

The Rainbow



JUNE 2021

Congratulations and best wishes to Borden Thomas and Caleb Samples, who were married on May 15 at the Bluefield Arts Center. Borden is the daughter of Staci and “Tripper” Thomas and the granddaughter of Linda Thomas and the late Carl Thomas.

A native of Bluefield and a 2013 graduate of Bluefield High School, Borden completed her undergraduate studies at the University of South Carolina and graduated from the Marshall University School of Pharmacy, where she met Caleb during her first year of pharmacy school. Borden is employed at Marshall Health as a clinical pharmacist, working in the fields of Gastroenterology and Infectious Diseases. Her hobbies include aerial yoga and spending time with her dog, Zoey.



Caleb is from Scott Depot, W.Va., the son of Danny and Tammy Samples. A 2013 graduate of Poca High School, Caleb completed his undergraduate studies at Marshall University. He graduated from Marshall University School of Pharmacy and is employed as a staff pharmacist for Fruth Pharmacy in Huntington, W.Va. Caleb enjoys fishing and woodworking.

Everyone at Christ Church wishes Borden and Caleb the best of luck. They will be living in Hurricane, W.Va.

Dorene Dimes *by Mary Catherine Williams*

Mary Catherine Williams visited with Dorene Dimes on May 5 at the Mercer Nursing and Rehab Center, and she had a really nice visit with her. If you would like to visit Dorene, you can call the Center and make an appointment to visit with her. She would like to have cards from the parishioners. Her address is Mercer Nursing and Rehab Center, 1275 Southview Drive, Bluefield, WV 24701.



Gifts for Paul Barker *by Patty Richardson*

We were blessed the Summer of 2020 by having Paul Barker with us for services and bible studies while he was studying to become a deacon. On Saturday, May 8, Paul was ordained a deacon in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Two weeks before the actual service, Father Chad came up with an idea of a gift from Christ Church to present to Paul. He called together several of the needle workers in our parish to brainstorm how to turn his



idea into a reality. Father Chad envisioned a stole with a patchwork quilt theme to represent Paul's dedication to the people of Appalachia to give to Paul as a gift to wear for his ordination.

Mary Catherine Williams, Jennifer Slater and Patty Richardson met with Chad to toss around ideas for making stoles. After much discussion and presentation of ideas the needle workers were sent home to gather materials to make the stoles. After exchanging patterns, fabrics and many pictures of items in progress, the needle workers presented their needlework to be blessed during the Sunday morning service at Christ Church on May 1. The group presented six stoles to be delivered from Christ Church by Father Chad on May 8.

What a blessing it was to have Paul with us last summer, but it was a blessing to our parish to be able to present him with handmade gifts to remember his time in Bluefield.



It's been a busy year for graduations at Christ Episcopal Church.

Samuel Mahood Macey, grandson of CEC member Norma Mahood-Bay, graduated from Furman University in Greenville, S.C., on May 8 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. The grandson of Norma Mahood-Bay and Dr. John Mahood, Sam's parents are Julia Mahood and Rex Macey of Atlanta.

Pictured (left to right) Jeannie Mahood (Aunt), Julia Mahood (Mother), Sam, Rex Macey (Father), Noah Mahood Macey (Brother)



Caroline Wilkinson, daughter of Frank and Gina Wilkinson, graduated from Radford University on April 30. Caroline is the granddaughter of the late R.W. "Buzzy" Wilkinson and Patricia Wilkinson, long-time CEC members.

Brendan Moir, son of Dr. John Moir and Sandy Moir, graduated in May from Baldwin Wallace University.



Reflections with Father Chad

Living in community is hard.

Several weeks ago, I mentioned in a sermon the greatest miracle of the Bible—when the early Christians lived together and were “of one mind.” It’s a feat that, in as far as I can tell, has never been repeated in the history of the Church. Living and dealing with the wants, desires, concerns, and hopes of a group of people can be extremely difficult to manage. And yet, in the midst of the conflicting attitudes and ideas of all His children, God calls us to be in community—to live together as a family of faith.

This past year has proven complicated, tiresome, and traumatic. Now that we are approaching the end of this global catastrophe that we call a “pandemic,” attention must be turned to how we best interact with one another and return to whatever normal looks like. Over the past week I have heard from numerous individuals from around the parish. Some are eager to return to singing, hugging, and sitting in church without the confines of a mask. Others are anxious about what a church service without these restrictions may mean to our unvaccinated and susceptible members. Some point to CDC guidelines and scientific studies that say one cannot become infected or transmit COVID-19 after being vaccinated, while others note cases where vaccinated individuals have contracted and spread the illness. One group says it's time to move on and notes state and federal guideline changes, while the other points to the recent infection of multiple members of the New York Yankees team as evidence of a cautious approach.

In the next few weeks, we will be getting new guidelines from the Diocese. After we receive those guidelines the Vestry and leadership will need to make some very difficult decisions. Not everyone will be happy with the decisions that are made—they just won't be. That's the nature of living together in community. However, we don't have to agree on anything to still love and care for each other. We are called, in our Baptismal Covenant, to "respect the dignity of every human being" and to "seek to serve Christ in all persons" and love our neighbor as ourselves. We do this best in the middle of the give and take present in a group of believers looking out for each other.

The Apostle Paul best wrote it in Chapter 12 of Romans when he said, "...so in Christ we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another..." Likewise, he notes in Chapter 12 of I Corinthians, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'" We need each other, and we need to make sure we respect one another. We live out our calling as faithful witnesses of the Gospel by giving and sacrificing for each other to meet in the middle so that we may walk in the Light together—not separately or fractured, but together. This "Via Media" or "middle way" is what the Episcopal Church is most known for and for what I give God most earnest thanks.

My brothers and sisters, we will be in the midst of a great give and take over the next few weeks to find that "Via Media" so that as many of us as possible are given a safe and free space to worship and serve our risen Lord. The concerns and opinions of all must be weighed to strike a balance so all feel respected. No one is going to be completely happy with the decisions that are made or how they are implemented. That's life. That's the church. That's the Body of Christ working together.

Please keep all those in positions of authority in your prayers to make right decisions for the welfare of the children of God, wherever or whoever they may be. May God bless us all and keep us safe. May the gentleness and forbearance of the Spirit direct our actions toward love.

In Christ,
Fr. Chad



Vestry Minutes by *David M. Kersey, Senior Warden*

The regular monthly Vestry meeting was held on Wednesday May 19, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in Rowley Hall, with social distancing observed.

Present: Delia Kersey, Elizabeth Clement, Linda Ammar, David Kersey, Betty Nash, Alyson Bowling, Victor Bowman, Rev. Slater Absent: Peter Taylor

A quorum was declared, and the meeting called to order.

As the opening devotion, Rev. Slater read the collect for St. Dunstan, who is remembered for rebuilding monasteries in England, after the Viking invasion.

Vic Bowman presented the treasurer's report. The balance sheet reflects the transfer of the St. Lucy distribution to the R J Fund, earmarked for the heating and cooling project. The income statement reflects receipt of approximately 55% of the annual pledged income, with only 1/3 of the year having passed. The electricity expense is \$4,800 through April, with only \$5,000 budgeted for the entire year. This is the first year for the new heating/cooling system, which is totally electric, and is likely the cause for the unexpectedly high expense. Rev. Slater observed that, part of the issue is that, if the doors to the nave and leading out of Rowley Hall are not kept closed, the thermostat settings in those spaces are causing the electric units to run excessively, trying to heat spaces

not intended. He reminded everyone to keep those doors closed. Once the new system is installed in all areas of the church, that problem should be somewhat alleviated. The water and sewer expense are high, as discussed in prior meetings. The gas expense is \$1,000, though the old steam system has barely been used this calendar year. Upon motion of Delia Kersey and second of Linda Ammar, the treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

David Kersey presented the Senior Warden's report. Junior Warden, Tom Coughlin resigned from the Vestry, due to some health issues, and that open seat on the vestry needs to be filled. David Kersey had approached Peter Richardson, who had already graciously agreed to oversee the installation of the new heating/cooling system project, about serving out the remainder of Tom's term. Peter agreed to stand for appointment to that unexpired term, pursuant to the by-laws. Upon motion of Linda Ammar and second of Betty Nash, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Peter Richardson to the unexpired vestry term and have him serve as Junior Warden.

David Kersey, Peter Richardson and Rev. Slater met with Travis Odle and Mitsubishi representatives to again walk through the church and discuss/plan for installation of the new electric heating and cooling system throughout the rest of the first and second floors of the church. At the last Vestry meeting, the Vestry unanimously approved acceptance of the S & R Refrigeration proposal of \$91,800. During that visit, it was agreed that an additional unit would be added, in the narthex hallway, to take the place of the unvented gas space heater in the hall. With elimination of that gas heater, the church will no longer require natural gas, for which there is a monthly minimum charge just for being hooked up to the utility. The vestry agreed to terminate the gas utility and have the gas company remove the gas meter on Tazewell Street. Peter Richardson, as newly appointed Junior Warden, was authorized to contact the gas company and have the service terminated.

The church has received the initial S & R invoice pursuant to the proposal for \$45,000, so the units and materials may be ordered. The church has approximately \$25,000 (the first St. Lucy distribution and unspent Building Endowment income from the past two years) readily available for the initial S & R Refrigeration invoice of \$45,000. There should be two additional St. Lucy distributions available by the end of the project next fall, of approximately \$25,000 total. That is more than one-half of the expected cost. Although the church does have the DeBottis "rainy day" fund which can be accessed to help pay for this capital expense, after a full discussion it was the consensus of the vestry to "borrow" the balance of the initial invoice from the general fund and to mount a capital fund raising campaign, before beginning the months long process of accessing DeBottis money. That process requires a set amount to be identified before starting the process, and for the long-term financial health of the church, it was agreed to first seek parishioner support for this project. David Kersey agreed to pen a letter to the congregation, seeking support for this project.

For the Junior Warden report, Rev. Slater advised that some of the trees and bushes have been trimmed and mulch will be spread soon.

Committee Reports: Communications-Delia Kersey stated that the rainbow continues to be published with the help of church members, particularly Susanne Pulse and Mimi Merritt. Some people are having trouble receiving the weekly church emails, and it was recommended that those wishing to receive the weekly letter to add the church email address to their contacts so their email programs will recognize and accept the letter.

Education-Elizabeth Clement advised there is planned one more materials box to be distributed. And an in-person activity will be planned and scheduled as soon as permitted.

Outreach-Food Pantry will be held tomorrow, May 20. Shelia Brooks has again purchased and donated 50 loaves of bread for distribution. Shelia has been regularly providing that monthly contribution for some time and the vestry extends its sincere appreciation to Shelia for her generosity.

Parish Life-Linda Ammar will try to reserve the large picnic shelter in Bluefield City Park for the annual picnic, anticipating that we will be able to gather for such an outing later in the summer.

Worship-Alyson Bowling advised that having just one reader for a service, instead of two, seems to be working and will plan to continue that practice.

Rector's Report-Rev. Slater advised that he is still waiting to hear from the Bishop on when/whether/what restrictions on worship may be lifted or altered, based on the governor's actions and increased vaccination rates. Once we receive guidance from the Bishop, the vestry will need to meet with notice to the congregation to discuss/decide how we may change our current practices.

Rev. Slater presided over the wedding of Borden Thomas at the Bluefield Arts Center. There will be no in-person camping at Peterkin this year, but there will be a "camp-in-a-box" program sponsored by Peterkin, instead. The parish wide survey is still open, and all are encouraged to complete and submit. Books were distributed to the vestry for reading and discussion in August. This coming Sunday is Pentecost, Trinity Sunday to follow.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Rev. Slater.



BIRTHDAYS

June 3 Patricia Meachum
June 6 Martha Linkous
June 7 Charlie Merritt
June 8 Anne Wilkinson
June 10 Kristen Kersey Douglas

June 11 Emily Goodykoontz
June 11 Nathaniel Kersey
June 13 Jason Cole
June 14 Caroline Merritt
June 16 David Kersey
June 18 Juliana Paine

June 20 Susan Thomas
June 21 Becky Kersey
June 23 Marc Meachum
June 24 Mary Lou Mannschreck
June 25 Martha Shewey
June 26 Joe Sanders
June 30 Jarrod Sudduth



Prayer List: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarette Joplin, Emily Broome, David, Cady, Martin, Marion Lowe, Margaret Westfall, Harry, Ben Rose, Jay Kephart, Rick Longworth, all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kathy, Hamilton Jones, Kensley, John, Emily, Kathleen Nieman, Alan Riggins, Brenda Payne, and Buck and Louisa Sowers, Elizabeth Kane and Betty



Now that our after-service fellowship has resumed, we need volunteers to host our coffee hour. If you are interested in signing up for a Sunday Coffee Hour, please let Linda Ammar know.

David Hardin hosted the first Coffee Hour on May 23. It was a beautiful day and Coffee Hour was held outside.

MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT

MAY 2021

UNION MISSION REPORT

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

111 take-out meals of BBQ on a bun, cole slaw, baked beans, a brownie and refreshment were prepared and packaged.

46 meals were served on Wednesday and an additional 65 dinners were served on Thursday afternoon.

Volunteers: Sheila Brooks, Cameron Clement, Ted Lewis, Art Mead and Stephanie

Smith of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV; Charlie Helmandollar of Christ Episcopal Church, Pocahontas, VA, and his wife Fredia Helmandollar of Cumberland Heights Baptist Church and granddaughter, Ellie Williams of Crossroads Church.

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

72 take-out meals containing a cheeseburger, chips, dessert and drink were prepared

53 of the meals were served by the volunteers on Wednesday

19 meals were served at lunch on Thursday

Volunteers: Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead and Shirley Ofsa.

We'll see everyone again in August 2021:

June/July NOTICE of temporary suspension regarding feeding at Union Mission by Episcopalians: Craig Hammond has confirmed that visiting students from out-of-area places like the University of Georgia and New England will be performing missionary type work through the Union Mission this summer. Therefore, Wednesday afternoon feedings by local Episcopalians in June and July 2021, are suspended. This does NOT affect the feeding scheduled for May 26th, the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Feeding by local Episcopalians will resume in August 2021. The resumed schedule will continue our normal commitment to the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

FOOD PANTRY

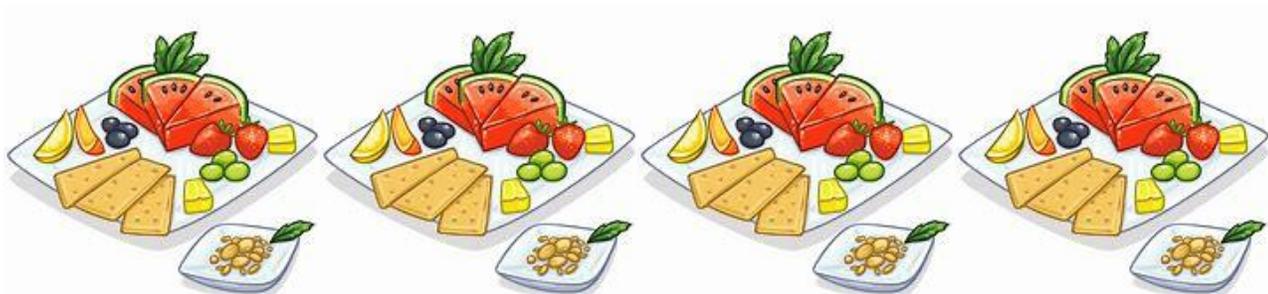
Thursday, May 20

28 bags distributed

Workers: Betty Nash, Peter and Patricia Taylor

Personal care items available through generous donations from congregation

Bread supplied by Patty Richardson and Sheila Brooks



June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Election Day — Bluefield, WV	2	3	4	5
6 The Second Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	7	8	9 St. Columba	10	11 Saint Barnabas The Apostle	12
13 The Third Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	14	15	16 7:00 p.m. Vestry	17 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Food Pantry	18	19
20 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	21	22 St. Alban, the first Martyr of Britain	23	24 The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist	25	26
27 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	28	29 The Apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul	30			

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

June 6, 2021 Tom Coughlan
 June 13, 2021 Phil and Valerie Mahood
 June 20, 2021 Don and Becky Kersey
 June 27, 2021 Emily Goodykoontz

Altar Guild for June:

Betty Nash and Chris Justice

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



JUNE 2021

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