

The Rainbow



JULY 2022

Major Milestone Achieved in Rector Search Process

The Diocese of West Virginia has approved our Parish Profile and our Rector position is now available for consideration by eligible candidates throughout the Episcopal Church! Accomplishing this major step is a credit to the prompt actions of the Vestry, Rector Search Committee and the entire congregation. The next steps are now in the hands of the Holy Spirit, prospective applicants and the Diocese.

There is information about our Rector position on the website of the Episcopal Church's Office of Transition Ministry, and the position is being advertised by the Episcopal News Service. Interested clergy and graduating seminarians are directed to the Christ Church website where our Parish Profile may be viewed.

Interested individuals send their application to the Diocese which does an initial screening of the applicants. Eligible and appropriate candidates will then be referred to the Rector Search Committee. The Committee will be determining its review process shortly, which typically includes reviewing written material and online information, conducting Zoom interviews, possibly traveling to see some of the candidates in person, and finally bringing finalists to Bluefield. All of this will be done in strict confidentiality, with no information being revealed as to the identity of any candidate until the very end of the process.



Giving to the Mission of Christ Episcopal Church

by the Rev. Lou Hays

You may think it's a little early in the year to start talking about stewardship, but I'm writing to share with you my conviction that it's never the wrong time of year to talk about stewardship. There is also a direct connection between stewardship, our rector search process, and our new online giving platform

First, a word about stewardship. Speaking broadly, it's about how we live our lives, how we use our time, talent, and financial resources, and how we care for our families, friends, community, and this fragile earth, our island home. An essential component of stewardship and our faith is money. As my Bishop in Connecticut was fond of saying, "Stewardship is a spiritual issue and how much we

give is a faith statement.” As people of faith, we believe that all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. In grateful thanksgiving we give back a portion of what God has given us. As someone who strives to tithe, I think that getting to keep 90% is a pretty good deal!

Second, a word about how this relates to the rector search process. It is likely that you will have a new Rector before the end of the year. When we launch the fall stewardship campaign, we will encourage every person or family in the congregation to make a generous pledge to Christ Church for 2023. This will ensure that the Rector and the Vestry will have the resources to begin to turn the hopes and dreams of the parish into reality. Grace and the Gospel are free, but it takes a lot of money to carry out the mission and ministries of this or any church.

Finally, there is our new online giving platform. By the time you read this article, the homepage of our website should have a new option labeled “Giving” along with the other categories listed at the top of the page. If you click on “Giving,” you will go to a page that explains stewardship and some of the reasons we give. It will also show the options for giving to Christ Church: the Sunday morning offering plate, mailing a check to the church, or by clicking the online giving button.

The online giving option takes you to a page where you can give by credit card, debit card, or bank transfer. We hope this will provide a convenient way for folks who are watching our services online, either locally or from afar, to make their offering to Christ Church. Anyone can use this service to make their pledge payments or contributions, but you will be asked to defray the processing cost of 2.9% of your contribution, which otherwise will be deducted from your gift.

I encourage you to give prayerful thought to your giving to Christ Episcopal Church. If you are already pledging, thank you very much. Please consider an increase when you decide on your pledge for 2023. If you are giving but not pledging, thank you for your contributions. Please consider pledging for 2023 (or for the balance of this year). Pledging allows the Vestry to make more informed decisions about budgeting for the year, and it demonstrates your commitment to the mission and ministries of Christ Church and our surrounding communities. If you are not currently giving, please consider starting to give, perhaps using the convenience of online giving.

God bless you, the rector search process, and the gifts that allow us to do the work of Jesus Christ in the world.



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT FOR JUNE

FOOD PANTRY

June 16, 2022

33 bags of groceries distributed

Workers: Betty Nash, Patricia Taylor, Peter Taylor

UNION MISSION

The youth group and adult group from Pittsburgh have been volunteering at the Union Mission during the month of June.

BEAUTIFICATION



Flowers have been planted in the columbarium and the schedule for watering is as follows:

May 29 – June 4	Mary Catherine Williams
June 5 – 11	Patty Richardson
June 12 – 18	Elizabeth Clement
June 19 – 25	Linda Ammar
June 26 – July 2	Betty Nash
July 3 – 9	Patty Richardson
July 10 – 16	OPEN
July 17 – 23	Patricia Taylor
July 24 – 30	Betty Nash
July 31 – August 6	Linda Ammar

RECIPES PAGE

Stuffed Sausage Mushrooms

1 lb. large fresh mushrooms (more actually if you don't want any left-over mixture, or stuff the mushrooms really full to use all of it)

1 lb. bulk sausage (hot or mild)

2 T chopped fresh parsley

1 ½ cup (6 oz.) shredded sharp cheddar cheese

Directions:

Rinse mushrooms and pat dry.

Remove stems.

Chop stems and combine with sausage and parsley (squeeze it all together by hand)

Cook mixture, crumbling and mixing with spatula all the while, until sausage is brown completely; do not burn.

Drain off pan drippings.

Stir in cheese while sausage is still hot.

Mix well, so all the cheese melts.

Spoon mixture into mushroom caps.

Place on baking dish.

Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

Hot Chicken Dip

1 large can of shredded Chicken (11 oz) drain and crumble

2 8 oz packages of cream cheese

1 can of cream of chicken soup (undiluted)

1 cup of picante sauce (or salsa)

1 cup mayonnaise (not miracle whip)

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Mix together and put in crock pot. Serve with scoops tortilla chips.

Minutes-Vestry Meeting
Christ Episcopal Church
June 15, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry was held in Rowley Hall on June 15, 2022 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Present	Absent
Peter Taylor	Peter Richardson
David Kersey	Linda Ammar
Vic Bowman	
Mary Catherine Williams	
Betty Nash	
Susanne Pulse	
Elizabeth Clement	

Also present were Becky Beckett, Chair of the Search Committee and Rev. Lou Hays. Lou called the meeting to order, declared the presence of a quorum and opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2022 were reviewed. Elizabeth Clement requested that they be amended to clarify that Parish Life is going to feed the adult mission group and to change the reference to “memory” garden to “memorial” garden. With those changes noted, upon motion of Mary Catherine Williams and second of Betty Nash the minutes were unanimously approved.

Becky Beckett reviewed the Parish Profile with the Vestry, which had been distributed by email earlier in the day. She noted that it had been 137 days since the first meeting of the Search Committee and that she was pleased that the profile had been put together in such a relatively short period of time. Lou expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the committee and the entire Vestry expressed their thanks and appreciation to Becky, as Chair, Lou and the Search Committee for their good work. Vic Bowman made a motion to approve the profile as presented and to authorize Lou and the Search Committee to make any additional modifications to the profile that may be requested or required by the Diocese. Upon second of Elizabeth Clement, the motion was unanimously approved.

Vic Bowman presented the findings and recommendation of the work group which explored on-line giving. He advised that Tithely.com was the service which the group found to be the most “user friendly” and could provide the service at no direct cost to the church. The only fee for that service is charged at the time the gift is made on-line and is either deducted from the gift or paid by the donor, at the donor’s option. Upon motion of Vic Bowman and second of Betty Nash, the Vestry unanimously approved use of the Tithely.com service and authorized Vic, Emma and the treasurer to take the actions necessary to implement use of the service.

Treasurer’s report. Don Kersey was not present but had delivered a written report. The non-pledged gifts to date are substantially off. In looking at past years, the general fund had received gifts from the Tierney Foundation and the 1912 Foundation, neither of which have made any gifts to the church this year. Otherwise, there are no particular anomalies reflected in the balance sheet or income/expense statement. The electric bill continues to trend lower than in the winter and early spring. Upon motion of Susanne Pulse and second of Mary Catherine Williams, the report was unanimously approved.

David Kersey gave the Senior Warden’s report. Anticipating expenses associated with the rector search and hiring a new rector, David suggested requesting a draw from the St. Lucy Fund. Upon motion of Mary Catherine Williams and second of Betty Nash, the Vestry unanimously agreed to request a draw from the St. Lucy Fund for the second quarter of 2022. David brought up personnel issues, discussion of which were held off the record. David noted that

it is customary to skip the vestry meeting for July and it was agreed to adhere to that tradition this year. So, the next Vestry meeting will be in August.

The Junior Warden's report was presented by Mary Catherine Williams, in the absence of Peter Richardson. The mission youth removed the shelves from the closet off Rowley Hall. The repairs to the gate at the top of the basement steps are complete. The window air conditioners were donated to the Union Mission. We need additional landscape work, mulching and trimming of dead boxwood branches. Jim Pulse is watching the office wing hallway wall.

Vestry Reports

Mary Catherine Williams advised that the grant application for the Food Pantry closet work has been submitted to the Community Foundation of the Virginias. The youth mission group was fed dinner, last night. Susanne Pulse advised that we have received some response to the Rainbow inserts, inquiring about continued hard copy mailings of the newsletter. Peter Taylor advised that Food Pantry will be held tomorrow, expecting around 30 visitors.

Lou gave the Rector's Report. He noted that we have achieved one of our Vestry goals, set at the beginning of the year-online giving. Bill Denny, maître de of The Vault, has offered for the church to sponsor a brunch, one Sunday after church, with The Vault donating 10% of the amount of all meal checks of parishioners back to the church. The Vestry approved that proposal. Lou advised dates he will be away, this summer-the last Sunday of June (Russ Hatfield to cover); July 17 (Russ Hatfield will cover); and, the last Sunday of July, which will be Liturgy of the Word, with Brian Tracy presenting the sermon. Lou may also be away one Sunday in August.

Lou stated that we need to begin wearing name tags on Sunday mornings. That will make visitors more comfortable and allow us to get to know them better. That will also be a great help to our new rector, when she or he is called. Lou noted that we have several shut-in members who need to be visited, and that a rector cannot accommodate all that need. He mentioned that we used to have lay Eucharistic visitors and we need to resume that program.

There being no new or old business to address, the meeting was adjourned upon motion of Betty Nash and closed with prayer by Lou.



Prayer List: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Chris Justice, Brian, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, and Lilian Blackman



Birthdays:

July 1 Wendy Harris	July 13 Bonnie Taylor	July 20 Phillip Morgan
July 2 William Clement	July 15 Bill Davis	July 22 Jennifer Slater
July 3 Erin Elam Simon	July 17 David Hardin	July 23 Kray Davis Luxbacher
July 10 Catherine Wimmer-Anderson	July 18 Caroline Wilkinson	July 25 Becky Steorts
July 11 Ben Faulkner	July 18 Don Harris	July 26 Joe Allen
July 13 Peter Richardson	July 19 Tripper Thomas	July 28 Shirley Ofsa
	July 20 John Beckett	July 28 Mike Sudduth

July 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6	7	8	9
10 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	18	19 10:30 DOK	20	21 9:00 Food Pantry	22 Saint Mary Magdalene	23
24 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	25 James the Apostle	26	27	28	29	30
31 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist						

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

July 3 John & Delia Kersey
 July 10 The Marra & Fortune Families
 July 17 Mike & Kay Sudduth
 July 24 David & Debbie Faber
 July 31 Altar Guild

Altar Guild for July:
 Betty Nash

Lectors and Acolyte Schedule for July:

July 3 Don Williams, Lector
 July 10 David Hardin, Lector
 July 17 Delia Kersey, Lector
 July 24 Teresa Paine, Lector
 July 31 Don Williams, Lector

Becky Kersey, Acolyte
 Rob Merritt, Acolyte
 Becky Beckett, Acolyte
 Becky Beckett, Acolyte
 Rob Merritt, Acolyte

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



JULY 2022

Editor: Susanne Pulse (susannepulse@gmail.com)

Copy Editor: Mimi Merritt

Contributors: Linda Ammar, Bea Paine, Mimi Merritt

Graphic Design: Susanne Pulse