

# The Rainbow



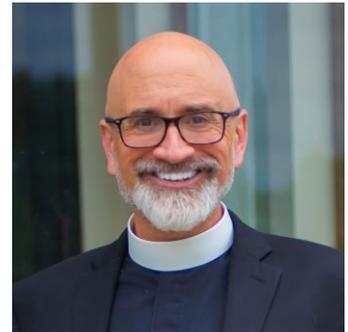
October 2021

## A Message from Bishop-Elect Cowden

September 25, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ in West Virginia,  
Alleluia and deep joy!

Thank you. Words can scarcely express my joy and excitement today. I am honored and humbled to serve you as your Coadjutor and as your eighth Bishop of the Diocese of West Virginia. Thank you for your prayers and for your deep listening in the life of the Spirit throughout this whole process.



I am grateful for Deacon Al Prichard and for all the members of the Search Committee who prayed their way through many, many conversations. They did deep listening around the diocese and helped gather together the voices and ideas that will help form and inform the vision and the next chapter of the Diocese of West Virginia. It is my honor and privilege to build on their good, thorough and deep ministry in our journey together.

I am also grateful of Johnny and Kelly McGhee and for all the members of the Transition Committee, yours has been a Godly labor of love, especially with all the challenges and changes that needed to be made in this pandemic. Thank you for your generous hospitality and taking such good care of each of us candidates and committee members all along the way. Congratulations on leading the transition through to this day and thank you for all you will be doing in the next phase of the transition during the months come.

Of course, I have been traveling on this journey with two wonderful colleagues in Christ, the Rev. Canons Abbott Bailey and Patrick Collins. I am grateful for our friendship and for our mutual support of one another during this discernment. Thank you, friends. We each entered this process with a deep love for West Virginia and a desire to be faithful to God's call and formation. Your love and faithfulness and friendship has been a gift to me, for which I am ever grateful. And which I will carry forward in this call.

And I am deeply grateful to Bp Mike Klusmeyer for his generous availability in sharing his experience as your Bishop of West Virginia for these last two decades. I am looking forward to our overlap time together this next year and learning all I can about the ministry I will be stepping into. There is much to learn about the mantle I am picking up and carrying forward.

And for your love and faithfulness dear Friends in Christ Jesus, Thank you for your prayers, your ministry in your congregations and in the diocese. This is a particularly strange and difficult period in the life of the church. Thank you for your perseverance in being the Church when we've all been called to close our doors and open our laptops.

Tomorrow is Sunday the 26. In our Daily Office lectionary tomorrow we will hear from Luke's Gospel. Many of us will likely read this Gospel at evening prayer tomorrow. Our daily office reading from Luke's Gospel is from chapter 5 where Jesus finishes an early morning sermon,

preaching from Peter's boat, and when he's done preaching he tells Simon Peter to push from shore and to set out into deeper waters to cast their nets. Peter's tired and discouraged from fishing all night without a catch. Yet, says Simon Peter, if you say so Jesus, then this we will go do. Jesus is still calling us to deeper water, even when we feel weary, when we feel like our work is done and we are ready to go to shore and hang up our nets. Our call is to be faithful to his voice, if you say so, Jesus, then this we will do. I am excited to follow Jesus' voice with you, to set out into deeper waters with you and to faithfully cast our nets together. I look forward to faithfully fishing with you and discovering the great, unexpected, wild and wonderful catch that awaits us and fills our nets in West Virginia.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow...!

God bless you and keep you all.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Matthew Cowden

*Bishop Coadjutor Elect*

*The Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia*



### **Reflections** by *Father Chad*

*I was glad when they said to me, 'Come, let us go to the house of the Lord!'*

On a Sunday morning in October of 1921, Bishop William L. Gravatt of West Virginia dedicated a beautiful stone building in Bluefield as the new home of Christ Episcopal Church. This edifice was to replace the wooden structure destroyed by fire on Christmas Day 1919. Songs of praise and thanksgiving reverberated through the rafters as the liturgy for the day was being celebrated.



This year we commemorate the 100th anniversary of our magnificent church building's original completion. On Sunday, October 24, 2021, Bishop Mike Klusmeyer will celebrate a service of rededication for our building. Even more importantly, and certainly as a sign that the Church moves from generation to generation, we will celebrate the rites of Holy Baptism and Confirmation that day. There is no better way to rejoice in a century of witness than to see the journey of faith continue in Bluefield.

Given the circumstances we face in this pandemic environment it is understandable that not all of the extended Christ Church family can be at this celebration in person. This event will be broadcast on our Facebook page and will be on our YouTube channel to ensure that as many as possible are able to be a part, even in some small way, of this historic day. I earnestly hope that you will join us in prayer on that day, even from afar, to mark this milestone in our common life together.

As we look joyfully toward the future I would like to encourage all of us to make a contribution that will enhance and ensure our beautiful building is not only around but thriving for the next 100 years. Please consider making a donation to the Christ Church Building Endowment Fund or the Christ Church Memorial Fund during this season as we commemorate our centenary. Checks may be mailed to the church office with either Fund, or some other account you would like to contribute to at this happy time, in the memo line. Your gift is, of course, tax deductible.

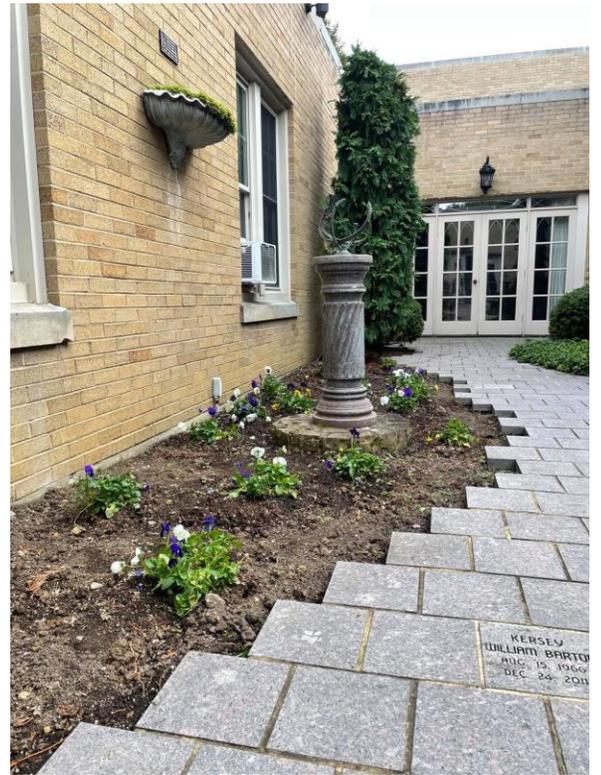
Please join us in prayer as we prepare for this celebration as we continue to, "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

**Our Beautiful Church** by *Mary Catherine Williams*

Our sign on Duhring Street has been refurbished thanks to a generous donation. Winter pansies and mums have been planted. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cost of the pansies. Also, thank you to the people that helped with pulling the summer flowers and planting the pansies and mums!



**Thank you to our Garden Ministry Team!**



**Monthly ministry report**  
**September 2021**

By *Linda Ammar and Art Mead*

**Food pantry**

September 16, 2021

32 bags distributed

Personal care items as well as Covid Vaccine Information was available

Workers – Peter & Patricia Taylor and Betty Nash

Bread provided by Sheila Brooks and Patty Richardson



**Union mission**

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Meals prepared - 106 (42 served on Wednesday: 64 served on Thursday)

Menu - BBQ on a bun, cole slaw, baked beans, brownie and drink.

Volunteers: Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Delia Kersey, Art Mead, Shirley Ofsa of CEC.

Charlie Helmandollar (Christ Episcopal Church, Pocahontas, VA)

Fredia Helmandollar (Cumberland Heights Baptist Church)

Marjorie Justice from Bluefield, VA (Pentecostal affiliated)

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Meals prepared – 59

Menu – 55 smoked sausage and 4 pepperoni and cheese, served with chips, dessert and drink

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



Prayer List: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck and Louisa Sowers, Mabeline Robinson, Donna Fortune, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Randy Snider, Margarette Joplin, David, Martin, Harry, Ben Rose, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kensley, John, Betty, Matt, Eric, Carol, Dave, Gail, Jean, all Heathcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, Ivy and the Gaines Family, John, and the Rev. Brian Shoda, the Patterson Family, the Lester Family



Bring your furry, scaley, or fuzzy friends to a special service of prayer and thanksgiving for the pets and animals in our lives. We will gather on the Tazewell Street Sidewalk at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 10 for a short service. Special treats for people and pets alike will be provided.



### **Bluefield Union Mission Turns 90**

The Bluefield Union Mission has been a staple in our community for nearly a century. The Mission was organized on October 13, 1931 to serve those most impacted by the Great Depression. Christ Episcopal Church was one of the founding members of the Mission. The Union Mission has a purpose to serve the community by offering meals, groceries, utility assistance, clothing assistance and transportation for individuals in the surrounding areas. The Union Mission's mission statement is to provide physical, social, and spiritual assistance to people in need 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Join us on Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Union Mission as we prepare and serve dinner on this special birthday and celebrate the milestone!

## History of the Bluefield Union Mission

*from the Bluefield Union Mission webpage*

The Bluefield Union Mission has been around since 1931. It was first created when 10 churches came together in union to serve their community in the depths of the Great Depression. Soon, this room, separated from a brewery by a common wall, became much more. The Bluefield Union Mission now holds great value in the Bluefield Community and is constantly trying to help in every way that it can.

After the Bluefield Union Mission opened in 1931, Dr. Cannel, a Christian physician and pediatrician, started a children's clinic. He made a deal with the hospital that he could bring sick children in, and the hospital would only charge the Bluefield Union Mission \$3 a day no matter what the illness was. He even performed tonsillectomies and other minor surgeries right in the Union Mission. Ever since then, there has been a healthcare component at the Mission.

Soon afterward, the Bluefield Union Mission moved from the brewery to the east end of Bluefield and then in the 1940s it moved to Scott's street and into Providence Hospital. In the time of segregation this hospital was considered the "black hospital," but as soon as segregation came to an end, the Union Mission made the hospital its new home.

During that time, 1944, Rev. Dodson became the director of the Mission. It was in that transition that the Union Mission expanded to become a home for single mothers. A mothers club formed in the community, as women would take in young, unwed, pregnant mothers who had been cast aside or sent away by their families. These women would act as mothers to the girls as they went through their pregnancies and birthing processes. However, when the United States government began to offer more options for pregnant women, the Bluefield Union Mission's services were no longer needed. The mothers club turned into what is now the Women's Auxiliary Club.

In 1969, the Bluefield Union Mission moved into its current location, and doesn't plan on going anywhere anytime soon. In 1975, Craig Hammond's father became the director of the Mission and remained the director for 23 years until Craig took over in 1998. Then in the 1980's Judge Bivens, part of the circuit court, teamed with the first Mr. Hammond to start the renewal project. This project, now in its 36<sup>th</sup> year of operation, included staff going into jails, prisons, and detention centers to assist inmates and their families. Today, the Mission goes once a week to develop relationships with those in the detention centers and prison systems. They interact with them by playing games and they work with the families that are left behind. They also try to help released inmates reenter the community living world.

Today, 159 local churches share a union that once was shared by 10. The Union Mission also receives support from individuals, civic groups, and businesses.



## United Thank Offering Collected Through October 17<sup>th</sup>



Bring in your "mite boxes" or donation to the United Thank Offering this year by October 17<sup>th</sup>. The UTO is a ministry of the Episcopal Church Women that supports ministry projects around the world and here in the United States. Every penny collected is given away in these grants. Please help us support this amazing ministry!

## October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	<b>4</b> St. Francis of Assisi	5	6	7	8	9
<b>10</b> Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist 3:00 Pet Blessing	<b>11</b> Columbus Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 3:00 Dinner at the Union Mission <b>90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Union Mission</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> St. Teresa of Avila	<b>16</b> Martyrdom of Ridley, Latimer, and Cranmer
<b>17</b> Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	<b>18</b> Saint Luke the Evangelist	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00 Vestry	<b>21</b> 9:00 to 11:00 Food Pantry	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Saint James of Jerusalem, Brother of our Lord Jesus Christ
<b>24</b> Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist CEC Building 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 4:00 Dinner at the Union Mission	<b>28</b> Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Halloween Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist						

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

October 3, 2021 Linda Ammar  
 October 10, 2021 Rob and Mimi Merritt  
 October 17, 2021 David and Debbie Faber  
 October 24, 2021 Phyllis Walker  
 October 31, 2021 Becky Steorts

**Altar Guild for October:**

Teresa Paine and Elizabeth Clement



Birthdays:

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

Christ Episcopal Church  
200 Duhring Street  
Bluefield, West Virginia 24701

To our friends and family:



**October 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