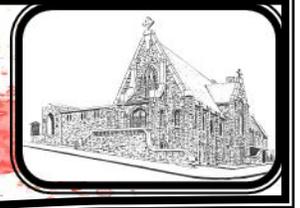


The Rainbow



MAY 2021

Christ Church members joined a festive parade immediately after church April 11 to drive by Dr. Jim Paine's house in celebration of his 100th birthday.

Beeping car horns and waving festive banners, parade participants were greeted by Dr. Paine and Bea, his wife of more than 70 years. Both were seated outside on the beautiful spring day, surrounded by many family members.

Not only was it Dr. Paine's birthday, but for many in the family it was the first time they had enjoyed a family reunion since before the pandemic. Granddaughter Ann Czarnik Fernandez arrived from Texas with her husband and two children, marking the first time she had seen her mother, Teresa Paine, in more than a year.



Dr. Paine's son, William Patrick Paine, published a story in *The Southwest Times* in Pulaski, Va., about his father turning 100, drawing upon questions he asked him throughout the weekend, as family and longtime close friends gathered to celebrate.

"I can't say I took it for granted that dad would reach the century mark but I can't claim to be astonished either," wrote William in his story. "After all, I skied with him a month before he turned 95, though that marked the last time we hit the slopes together."

Albert James (Jim) Paine saw to it that his five children – William, Teresa, Jim, Jr., John and Pam – grew up to love skiing as much as he did. Winter family vacations took the Paines to New England, Colorado and Sugar Mountain, N.C., before Dr. Paine invested in the early 1970s in the development of a new ski resort in West Virginia that was to become Snowshoe.

Besides skiing, Dr. Paine's adventures have included flying – earning his pilot's license in 1940. In 1939, having finished his freshman year at a junior college in California, he had to figure out how to return home to West Virginia, according to a story he told William:

"I first bought an old Indian motorcycle for 110 bucks," Paine recounted. "It wasn't running and the guy was going to fix it for me. Then my uncle talked me out of crossing the country on that motorcycle. The guy who sold me the motorcycle had an old Model A Ford there and he traded me the motorcycle for the Ford. He told me it had a cracked block but anyway it got me back across the country. There weren't any interstates and all the roads weren't even paved all the way across in 1939."

Dr. Paine is a graduate of WVU Medical School and was an ear, nose and throat doctor for more than 50 years before his retirement in 2005 at age 85. It is only natural that William asked his father what was the secret to his longevity.

"The only secret we had is that we got into running and ran for many years," Dr. Paine answered, according to William's article, which described Dr. Paine's weekday routine as "getting up before sunrise and running seven miles before going to the operating room at 7:30 a.m."

**Happy 100 years to Dr. Paine,
and may the celebration continue!**



Make Sure You are Receiving the Weekly CEC Emails

Each Monday the Church office sends out an email detailing events and opportunities coming up at Christ Church. Everyone in the parish directory is included, as well as friends and family who have requested they be added, unless an individual elects to opt out of the list.

This email is generated from an online email service called "Mailchimp." Your email provider (like gmail, Yahoo, etc.) filters incoming messages into spam or junk folders, and sometimes deletes emails altogether that are mass-generated to keep unwanted mail out of inboxes. These filters sometimes mistakenly move legitimate messages into the wrong folder, which is called a false positive. It has come to our attention that a number of people in the church are not receiving our weekly emails even though they are on our list. It is likely that your email provider is blocking or moving the church emails because of the way they are generated and sent out each week.

There are a couple of ways to help ensure that you are getting all the latest information, news, and updates from Christ Church. If you have not been seeing our weekly email, please consider the following:

First, check with the church office that you are on the list. Everyone who has submitted an email address to the directory questionnaire has been automatically entered into the list. Make sure your email address is current with the church office.

Second, check your "Spam" or "Junk Mail" folders. If you find emails titled "This Week at CEC," please click on them. There should be a button at the top of the page or email to mark the item "Not Spam." This should move the email into your Inbox (which is the regular email list you would normally see). Click on the "From" line on the email (this should be listed as "Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV" or christchurchbluefield@gmail.com). An option should appear once you click the "From" line to record the address as a contact. Record the church's email address in your contacts and the subsequent emails should be delivered to your Inbox.

Third, if we do have your correct email address and you cannot find the weekly email in your "Spam" or "Junk Mail" folders, go into your email account's address book and add "christchurchbluefield@gmail.com." An email coming from an address in your contact list should not be deleted.

If you have done these and are still not receiving the Monday emails, please contact the church office and we will work diligently with you to correct the problem. Should you need any assistance at all working through these steps, Fr. Chad is happy to help. Please contact him or the church office with any questions. Thank you!



RELECTING WITH FATHER CHAD



This festive season of new life seems to have a greater sense of beauty given the long winter we have endured. Planting bulbs last fall was well worth the effort now that the crocus, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinth have sprung forth. There is a feeling of regeneration in the air that's almost electric. This feeling new life has put me in the mind of how God makes all things new—not just in our gardens, but in our lives as well.

London businessman Lindsay Clegg told the story of a warehouse property he was selling. The building had been empty for months and needed repairs. Vandals had damaged the doors, smashed the windows, and strewn trash around the interior.

As he showed a prospective buyer the property, Clegg took pains to say that he would replace the broken windows, bring in a crew to correct any structural damage, and clean out the garbage. "Forget about the repairs," the buyer said. "When I buy this place, I'm going to build something completely different. I don't want the building; I want the site."

Though that conversation may have been between a building owner and a perspective buyer, a very similar conversation could be had between us and God. All too often we think of needing to “clean up” before coming to God. We feel that our bad habits, traits, or feelings have somehow made us unclean before God. Instead of coming to God, we find ourselves trying to mend our walls and windows; trying to make ourselves look better as though God won’t know our blemishes if we can hide them before coming to church, or even before coming to prayer.

Ours is a God who knows what’s wrong in our lives and in our world. There’s no reason to hide. When we become God’s, the old life is over. He makes all things new. All he wants is the site and the permission to build. That’s how we must prepare for God—that’s the beauty of God in our lives! Our attempts to improve ourselves are but a fraction of the power of God to transform our lives.

My mother has a plaque in her home with the words from a poem by Myra Brooks Welch. The poem is entitled,

“The Touch of the Master’s Hand.”

It was battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while,
To waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile.

"What am I did for this old violin?
You will start the bidding for me?
A dollar, a dollar, who'll make it two?
Two dollars, and who will make it three?
"Three dollars, once; three dollars twice,
Going for three," But no;
From the back of the room a gray-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow.
Then wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening up all the strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet,
As sweet as the angels sing.
The music ceased, and the auctioneer
With a voice that was quiet and low
Said, "What am I bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.
"A thousand dollars, and who will make it two?
Two thousand! And who'll make it three?
Three thousand, once; three thousand, twice;
And going and gone," said he.
The people cheered, but some of them said,
"We do not quite understand,
What changed its worth?" Came the reply,
"The touch of a masters hand."

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin.
A "mess of potage," a glass of wine;
A game, and he shuffles along.
He's going once, and he's going twice,
He's going and almost gone.
But the master comes, and the thoughtless crowd
Never quite understands
The worth of a soul, and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand.



Brothers and sisters, we all need the touch of the Master’s Hand. Our scars and wounds, brokenness and shame, are all easily healed by the one who came make the creation new. 2nd Corinthians 5:17 says, “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”

Come, let us go to the Master this Easter season—this springtime of renewal—and feel the worth we long for. Let us be transformed from brokenness into that precious instrument God intended for us to be. We are the new creation. Amen.



Vestry Minutes By David M. Kersey

Present: Peter Taylor, David Kersey, Elizabeth Clement, Linda Ammar, Betty Nash, Vic Bowman, Delia Kersey, Father Slater

Absent: Tom Coughlin, Alyson Bowling

The meeting was called to order and the presence of a quorum was declared. Father Slater opened the meeting with a devotional prayer.

The treasurer's report was presented by Vic Bowman. The balance sheet was reviewed. The general fund balance is up, primarily due to the deposit of the St. Lucy distribution, which is earmarked for the heating/cooling project. The Building Endowment Fund and St. Lucy Fund balances are up, due to the general rise in the stock market. A review of the financial statement reflects that the congregation is continuing to support the church financially, even through this difficult time when regular worship is unavailable. The expenses are generally in line with the budget, with the exception of utilities. The water/sewer line item is unusually high, due to the rusted out condensation tank attached to the steam boiler, which resulted in the water running constantly for several months. That problem has been resolved by cutting off the steam boiler and the water supply to the boiler. Upon motion of Linda Ammar and second of Delia Kersey, the treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

The Senior Warden had no report.

In the absence of Tom Coughlan, David Kersey presented the Junior Warden's report. Travis Odle of S & R Refrigeration came to the church to meet with Tom Coughlin, Peter Richardson, David Kersey and Father Slater to go over the prospect of replacing the balance of the steam boiler heating system with the Mitsubishi system that has already been installed in the nave, sanctuary and Rowley Hall. A walk through of the entire church building was conducted. Mr. Odle explained how the Mitsubishi system could be implemented throughout the building and where then interior and exterior mechanical units could be placed. All of the exterior units can be situated in the window well outside the children's classrooms on Tazewell Street or outside of the nursery on the second floor. It would not be necessary to place any exterior units on the roof, which had given some concern in the event of needed future roof work. Mr. Odle expressed his opinion that excluding the third floor from the plan should not result in any environmental problems from lack of heat in the winter. However, Mr. Odle stated that the planned installation would take into account that it may be necessary to expand the units into the third floor area and install conduit and a pull string that would make such expansion relatively easier if necessary in the future. While he was at the church, Mr. Odle turned off the steam boiler and the water supply to the boiler.

Several days later, an odor of gas was detected in the kitchen and the gas company was called to inspect. The technician detected 5 gas leaks in the boiler room and turned off the gas at the outside meter, pending repairs. The church water supply is heated with electricity. So, the only gas fired appliance left in the church building, assuming that the Mitsubishi system is installed, will be the space heater in the hallway outside the nave. The Vestry will consider complete termination of the gas utility, to avoid the monthly minimum charges associated with that utility.

The firm proposal of S & R Refrigeration to install the Mitsubishi system, as discussed was presented. The proposal came in at \$91,800.00, with ½ down at acceptance and the balance to be billed intermittently during the project work. A discussion was held about funding this major capital improvement project. The first distribution of the St. Lucy Fund in the amount of \$12,358.94 has been received and is earmarked for this project. For the years 2019 and 2020, the Building Endowment Fund income available for reimbursement of qualified expenses was not completely used. \$4,556.27 for 2019 and \$6,440.54 for 2020, totaling \$10,996.81, is available to help fund this project. With those monies and the "front loading" of pledge payments for the year, the church has the funds available for the ½

down payment. The congregation also will be asked to participate in this long needed upgrade, through a capital campaign later in the year and future disbursements from the St. Lucy Fund can be earmarked for this project.

After the full discussion of the proposed project and funding sources, upon motion of Betty Nash and second of Vic Bowman, the Vestry unanimously voted to accept the proposal. David Kersey was asked to contact Mr. Odle about the possibility of adding a unit in the hallway, to replace the gas space heater.

Committee Reports- Delia Kersey gave the Communications report. She advised that the Rainbow newsletter is being published regularly, with the great assistance of Susanne Pulse.

Elizabeth Clement gave the Education report. Monthly mailings are continuing to the church youth. Several members of the Vestry praised the quality and content of the mailed lessons and thanked Elizabeth for her hard work in producing those.

Peter Taylor gave the Outreach report. The Bluefield Union Mission has resumed Thursday evening meals and we have resumed our participation in preparing and serving those meals. Food Pantry was held on Thursday, April 15, with only 20 persons served. During the pandemic, the apparent need has dropped, presumably secondary to the federal government passing out stimulus money. At such time as those government payments cease, it is expected that the Food Pantry need will return to pre-pandemic numbers.

Father Slater gave the rector's report. Tom Coughlin has been dealing with some health and other personal issues which have hampered his ability to fully shoulder the Junior Warden duties. Consequently, Tom has reluctantly submitted his resignation from the Vestry. Open Vestry seats are filled by Vestry appointment for the remainder of that term, so Father Slater asked the members to consider possible candidates. The "spiritual communion" prayer, given just before distribution of the sacraments, was discussed and it was agreed to continue with that prayer in some form for the near future. Member Joe Sanders was recognized for his recent 93rd birthday and media coverage. The "drive by" birthday celebration of Jim Paine's 100th birthday was a success and much appreciated by Jim and the entire family. A youth group sponsored by the Wade Center came to the church and cleaned Rowley Hall and the closet off Rowley hall. They also assisted with Food Pantry. Paul Barker, who pastored us during Father Slater's quasi-sabbatical last summer, is being ordained as a deacon in Pittsburgh on Mother's Day Sunday. Father Slater has been invited to and will participate in the ordination service. A gift would be appropriate and a handmade stole was discussed. The church will host the wedding of Borden Thomas on May 15, 2021. Peterkin will not host any in person campers this summer, but will prepare some remote camping materials. The 100th anniversary of the dedication of our present church building will be celebrated in late October, with the Bishop presiding.

For the parish calendar, weekly in-person worship continues, under the diocesan guidelines-all are welcome and encouraged to attend, if comfortable doing so. Wednesday bible study continues. We will celebrate rogation Sunday on May 2.

New Business-Father Slater distributed the proposed Diocesan Report. After review and discussion, upon motion of Linda Ammar and second of Betty Nash, Father Slater was authorized to submit the executed report.

Old Business-Father Slater asked for input and comment on the proposed congregation survey. It was agreed to "go live" with the survey this Sunday.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with a prayer by Father Slater and adjourned.



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



BIRTHDAYS FOR MAY

May 1 Murial Mead	May 5 Theron Lewis	May 9 Joyce Morgan	May 22 Nancy Faris
May 2 Sloane Hunter	May 7 Ramona Parks	May 16 Jay Kephart	May 22 Patricia Taylor
May 3 Pat McCoy	May 7 Patty Richardson	May 17 Vanessa Hall	May 23 Gina Paine
May 5 Vic Bowman	May 8 Chris Justice	May 17 Brayden Wimmer	May 24 Lori Hypes
May 5 Lynn McCue Burney	May 9 Parker Anderson	May 19 Barbara Sudduth	



FOOD PANTRY

Thursday, April 15 - Bags Distributed: 18; Bread provided by Patty Richardson and Sheila Brooks; Volunteers: Student Mission Team, Peter and Patricia Taylor, Betty Nash

UNION MISSION REPORT

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 - 112 takeout meals of BBQ on a bun, cole slaw, baked beans, brownie and refreshments were prepared and packaged. Volunteers served 55 meals on Wednesday and the mission staff served the remaining 57 meals later that evening and on Thursday. Volunteers who donated their time were: Laurie Arthur, Alyson Bowling, Elizabeth Clement, Delia Kersey, Art Mead, Shirley Ofsa, Rev. Chad Slater and Stephanie Smith of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV. Also volunteering were Charlie Helmandollar of Christ Episcopal Church, Pocahontas, VA; his wife, Freda Helmandollar, of Cumberland Heights Baptist Church; and granddaughter Ellie Williams of Crossroads Church.



Fr. Chad and Jennifer Slater celebrate Dr. Paine's 100th birthday at their home.

May 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 The Apostles Saint Philip and Saint James
2 Fifth Sunday after Easter 10:00 Holy Eucharist	3	4 Star Wars Day (May the 4 th be with you)	5 Cinco De Mayo	6 National Day of Prayer	7	8
9 Sixth Sunday after Easter 10:00 Morning Prayer Mother's Day	10	11	12 3:00 pm Union Mission	13 Ascension Day Evening Prayer 7:00 pm	14	15 Armed Forces Day
16 Seventh Sunday after Easter 10:00 Holy Eucharist	17	18	19 7:00 Vestry	20 9-11:00 am Food Pantry	21	22
23 The Day of Pentecost -- Whitsunday 10:00 Holy Eucharist	24	25	26 4:00 pm Union Mission	27	28	29
30 Trinity Sunday 10:00 Holy Eucharist	31 Memorial Day Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary					

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

May 2, 2021 Terry Whittington
 May 9, 2021 Dr. and Mrs. Paine
 May 16, 2021 John and Becky Beckett
 May 23, 2021 Don and Mary Catherine Williams
 May 30, 2021 Jim and Susanne Pulse

Altar Guild for May:

Patty Richardson and Becky Beckett

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



MAY 2021

Editor in Chief: Delia Kersey

Editor: Susanne Pulse (susannepulse@gmail.com)

Copy Editor: Mimi Merritt

Contributors: Linda Ammar, Bea Paine, Mimi Merritt

Graphic Design: Susanne Pulse