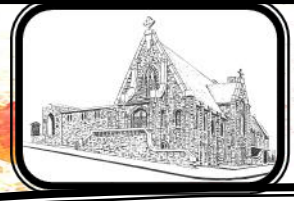


# The Rainbow



October, 2020

**70 Year Wedding Anniversary** by Art Mead with assistance by his daughter, Laura Aylor

Like two intertwined trees, Bob and Peggy Walk each has been an intimate part of the other's life over the last seven decades while traveling life's journey. Both were born and raised in eastern Tazewell County, children of the Great Depression. They married when he was 20 and she was 18. Together they have raised three children, all of whom live nearby. There also are grandchildren.

Bob served in the Army during the Korean Conflict and after a short stint back in the states in private business started a career with the U.S. Post Office that lasted 34 years. Peggy remained at home as a traditional homemaker and the mother of their two boys and a girl, Mike, Mark and Debbie. Responding to an invitation and encouragement from friends of the family, the Walks became members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in 1957. They moved into their current home in the West Graham section of Bluefield, VA, in 1959.

Fixtures at St. Mary's, Bob and Peggy were active members of the church for the last 60 years of its existence. A Trustee, Bob was among those who had to sign the paperwork to execute the transfer of property from the St. Mary's Parish to the Southwestern Virginia Episcopal Diocese.

I spoke first with Peggy about writing this article before she and Bob reach their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this October 28, 2020. I explained how Mimi Merritt had suggested that I might be best suited to prepare a story for the Rainbow, Christ Church's newsletter. Peggy asked if there was any chance that it might find its way into some "raunchy magazine like Playboy". I told her that I was not planning on taking pictures.

Bob and Peggy are a lovely couple who are devoted to their family and friends, while also warm and welcoming to any stranger they meet. Neither of the two has hesitated as they selflessly welcomed the young and old into their home. As a couple both have experience and an obvious gift with children, showing patience and understanding. If Peggy has advance knowledge of a visit she'll whip up something yummy in her kitchen while Bob will go out of his way to make you feel welcome. Bob is a man of steadfast demeanor and piety, offering his steady support and devotion to those around him. The combination of Peggy's fun-spirited humor and honest nature will brighten your day. As a couple they have provided great memories and given so much joy to the



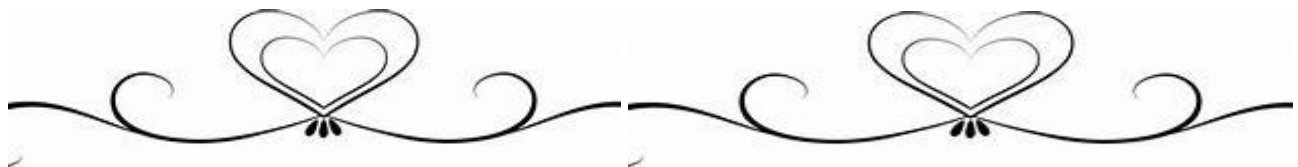
lives of their friends and family over the years. Both Bob and Peggy are quintessential Appalachian grandparents, with a big dose of fun and spunk. They stand as pillars of support for family, friends and members of their church. Quite a couple.

A member of the vestry for decades, Bob did not wear the honor pridefully. Yet, if a need existed, he could be instrumental in finding a solution. Bob, George Strike and Ed Graham were like the Three Musketeers. All were multi-decade members of St. Mary's and the American Legion post that met in the St. Mary's basement. Bob and the other two provided the leadership to establishment of a scholarship endowment at Southwest Virginia Community College. The American Legion post was about to collapse from membership attrition, and they worked to have \$30,000 of the post's treasury transferred to the college's foundation to endow a scholarship for the families of military veterans.

Peggy's culinary skills, combined with that of others like Shirley Ofsa and Margaret Strike, made for a dependable explosion of joyful Christian fellowship, seemingly at a moment's notice. It could be an official church event or other special occasions such as graduations, marriages, etc. A consistent expectation, never disappointed, was that the food at St. Mary's was always good and the fellowship even better.

The Walks and their lack of selfishness remind me of an elderly couple from mythology, Baucis and Philemon. They opened their home to two strangers seeking food and shelter. The strangers had been rejected elsewhere in the community. Despite the modest food stores that Baucis and Philemon had ready for this surprise visit, the four, hosts and travelers, enjoyed an evening of fellowship including more than adequate refreshment. A realization surfaced that these visitors had super-natural powers and likely could grant a wish to their hosts. Yet, all that was requested was that these two elderly hosts might remain united in death.

Bob and Peggy have enjoyed and appreciated the home visits by Rev. Chad Slater. They have expressed a desire and intent to join in worship at Christ Church. However, both have been hospitalized in recent months. Physically attending church would be a challenge. They do look forward to receiving the Rainbow.



### **VESTRY MINUTES-WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**

The regular monthly vestry meeting was held on September 16, 2020.

|                 |                              |                 |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Present:</b> | Frank Dragotto               | David Kersey    |
|                 | Elizabeth Clement            | Don Kersey      |
|                 | Linda Ammar                  | Chad Slater     |
| <b>Absent:</b>  | Becky Beckett, Senior Warden | Allyson Bowling |
|                 | Tom Coughlan, Junior Warden  | Delia Kersey    |

**Other(s) Present:** Peter Richardson

Father Slater called the meeting to order, declared the presence of a quorum and provided a devotional reading.

**Treasurer's Report:** Frank Dragotto presented the Financial Report for August 1, 2020 – August 31, 2020. The deficit to date is greater than budgeted even including the PPP Loan deposit, not yet forgiven. The church needs more cash flow into the operating fund. \$4,000 was moved out of the R.J. Fund into the Operating Fund Account. The R. J. Fund is the balance from the window settlement, after placing most of the proceeds into the St Lucie Fund. Year to date all investment account balances are up, in keeping with stock market gains. To preserve cash flow, it was suggested to cut spending and stop all building maintenance, that is not an emergency. A discussion was held on the DeBottis Fund notice process, which must be followed, before those funds can be accessed.

**Old Business:** Peter Richardson provided a report on completion of the heating/cooling project. A metal screen to block the view of the outside condensing units on Tazewell Street would cost approximately \$8,400. David Hardin suggested planting slow growing hedges to block the view. The cost of shrubbery would be approximately \$2,000. There was some concern expressed over possible vandalism to the units. The Vestry expressed sincere appreciation to Peter Richardson and David Hardin for all of their efforts.

**Senior Warden's Report:** In the absence of Becky Beckett, Father Slater announced that Pastor Paul has returned to Pittsburgh and Father Slater is back from sabbatical. The Church expressed sincere appreciation for the ministry of Pastor Paul and Reverend Russ Hatfield during Father Slater's sabbatical.

**Junior Warden's Report:** In the absence of Tom Coughlin, Father Slater observed the progress in Rowley Hall, including the deep cleaning after completion of the column project. Work on the main entrance door upstairs is finished and it is now working properly. Linda Ammar reported a loose/broken railing in the garden area, protecting the window well.

**Communications Report:** No Report

**Education Commission:** Elizabeth Clement discussed offering Godly Play lessons online. Volunteers are needed to present the lessons.

**Evangelism:** No Report

**Outreach:** Don Kersey reported Food Pantry will be September 17, 2020. Food has been bagged and ready for distribution. Betty Nash contributed masks for distribution.

**Parish Life:** No Report

**Worship:** October 4th is the Sunday closest to St. Francis Day. It is World Communion Sunday. There will be a joint outdoor worship with our church, First Presbyterian Church and the Lutheran church in the recently refurbished parking lot on Duhring Street. There will also be a blessing of the animals, so everyone is encouraged to bring their pets. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m. WHIS will broadcast the service. Because the service will be outdoors, we will be permitted to sing hymns.

**Rector's Report:** Father Slater presided over his Uncle's Funeral and that of Robert Sisk. Father Slater also conducted a wedding Sunday at The Bluefield Inn. The Diocesan Convention will be virtual this year, due to the pandemic. To assist in the selection of a coadjuter, the Diocese has distributed an online survey to all members. Everyone is encouraged to complete the survey. Joe Graham's funeral will be held this Saturday.

**New Business – None.**

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



## Outreach Reports

### Union Mission by Art Mead

On Wednesday, September 9, Episcopalians prepared 93 delicious meals at the Mission. The menu was BBQ on a bun, cole slaw, baked beans, chocolate dessert and beverage. Sixty-seven meals were prepared, packaged and distributed by volunteers. The remaining 26 meals were served by Mission staff into the following day. Participants on Wednesday, September 9 were: Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Wendy Harris, Art Mead and Shirley Ofsa of Christ Episcopal, Bluefield, WV, and Charlie Helmandollar of Christ Episcopal, Pocahontas, VA.

On Wednesday, September 23, 2020, Christ Church Episcopalians prepared 102 meals at the Union Mission. 46 meals were packaged and served by volunteers on Wednesday. The remaining 56 meals were served by the Mission staff into the evening and the next day. The menu was hot dogs in a bun, chips and candy served with a soft drink. Participants on September 23rd were: Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth & Cameron Clement, Shirley Ofsa, Art Mead and Eleazer Resurreccion,. Also Rev. Chad Slater, Mrs. Jennifer Slater, and daughter Emma.

### Food Pantry Thursday, September 17th

28 bags distributed

Volunteers: Betty Nash, Charlie Blevins,  
Peter Taylor, Linda Ammar, Donald Kersey



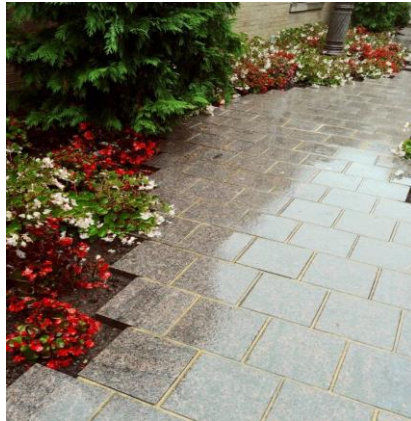
### Prayer List

Please keep the following in your prayers:

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 & family, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Patsy Arnold, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarete Joplin, Margaret Westfall, Maggie Casto, Scott Rust, Emily Broome and her son Randy, David, the Vinson Family, Joe Graham's family, the family of Mike McLeod

Fr. Chad is offering the opportunity for anyone who, for any reason, is unable to come to worship on Sunday mornings during the pandemic to arrange a time to receive Holy Eucharist in a private setting at the Church. This may be for individuals or families. Please see Fr. Chad for more information or to recommend he contact an individual about this opportunity.

Even on rainy days our Church and grounds are beautiful!



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## A Celebration of Unity and Creation

**An Ecumenical Service Commemorating  
World Communion Sunday and the Blessing of the  
Animals in honor of St. Francis of Assisi**

Bring your pets and other animal companions for a blessing and special gift! (But please keep them on a leash or in a carrier).

Worship begins at 11 a.m. (not 10 a.m.) This will be an outdoor service on the Duhring Street Parking lot.

And yes...we will be singing!

Bring a chair or remain in your car and tune in to 97.3 FM or 1440 AM radio!

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### **A Prayer for the New Bishop Search**

*Almighty God,*

*you have created each person with many and varied gifts and joined our lives together as members of the Diocese of West Virginia.*

*Look graciously upon us as we search for our 8th Bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.*

*Give us minds to discern your will, courage to follow where you lead, and hearts to love as you command, to the glory of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.*

*Amen.*

## The Mirror

Two people see the same Bible.  
One sees reasons to love;  
The other sees reasons to hate.  
One sees unity;  
The other, division.  
One finds prejudice;  
The other, equality.  
One discovers compassion;  
The other, indifference.  
One goodwill;  
The other, malice.  
Two people, one Book.  
One Book; two views.  
The Book is a mirror.  
The reflection is you.

By N.W.

## Cyber Sunday School

Since we are not able to host Christian Education here on premises this year as we would like, we will be offering a series of online videos for young people (and those young at heart).

These videos will feature lessons from *Godly Play*, a Montessori based Christian Education program for children. This program will not be limited to those at Christ Church, but anyone who may be interested. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach young people across our region!

Sign-ups will be opening soon.

To help make this a reality, volunteers are needed! Please contact Fr. Chad if you are willing and able to assist in the production of these videos! Thank you!

## From Fr. Chad

What a joy it is to be back with my Christ Church family after my three-month sabbatical! While this summer has not been the educational and transformational period I had anticipated, it has been a summer of personal growth, renewal, and rest. We were able to safely and responsibly travel this summer and spend time with family and friends (and some friends that are family). The sabbatical project funded by the Lilly Endowment is still happening and I will be working on it periodically over the coming year (although dates for travel are, obviously, not set).

I give thanks to God for the ministry of Father Russ and for Pastor Paul over this past summer. And I have to say, what an interesting summer it has been!—or should I say what an interesting year this is been? Things are still not as they should be, but yet the church goes on. The church still works for the greater glory of God and for the building up of His Kingdom in this world. While not all of us are able to gather together in worship as we would like, we are still called to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to love our neighbor as ourself. This fact will never change no matter what trial, triumph, or circumstance we may find ourselves in.

I am so proud of the work that our church has been doing over these last several months. We are still feeding the hungry, helping those in need, proclaiming the good news of God in Christ, and reaching more people than ever with our live streamed services. Perhaps if there is a silver lining to our present situation it is that this pandemic has dragged the church (and by that I mean all churches) kicking and screaming into the 21st century.

I would encourage you, my brothers and sisters, to continue to call and check in on one another, reach out with help to those who are in need, maintain as best we can our church family connections, pray for the means of cure or prevention of this disease, and above all—keep the faith.

## October 2020

| Sun  | Mon                                       | Tue | Wed  | Thu                              | Fri   | Sat  |
|--|---|-----|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
|  |   |     |  | 1                                | 2   | 3  |
| <b>4</b><br>Eighteenth Sunday<br>After Pentecost<br>11:00 Holy Eucharist and<br>Pet Blessing-Parking Lot               | 5   | 6   | 7  | 8                                | 9   | 10   |
| <b>11</b><br>Nineteenth Sunday<br>After Pentecost<br>10:00 Holy Eucharist<br>Congregational Meeting –<br>Bishop Search | <b>12</b><br>Columbus<br>Day              | 13  | <b>14</b><br>3:30 Union<br>Mission   | <b>15</b><br>9:00 Food<br>Pantry | 16  | 17   |
| <b>18</b><br>Twentieth Sunday<br>After Pentecost<br>10:00 Holy Eucharist &<br>Rites of Baptism                         | <b>19</b><br>Saint Luke the<br>Evangelist | 20  | <b>21</b><br>7:00 Vestry   | 22                               | <b>23</b><br>Saint James of<br>Jerusalem,<br>Brother of our<br>Lord Jesus<br>Christ | 24   |
| <b>25</b><br>Twenty-First Sunday<br>After Pentecost<br>10:00 Holy Eucharist  | 26  | 27  | <b>28</b><br>Saint Simon and<br>Saint Jude,<br>Apostles<br>3:30 Union<br>Mission | 29                               | 30  | <b>31</b><br>Halloween<br><i>All<br/>                     Hallows<br/>                     Eve</i> |

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

October 4, 2020 Linda Ammar  
 October 11, 2020 Rob and Mimi Merritt  
 October 18, 2020 David and Debbie Faber  
 October 25, 2020 Phyllis Walker

**Altar Guild for October:**

Teresa Paine, Mimi Merritt, & Linda Ammar

**Birthdays:**

|                             |                                |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| October 1 Michael Parks     | October 17 Stephanie Smith     | October 20 Bruce Puckett       |
| October 3 Sheila Brooks     | October 9 Grace Taylor Curfman | October 21 David Faber         |
| October 4 Deak Kersey       | October 11 Brian McCoy         | October 21 Phyllis Walker      |
| October 8 Elizabeth Clement | October 14 Mike Lilly          | October 24 William Allen       |
| October 8 Don Williams      | October 16 Burt Kersey         | October 24 Bernadette Dragotto |
|                             | October 16 Emma Slater         |                                |

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
200 DUHRING STREET  
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



*October 2020*

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
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