

# The Rainbow



JUNE 2020

A Letter to CEC

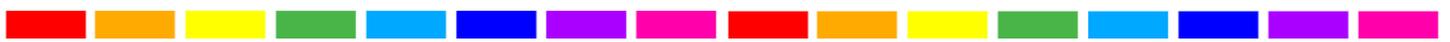
Dear Friends,

God works in mysterious and wonderful ways! In June 2011, when I was beginning my ministry with youth at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh, PA, I was at a conference in Minneapolis, MN, where I met Stephen Day. At that time, and some of you may remember him, he was the Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of West Virginia. We sat next to each other in a workshop on how to run a mission trip. Stephen told me about mission opportunities in Appalachia, specifically with Highland Educational Project. I found myself listening to him more than the presenter. I was immediately interested. We decided to go to McDowell County for mission work the next summer, 2012, and St. Paul's has been sending teams to southern WV every year since!

Three summers ago, our missionaries met the Rev. Chad Slater. He came to speak to our team and told us of the challenges many people face living in the area. His message had a profound effect on us, especially when he spoke of hope. Chad told our team that we weren't going to "fix" the challenges people faced. He described our ministry as one of presence and hope and that, through our work we were going to build lasting friendships. Chad was telling us about how God works. The following summer, St. Paul's partnership with Christ Episcopal Church was formed and last year, the idea of me being your summer intern pastor came to light.

I am so very excited to be serving CEC! As a Candidate to the Holy Order of Deacons, I am privileged to be serving in this capacity. My wife, Kary, and my family send warmest greetings and I look forward to meeting you all, to worshipping with you, to working with you and to building on our friendship and partnership and to continue to perform God's mysterious and wonderful work!

Peace always. Paul



## MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORTS

### FOOD PANTRY

Thursday, March 19

- 48 bags available
- 16 Bags distributed
- It is uncertain as to why the turnout for food pantry has been so low the past two months
- Volunteers: Peter Taylor, Chad Slater  
Becky Kersey, Donald Kersey

### UNION MISSION

May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

- 81 meals of BBQ, coleslaw baked beans, brownies, and beverages were served
- Under "lock-down" protocol only two clients are allowed in the building together and those in line are expected to maintain a proper "social distance"

Heating and Cooling Project *By David M. Kersey*

The heating and cooling (H/C) project has been completed. Thanks to Peter Richardson for taking on the “clerk of the works” role for that project. The system is fully operational. For those of you who have yet to experience it, standing by one of those units and having it blow cold on you is like a breath of fresh, spring air (pun intended). We hope you get to experience it in person, soon.

Unfortunately, the H/C project left some less than desirable consequences. One is the five monstrous units standing at attention along Tazewell Avenue, like Star Wars stormtroopers ready to attack. Once again, Peter Richardson is coming to the rescue, with plans to erect shields between the units and the sidewalk, to block the view of the abominations. There will be space left between the planned screens and the curb, so the look may be softened with plantings.

The other ugly consequence is the tubes, wires and pipes affixed to the walls of Rowley Hall, servicing the H/C units in the nave and sanctuary. Peter Richardson (again) and the author have built hollow columns to be attached to the walls, over top of the blemishes left by the H/C project. They are being constructed of solid poplar, with bases to tie in with the existing baseboard, and teardrop trim. Thanks to Tripper Thomas for providing the materials from Citizens Building Supply at cost. Photos are supplied with this article, reflecting the progression of that work. That project should be completed by the time the global pandemic permits us to once again socialize at a distance of less than 6 feet, without masks. The columns, and frankly all of Rowley Hall, will need to be painted. Volunteers gladly accepted!



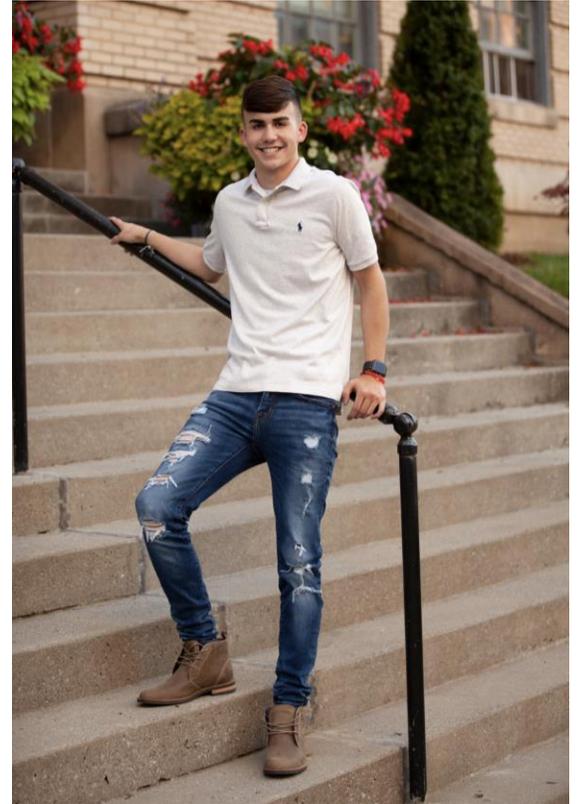
Graduation in a Pandemic *By Mimi Merritt*

*Congratulations to Frankie Wilkerson, son of Gina and Frank Wilkerson, who graduated this month from Graham High School. The following are reflections from Frankie and his parents on finishing high school during a pandemic.*

Frankie: I never thought during my lifetime that something like a pandemic would keep me from graduating high school in the traditional way. I always assumed I would graduate as all the others before me at the end of their high school careers. My senior year was awesome, and even though it got cut short I would not change anything that has happened in 2020. The memories, friends, and the lifelong lessons that this has taught is so worth it in the end. Yes, of course there is not a day that goes by that I wish my friends and I could walk the halls once more and make some more memories, but everything happens for a reason. My plans now are to attend the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina, I am going to major in Software Engineering. I am looking forward to starting school somewhere new and making even more friends and having memories made that will be unforgettable.

Frank: As Frankie's father, 2020 has been an ever changing, even challenging year. Moving around freely, going to sporting events, and general social interacting all suddenly came with a pause. Never sure if I was being overprotective, too strict, or overreacting. We were in a space that made us all ask questions we have never really contemplated before. Are we safe, and what can we do to protect our neighbors? I think Frankie learned a lot during the early part of 2020, and I hope he will learn new lessons in Charleston as he continues pursuing his education. I pray things return to normal as we move forward through the rest of this year and beyond.

Gina: As Frankie's mom I have a lot of mixed emotions. I am sorry that the seniors did not get to experience the lasts of everything being a senior brings. The last basketball game, the last test to take, the last prom, and to finally reach the point of graduating. Fortunately, for the seniors in our little community, they will get to graduate with a ceremony in July, and I am thankful for that. We were unable to do any college tours like his sisters got to do and experience some college life. I am happy that Frankie chose to go to College of Charleston in SC, because this is a place that we have visited numerous times over that last 12 years. I know that Frankie and all the seniors will go on and be successful.



The Rainbow is interested in your experiences as you have navigated the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting consequences and changes to your normal routine. Are you separated from family? Has your work experience changed? Have you or anyone you know had the virus? What have you missed the most? What have you found positive (if anything) about sheltering in place or the changes in your daily life? If you have a story you would like to share for an article in our July issue about how our Christ Church family has managed during these unprecedented times, please email me at [mimimerritt7@gmail.com](mailto:mimimerritt7@gmail.com).--Mimi Merritt

## VESTRY MINUTES

The regular monthly vestry meeting was held on May 20, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was attended by Zoom.

|          |                              |                    |                      |
|----------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Present: | Becky Beckett, Senior Warden | Frank Dragotto     | Absent: Delia Kersey |
|          | Tom Coughlan, Junior Warden  | Don Kersey         |                      |
|          | Linda Ammar                  | David Kersey       |                      |
|          | Allyson Bowling              | Father Chad Slater |                      |
|          | Elizabeth Clement            | Peter Richardson   |                      |

Father Chad opened the meeting with a prayer and a devotion commemorating St. Alcuin of the Eighth Century who founded schools and monasteries in Europe and was a proponent of cursive handwriting. \

Peter Richardson then presented a report on the new heating and cooling (H/C) system. The electrical upgrade is complete and the H/C system has been completely installed and is operational. All of the work has been paid for through generous contributions from the congregation and other church benefactors, the balance having been taken from the Debottis fund after congregational approval. The church is considering the erection of a metal screen running parallel to Tazewell Avenue, which would block the view of the external heat exchanging units. To facilitate that project, it is necessary to pour an additional 24" wide concrete pad, adjacent to the pad which was poured for installation of the external units. This will allow a firm foundation for installation of the metal screening and prevent weed and other growth behind the screen, which would be difficult to regularly maintain. David Kersey had obtained an estimate from Lambert's Construction to excavate as necessary and to pour a 4" slab 24" wide for a cost of \$950.00. Lambert's will also pour concrete to fill in the conduit excavation in the window well outside the classroom wing for an additional charge. Mr. Richardson advised that a motion will be necessary to engage Lambert's Construction for that work. Upon motion of Allyson Bowling and second of Linda Ammar, the motion to retain Lambert's Construction to excavate and pour the necessary concrete was approved unanimously. Reverend Slater advised the vestry that the funding for that work is readily available.

Reverend Slater advised the vestry that columns are being constructed by Peter Richardson and David Kersey to place over the conduit, wiring and condensation drip tubes which were necessarily fastened along the interior of the walls of Rowley Hall, in connection with the H/C project. Whereupon, Peter Richardson left the Zoom meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Frank Dragotto presented the Treasurer's Report. The total balance of all church accounts was \$2,726,402.71, an increase of approximately \$157,000.00 since the last report. That total includes a check to S & R Refrigeration for \$22,525.00, yet to clear; and funds on deposit for Reverend Slater's sabbatical. The Debottis fund balance is down \$37,000.00, reflecting some investment loss and also draws for the H/C project. The balances of the Building Endowment Fund and St. Lucie fund have increased dramatically since the end of April 2020. The church applied for and received a CARES Act PPP loan in the amount of \$17,200.00. That amount reflects a loan to cover the church payroll for an eight-week period. The church will apply for forgiveness of that loan at the end of the eight-week period. That loan amount is not reflected in the account balances as of April 30. For the month of April, budget income was \$25,480.00 and expenses were \$23,021.00, leaving a net income for the month of \$2,458.00. Presently, the church is running behind about \$18,000.00 over projections. Upon motion of Linda Ammar and second of Elizabeth Clement, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

**Senior Warden's Report:** Senior Warden Beckett expressed thanks to Peter Richardson and David Kersey for the work in Rowley Hall and otherwise associated with the H/C project. She thanked Frank Dragotto, church secretary Emma Bennett and Elizabeth Suddeth for all their work in preparing and processing the PPP loan application. She also thanked Reverend Slater for the many hours he has spent creating virtual worship services and otherwise

dealing with the Chinese Virus issues. Senior Warden Beckett reported that St. Paul's of Pittsburgh will not be coming to town this summer with their youth group. The worldwide pandemic precludes same. Senior Warden Beckett expressed a desire to welcome Paul Barker to the church and will suggest to him that we make effort to contact each parishioner by email or telephone to establish connections. The next meeting of the vestry will be on July 17, 2020 at which time we hope to be able to meet in person.

**Junior Warden's Report:** Junior Warden Tom Coughlin presented the Junior Warden's Report. We are continuing to have an issue with the roof causing leaking into the nursery on the main level of the church. The source of the leak has not been located. Junior Warden Coughlin agreed to find a roofer or someone else to come look at the situation and recommend a method of addressing the problem. MAC Contractors are finishing up the tile replacement in the nave. Junior Warden Coughlin will inspect and approve the work before that invoice is paid. Frank Dragotto advised that we do have money on deposit to pay for that invoice.

**Commissioner Reports:** Communications Commission: David Kersey announced that the newsletter is being worked on and will be published for the first of June. Frank Dragotto suggested that the church directory be placed in a pdf format so that it may be accessed on a smart phone or a computer.

Education Commission: Elizabeth Clement reported that the commission is sending out a couple of mailings to children trying to keep in touch with youth during the pandemic.

Outreach Commission: Donald Kersey reported that the food pantry was held on May 21, 2020. The community picnic is tentatively scheduled for July 23, 2020 with a band. We will have to decide later whether that can be held due to the global pandemic.

Parish Life: Linda Ammar reported that the St. Paul youth group will not be able to attend this summer. It is possible that the adult group may still be able to come to Bluefield, but that has not yet been decided.

Worship Commission: Allyson Bowling reported that we have received guidelines and expectations generated by the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia to reconvene in-person worship. We could potentially reopen the church for services beginning May 31, 2020.

**Rector's Report:** Reverend Slater advised the vestry that the bishop is presiding over regular Zoom meetings with clergy throughout the diocese. The Peterkin summer camp has been cancelled. The diocese is offering online bible studies and continuing mailings to parishioners. Reverend Slater will be attending a telephone conference with the Lilly Foundation at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 22 concerning his planned sabbatical and he will be canceling all remaining reservations, due to the global pandemic. Paul Barker is coming to Bluefield on May 29, 2020. He will be living in a cottage on the campus of Bluefield College. Russ Hatfield will be assisting in providing Eucharist during the summer, while Paul Barker will be presiding over morning prayer. Reverend Slater will be out of town for the first week of June and will maintain a low profile during the second week of June, while Paul Barker is being settled and introduced around town. Reverend Slater intends to do something to be sure that Paul Barker is properly welcomed to the community and Linda Ammar will assist in that endeavor. Reverend Slater addressed the guidelines received from the diocese for reopening. Senior Warden Beckett reminded the vestry that there must be a unanimous decision of the vestry, as when to reopen the church for services. Reverend Slater reviewed some of the protocols provided by the diocese and observed that requirements were fairly onerous. Father Slater sent out a survey among parishioners about the pandemic and attending in-person services and received over 70 responses. It seems that June 7, 2020 was the preferred date for reopening the church. There were substantial divides on who and when we would be comfortable in returning to the church. Upon motion of David Kersey and second of Elizabeth Clement, the recommended guidelines of the diocese were approved unanimously. Upon motion of David Kersey and second of Frank Dragotto, the vestry unanimously approved reopening the church for in-person

services on June 7, 2020. Reverend Slater advised the vestry that he intends to preside over a Pentecostal vigil service on May 30, 2020.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Upon motion of Linda Ammar and second of Frank Dragatto, the vestry meeting was adjourned, with a closing prayer by Reverend Slater



### Volunteers Needed at the Union Mission *By Susanne Pulse*

Craig Hammond has announced that he will restart the volunteer program at the Union Mission in July, which means that Christ Episcopal will need volunteers to assist the Union Mission with the evening meal on the second and fourth Wednesdays starting next month. In past years, volunteers have had the summer off.

Volunteers should bring their own masks to the Union Mission, and hand sanitizer will be available onsite.

If you can assist or have questions regarding this program, please contact Craig Hammond at the Union Mission or Art Mead at the Church.



### Landscaping *by Mary Catherine Williams*

In the past couple of weeks, we have had much needed landscaping done around the church. We still have some that will be done around the new HVAC units at a later date. The containers out front have been planted with some beautiful flowers. Thank you Terry Whittington and David Hardin for doing this. They also pick up the flowers for the Memorial Garden and Columbarium. The members that planted the flowers there were Linda Ammar, Linda Thomas, Elizabeth Clement and Art Mead. THANK YOU!!! We have some members that have volunteer to water the garden and the flowers out front through the summer. Thank you John Allen for washing the stones in the Columbarium. If you are interested in helping with this, you may contact Linda Ammar or Mary Catherine Williams. Be sure to thank the people that help with this project without them we may not have gotten this project done.



| June 2020   |   |     |                   |                                     |     |     |
|---|---|-----|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Sun   | Mon   | Tue | Wed               | Thu                                 | Fri | Sat |
|   | 1   | 2   | 3                 | 4                                   | 5   | 6   |
| 7 The First Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:00 Morning Prayer                  | 8   | 9   | 10                | 11<br>Saint Barnabas<br>The Apostle | 12  | 13  |
| 14 The Second Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:00 Holy Eucharist                | 15  | 16  | 17<br>7:00 Vestry | 18<br>9:00 Food<br>Pantry           | 19  | 20  |
| 21 The Third Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:00 Morning Prayer<br>FATHER'S DAY | 22  | 23  | 24                | 25                                  | 26  | 27  |
| 28 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:00 Holy Eucharist                | 29<br>The Apostles<br>Saint Peter and<br>Saint Paul | 30  |                   |                                     |     |     |

### BIRTHDAYS

|                                |                           |                              |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| June 3 Patricia Meachum        | June 11 Emily Goodykoontz | June 20 Susan Thomas         |
| June 6 Martha Linkous          | June 11 Nathaniel Kersey  | June 21 Becky Kersey         |
| June 7 Charlie Merritt         | June 13 Jason Cole        | June 23 Marc Meachum         |
| June 7 Stella Stultz           | June 14 Carolina Merritt  | June 24 Mary Lou Mannschreck |
| June 8 Anne Wilkinson          | June 16 David Kersey      | June 25 Martha Shewey        |
| June 10 Kristen Kersey Douglas | June 18 Juliana Paine     | June 26 Joe Sanders          |
|                                |                           | June 30 Jarrod Sudduth       |

### PRAYER LIST

Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline & Elton 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, Mike McLeod, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Bob Moore, Haddon Lazenby, Miffi Williams, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Victor Bowman, Cis Barrett, Linda Jones

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To our friends and family:



*JUNE 2020*

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