of all ages, the foundation of the Church, and the firmness of the promises of God.

The hard candy was shaped like a “J” to represent the name of Jesus. It also represents the staff of the “Good Shepherd.”

The red stripes represent the suffering of Jesus on the Cross of Calvary and the blood He shed to save us from our sins.

So the next time you see a candy cane, take a minute to remember the real meaning of Christmas.



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORTS:

FOOD PANTRY

- Thursday, December 19, 2019
- 100 bags prepared by volunteers
- Hats, gloves and scarves handed out
- 67 kerosene vouchers distributed



FELLOWSHIP HOME

Members of the congregation donated items to fill two snack baskets which were delivered to the Fellowship Home before Christmas.

Parish Life Report *by Mary Catherine Williams*

I would like to send out a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has helped make Parish Life a success this year. I have been so blessed to have so many people help and contribute to different events this year. It would be hard to thank everyone who has helped with this very important ministry here at Christ Church. I hope that whoever has this position on the Vestry next year will have the support that I have had over the past three years. Again, thank you everyone.

PRAYER LIST

Dorene Dimes, Wanda Myers, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Kerrigan Farmer, Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Charlotte Woolwine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Michelle Parks, Shirley Weaver, Will Calfee, Doug Bloomfield, Paul Anderson, Deane Family, Donna Fortune, Deanna Edwards, Jerry and Debbie, Nina and family, Marlene, Amy Melvin, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Judy Anderson, Michelle Coleman, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Ruth Metcalf, Mike McLeod, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Bob Moore, Haddon Lazenby

BIRTHDAYS

1-4 George Clement

1-15 Liliana Bennitt

1-26 Frank Wilkinson

1-4 James Dyer

1-15 Mark Williams

1-29 Benjamin Slater

1-4 Patty Wilkinson

1-18 Sandy Moir

1-6 Buck Sowers

1-20 Teresa Paine

1-10 Linda Thomas

1-24 Catherine Beemer

1-11 Lee Rose

1-24 Howard Troutner



December 18, 2019 Minutes of the Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church

Present: Becky Beckett, Alyson Bowling, Elizabeth Clement, Frank Dragotto, Delia Kersey, Tom Coughlin, Don Kersey, Susanne Pulse, Mary Catherine Williams, Father Chad Slater. Trustees: David M. Kersey and J. Peter Richardson

Becky Beckett declared a quorum called the December meeting of the Christ Episcopal Church Vestry to order on December 18, 2019.

Frank Dragotto gave the treasurer's report. The financial reports were reviewed. We have over \$2,000,000.00 in our accounts. The St. Lucy Fund is doing well. The donations received for the new heating & cooling system will be placed in the Raymond James account. Mary Catherine Williams made the motion to accept the December 2019 financial report. Delia Kersey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Heating and Cooling Project: David Kersey, Campaign Chairman, reported that over \$21,000.00 has been donated to the project. Over \$9,000.00 has been pledged. We requested funds from two (2) local foundations. Neither foundation has responded as of the Vestry meeting. Peter Richardson, Project Coordinator and Clerk of the Works, reported that the electrical upgrade should be completed by the week of January 14, 2020. Peter Richardson also explained the options for the concrete pad that will be placed on the Tazewell Street side of the Church for the outside units. Frank Dragotto made the motion that a 40" by 28" rectangular concrete pad be placed on the Tazewell Street side of the Church for the outside units. Tom Coughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senior Warden's Report: Housing has been secured at Bluefield College from May 15, 2020 to August 31, 2020 at \$450.00 per month for the Interim while Father Chad is on Sabbatical. The cork flooring must be replaced after removal of the radiators. Currently the distributor has 37 cartons remaining in stock. The cork tile has been discontinued. Alyson Bowling made the motion to purchase all 37 cartons of cork tile that has been located at a cost of approximately \$2,000.00. Frank Dragotto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The money for the tile is currently in the Raymond James Fund.

Junior Warden's Report: MAC Contractors inspected the guttering system on the Tazewell side of the Church.

Communications: Work on the Rainbow continues.

Finance: The 2020 budget was reviewed. A discussion was held on the various line items. Mary Catherine Williams made a motion to approve and propose the 2020 budget to the Annual Meeting. Don Kersey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Susanne Pulse made a motion to authorize removal of up to \$60,000.00 from the Debottis Fund to be used for the new heating and cooling project. Mary Catherine Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Outreach: The food pantry is December 19.

Parish Life: There will be a reception at the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Worship and Spirituality: Alyson Bowling has proposed that a divorce care program be implemented at Christ Church. She will oversee purchasing the program materials.

Rector's Report: There will be two services on Christmas Eve, the first at 5:00 p.m., and the second at 11:00 p.m. William Allen will play the violin at the 5:00 p.m. service. Laurel Thompson will play the harp at the 11:00 p.m. service. The Lutheran Bishop and Bishop Klusmeyer will be present at the December 29, 2019 service to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the fire at Christ Church. Father Chad will talk about this service on Craig Hammond's radio show in December. Father Mark Seitz will fill in for Father Chad on the First Sunday in February. Sam Kimzey will play the organ while Terry Whittington is on vacation in January.

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

January 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Feast of the Holy Name	2	3	4
5 Second Sunday after Christmas 10:00 Holy Eucharist 6:00 Canterbury Club Linda and Missy Thomas	6 The Epiphany	7	8 3:00 Serve dinner at Union Mission	9	10	11
12 First Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist	13	14	15 6:00 ECM Dinner 7:00 Vestry Meeting	16 9:00 Food Pantry	17	18 Confession of St. Peter
19 Second Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist	20	21 10:30 DOK Hobson Library	22 4:30 Serve Dinner at Union Mission	23	24	25 Conversion of St. Paul
26 Third Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist	27 St. John Chrysostom	28	29	30	31	

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

January 5, 2020 Norma Mahood-Bay
 January 12, 2020 The Clement Family
 January 19, 2020 Tom Coughlan
 January 26, 2020 Jay Kephart

Altar Guild for January:

Linda Thomas, Betty Nash, Linda Ammar
 Patty Richardson, and Elizabeth Clement

Canterbury Club this Sunday, January 5 at the home of Linda Thomas, 345 Mountain View Avenue at 6 p.m. Come bring a side dish and your favorite beverage.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



JANUARY 2020

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