

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
 200 Duhring Street  
 Bluefield, West Virginia 24701-2910  
*The Rainbow*—January 2018



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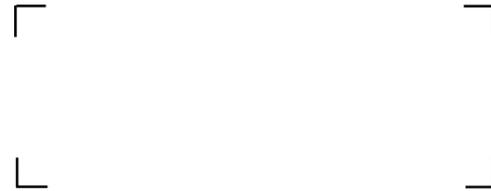


• Established 1889 •  
 The Beacon on the Hill

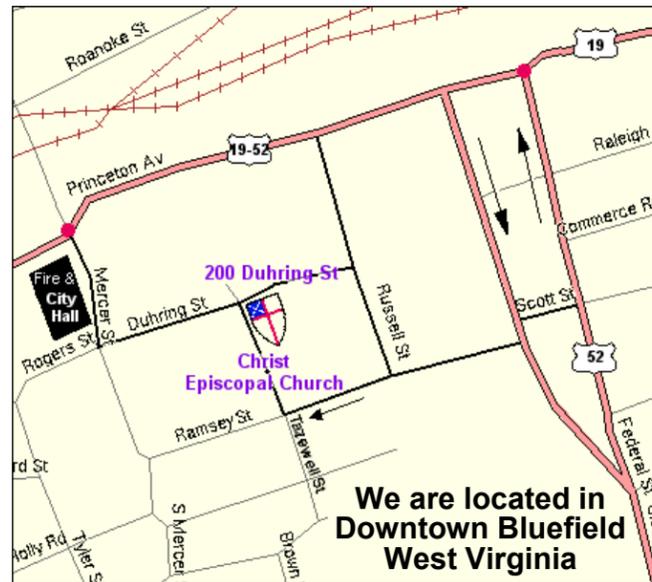
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Canterbury Club  
 Sunday, January 7, 6:00 p.m.  
 At the home of Carl and Linda Thomas

To our friends and family:



**Our mission statement:**  
 Christ Episcopal Church will live,  
 Celebrate, teach and radiate  
 The joy of Christian discipleship



**We are located in  
 Downtown Bluefield  
 West Virginia**

**Parish Staff**

the Rev. Chad Slater, Rector  
 Terry Whittington, Organist & Choirmaster  
 Emma Bennett, Parish Administrator  
 Vanessa Hall, Sexton  
 Phones: 304-327-6861  
 No Fax  
 Email: secretary@cecblf.org

**The Rainbow Editorial Staff**

Susanne Pulse, Communications Commission chairman  
 Don Williams, Editor  
 the Rev. Chad Slater, Webmaster  
 Website: www.ChristChurchBluefield.org  
 Editor E-mail: editor@cecblf.org

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**Volume 26, Number 3 Christ Episcopal Church January 2018**

A new year is already upon us. It seems 2017 just got started and here we are again saying “Happy New Year” and watching the Ball (or Lemon!) Drop. A lot has happened in 2017, both for us as a group and each of us individually. We’ve experienced sadness, pain, and hardship, but also found joy, triumph, and determination. It’s been a bad year, and it’s been a great year. Truth be told, the year 2018 promises more of the same. In each new year we can, with certainty, expect laughter and tears.



Rev. Chad

The arrangement of our calendar is both fascinating and fortunate – Thanksgiving followed almost immediately by Christmas followed immediately by the New Year. We can thank God for all the blessings that have been ours during the year – Thanksgiving – and then be reminded of the great hope, love, and grace of God seen in Jesus – Christmas – with its reminder that a new beginning and a fresh start is possible.

The month January is named for the Greek god Janus. Janus had two faces—one looking back in time, the other looking forward. He was considered the god of beginnings, endings, and transitions. It is entirely appropriate this month be named for such a character. For it is at this time of year that we look back – with joy, sadness, regret, and a myriad of other emotions – and forward into the unknown future that lies before us in the New Year. We make our resolutions and hope, looking into the future, that 2018 will be better.

It is the possibility of new chances—new beginnings—that really sets this time of year apart. But it’s not just the change of the date that brings this promise to life. I saw a recording of an interview by Jack Paar of Roman Catholic Bishop Fulton Sheen about the meaning of Christmas. He spoke of it as the, “pivotal point,” of history – B.C. to A.D. He said the great thing about the Christmas message was that “no matter what your past has been, you can start over again; God has made it possible in the sending of His Son to save us from our sins.” Christmas sets the stage for us to move into a new life—symbolically by a change in our calendar, and spiritually by a chance at a new relationship with our Creator.

There’s an ancient Mozarabic prayer (meaning it comes from the Christian community living in Muslim controlled Spain in the 8<sup>th</sup> century) for the New Year. It reads:

*Oh Thou, who art ever the same,  
 Grant us so to pass through  
 the coming year with faithful hearts,  
 that we may be able in all things  
 to please Thy loving eyes. Amen.*

Our prayer is always to do those things pleasing to God. But we also know we often fall short of that goal. God loves us no matter what we have done or who we have been. We can start over. Christ told Nicodemus that he must be born again, and we have the opportunity to do that each and every year...each and every day, every

hour, every minute. That’s the Christmas message. That’s the challenge of a New Year—to remember that at each and every moment. Christ came, lived out his life in our midst, challenged us to follow after him, gave himself for us, died, and rose again. It’s possible to start all over again if we live with Christ in our lives and in our hearts.

So, my brothers and sisters, wherever we may be in our lives – happy times, sad times, all times – because of God’s love, we can truly say and mean every word – HAP-  
 PY NEW YEAR!

**House Blessings**

A house blessing is an ancient tradition that can be found in Protestantism, Orthodox Christianity, and Roman Catholicism. These blessings are usually performed by a pastor or priest who sprinkles holy water as he or she walks through every room of the house, accompanied by the residents of the house, whilst praying for those who live there. House blessings date back to the early days of Christianity.

Traditionally, house blessings are done at the start of the New Year. If you are interested in having your home blessed for the New Year, please contact Fr. Chad. He will be happy to make arrangements during the first days of January to come and bless your home.

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EDWARD WAS SO FOND OF HIS NEW SNOWMAN THAT HE COULDN'T HELP BUT MAKE HIM A GUARDIAN SNOW ANGEL

**News from DoK**

Next DoK 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 16



Our Daughters of the King, Margaret of Scotland Chapter, will meet Tuesday, January 16 at 10:30 a.m. in Hobson Library.

We are studying "What happens when women pray" by Evelyn Christenson. Please review chapter 4 for the January meeting. We had 4 members present in December.

Contact Mary Catherine Williams at 276-326-2411 if you have questions or comments. All women from Episcopal, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic churches are eligible for membership.

**Our Prayers are offered**

For Healing and God's Presence for our members, and relatives and friends of our members: Dorene Dimes, Wanda Myers, Tom Blevins, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Edi, Marlene, Lee Puckett Sr., Sierra, Linda, Valerie Mahood, Thomas Jaworski, Hal Gusler, Roy Abel, Alex B., Toni R, Brian, Phyllis & Nelson Walker, Linda Sydeski, Ed, Peggy, Alexis, Johnmark, Debbie, Maxine, Sylvia, Judy Anderson, Zac Carter, Ellie Spencer, the Dawson Family, and Joan.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection, we commend our prayers for those unknown to us who have died. We pray that God will grant his peace to all who mourn.

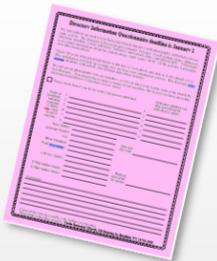
To list someone for addition to the Prayer List, please contact the office, email [secretary@cecbf.org](mailto:secretary@cecbf.org), or telephone at (304) 327-6861. Please note that the prayer list in the Sunday Bulletin is purged at the end of every month. If you want names to continue, please contact the church office.



**F**our Corners Sunday School at Christ Church is a cooperative effort of Christ Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, Immanuel Lutheran Church, and Bluefield Baptist Church. The study material is from the Godly Play series.

**Directory Questionnaires due NOW**

If you have not yet turned in your directory questionnaire, please do so ASAP so we can finalize the directory for publication. Leave it at the church office Tuesday through Thursday from 9-2 or at church on Sunday. If you need a copy of the questionnaire, please pick one up from the office or let me know and I can Email one to you.



Thanks, *Don Williams*

**January altar flowers**

The following persons have graciously offered to donate altar flowers during the month of January:



- January 7: Norma Mahood-Bay in memory of Dr. John Mahood by his family
- January 14: The Clement Family
- January 21: Tom Coughlan
- January 28: Mrs. Jay Kephart

We thank them for their kindness and generosity.



Please contact Dee Puckett, Junior Warden, if you notice needed building maintenance. Contact Dee at [dpuckettwv@yahoo.com](mailto:dpuckettwv@yahoo.com), 276-322-1832 (Home), or 304-320-4640 (Cell).

Office hours are 9-2 Tuesday through Thursday



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday</b>	1 Office open by appointment	2	3	4	5 Office Closed	6 The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ
<b>7 Epiphany 1, The baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ</b>	8 Office open by appointment	9	10 6:00 p.m. Men's Dinner in Rowley Hall 7:00 p.m. Vestry meeting in Hobson Library	11 	12 Office Closed	13 
<b>14 Epiphany 2</b>	15 February Rainbow Deadline Office open by appointment	16  10:30 DoK Meeting in Hobson Library	17 	18 Confession of St. Peter the Apostle 9-11 a.m. Food Pantry	19 Office Closed	20
<b>21 Epiphany 3</b>	22 Office open by appointment	23	24	25 The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle	26 Office closed	27
<b>28 Epiphany 4</b>	29 Office open by appointment	30	31	<b>2018</b>		

**2018 Directory questionnaires due**  
Christ Church has mailed out Directory questionnaires to everyone on the mailing list. PLEASE return your form ASAP! It is due now.

**Canterbury Club Sunday January 7, 6:00 at the home of Linda and Carl Thomas 345 Mountain View Avenue**  
Bring your favorite dish and a friend!

If your birthday is not in our database, please contact Don Williams at 276-326-3338 or [editor@cecbf.org](mailto:editor@cecbf.org)

- 4 George Clement
- 4 James Dyer
- 4 Patty Wilkinson
- 6 Buck Sowers

- 9 Adam Lowe
- 10 Linda Thomas
- 15 Mark Williams
- 20 Teresa Paine

- 24 Catherine Beemer
- 24 Howard Troutner
- 26 Frank Wilkinson
- 29 Benjamin Slater



**Beautiful set of China recovered from Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in Welch**



\$100.00



Christ Church has obtained 28 complete (4-piece), perfect place settings from Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in Welch. We also have 23 slightly damaged place settings, with minor chips, plus additional salad plates, saucers, and cups. Please contact Fr. Chad if you need more information.

**Making the House Ready for the Lord**  
*Mary Oliver (2006)*

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice, it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances but it is the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know that really I am speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.



**A Franciscan Blessing**

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.



**December 21 Food Pantry report**

- Grocery shopper: Patty Richardson
- Food baggers: Peter Richardson, Cameron Clement, William and John Allen, Betty Nash, Charlie Blevins, Kipp Cortez & others from Christ Church
- Food bags given out: 124
- Refreshments: Chad Slater & Linda Thomas
- Special gifts for the month: Gloves, Scarves, Hats, & Blankets given by Christ Church members
- Food Pantry workers: Betty Nash, Charlie Blevins, Mary Catherine Williams, Kipp Cortez, John and Carol Georgis, Tom Coughlan, Macon Clement, Peter Taylor, Linda Thomas, & Donald Kersey
- Kerosene vouchers given out: 72



**Pictures from December 21 Food Pantry:**



**Minutes of the Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church Bluefield, West Virginia December 13, 2017**

Present: David Hardin, Linda Ammar, Kathy Burge, Rob Merritt, Dee Puckett, Teresa Paine, Mary Catherine Williams, Susanne Pulse, and Frank Dragotto, Treasurer, Donald Kersey, and Father Chad Slater.

The December meeting of the Christ Episcopal Church Vestry was called to order on December 13, 2017, by David Hardin who declared a quorum.

Linda Ammar led the Vestry in a short devotion.

The minutes of the November meeting were passed on a motion made Mary Catherine Williams and seconded by Linda Ammar.

The treasurer's report was given by Frank Dragotto. The treasurer's report was the same as the report given at the annual meeting. A motion was made by Kathy Burge to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Linda Ammar. The report was approved.

Senior Warden's Report: David Hardin thanked everyone for their assistance during his term on the Vestry.

Junior Warden's Report: Dee Puckett also thanked everyone for their assistance during the year. The doors to Rowley Hall were installed. The new dishwasher, provided by the ECM, was installed.

Communications: A new directory will be published in 2018.

Education: Godly Play Sunday School program has started.

Evangelism: Christ Church Facebook posts are popular.

Finance: See Treasurer's Report.

Outreach: Snacks will be taken to the Fellowship Home on December 18, 2017. The Church will serve dinner at the Union Mission on January 24, 2018. We will provide Chili. The Union Mission will provide the side dishes.

Parish Life: Annual meeting went well. There will be a reception after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

Worship and Spirituality: Lenten Programs were discussed.

Rector's Report: Father Chad has suggested that after the first of the year, the Vestry review the calendar for upcoming events and plan out the year. There will be a Morning Prayer Service at 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Eve. The 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service will be at St. Mary's in Bluefield, Virginia. The 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service will be at Christ Church. On December 17, 2017, Father Chad will conduct services

at the Episcopal Church in Union, West Virginia.

New Business: Frank Dragotto suggested that we employ the men at the Fellowship Home to clean our sidewalks and shovel snow when needed.

Old Business: None

There being no further business, Father Chad dismissed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted: *Susanne Pulse*, Secretary



**Did you miss Sunday's sermon?**

We are now sending out Sunday Sermons in MP3 audio format to the Christ Church News list. If you are not on that list, please contact Don Williams at dlw@dlwco.com or editor@cecbf.org. Sermons that are recorded each week will be sent to the list.

**Parish Life report**  
*Mary Catherine Williams*

Thanks to everyone who helped to set up and then clean up after the Annual Meeting luncheon. And also let me thank everyone who helped at all of our events held last year. Without your help they would not have been successful. We are in need of baskets for use in the kitchen. If you have any that you can spare to donate, it would be appreciated.



**New doors downstairs**



**Enjoying coffee hour following service**

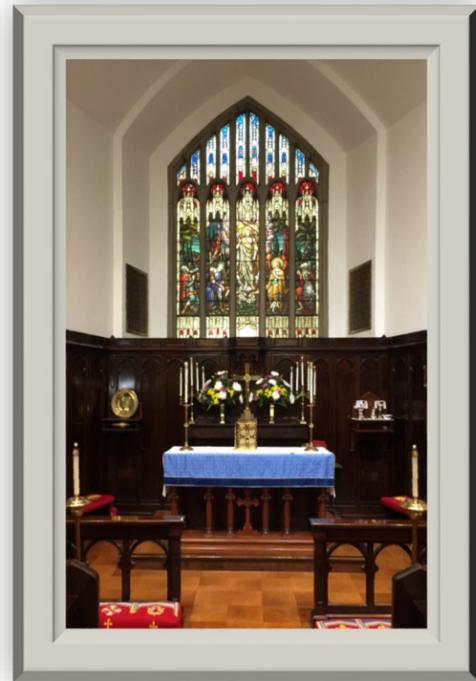


**Happy 68th Anniversary to Bea and Jim Paine!**



**Snack baskets for the Fellowship Home**

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Christmas snack baskets for the Fellowship Home (shown above). They were delivered on Monday, December 18.



Above: Sanctuary during Advent.



**Sunday School Christmas party**

(Left) Our Four Corners Sunday school class enjoyed a Christmas party on Saturday, December 23. Sunday School is held at 9:30 in the Children's Chapel.

**NOTE:**

The next Canterbury Club will be Sunday January 7, 6:00 p.m., at the home of Linda and Carl Thomas 345 Mountain View Ave.

Please bring your favorite dish and a friend! We hope to see you there!

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

On extremely bad days, if our Sunday service or any other event is canceled, notice will be sent via email and will be posted on our church Facebook page, WVVA-TV Channel 6, and on [www.WVVA.com](http://www.WVVA.com).

If you do not have access to a computer or television, you may telephone the Rev. **Chad Slater** at 304-325-5730 or (Cell) 304-543-5296 or Senior Warden **David Hardin** at 304-327-8040 or (Cell) 304-320-2322.



**Episcopal Church Men Christmas Dinner**

Our Episcopal Church Men (ECM) enjoyed a tasty Christmas meal on Wednesday, December 18. Ten Christ Church members welcomed Thirteen members from the Bluefield Fellowship Home at the dinner, supplied by David's Downtown.



**Congrats to newly-elected vestry members**

The congregation elected three new vestry members at the annual meeting on Sunday, December 3. The newly-elected vestry members are Donald Kersey, Becky Beckett, and Frank Dragotto. Committee assignments will be reported in the February issue of The Rain-

**The Rainbow Recipe of the Month**

Louisa Sowers

**Lemon Buttermilk Pound Cake**



**Ingredients**

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 c. shortening                      | 1/2 tsp. salt              |
| 1/2 c. butter or margarine, softened | 1 tsp. lemon extract       |
| 2-1/2 c. sugar                       | 3-1/2 c. all-purpose flour |
| 4 eggs                               | 1 c. buttermilk            |
| 1/2 tsp. baking soda                 |                            |
| 1 T. hot water                       |                            |

**Lemon sauce:**

- |            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 1 c. sugar | 1/2 c. hot water           |
|            | Juice and rind of 2 lemons |

**Directions:**

Cream shortening, butter and sugar until light and fluffy; add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Dissolve soda in hot water and add salt and lemon extract; stir into creamed mixture. Add flour to creamed mixture alternating with buttermilk, beginning and ending with flour, beat well after each addition. Pour batter into a well-greased and floured tube or bundt pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes. While still warm, punch holes in cake with toothpick; spoon lemon sauce over cake. Yield one 10-inch cake.

To make lemon sauce: combine all ingredients in a small saucepan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 10 to 12 minutes. Yield 1-1/2 cups.

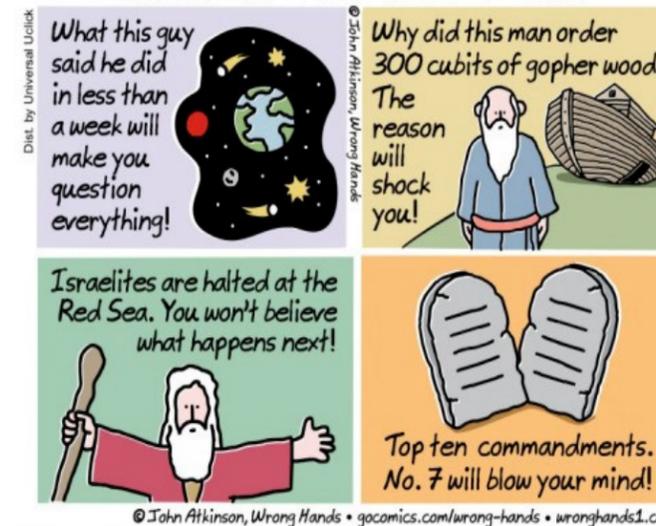
January 1, 2018

**Editor's note:** The Rainbow Recipe of the Month is a regular feature in The Rainbow. If you have a recipe to submit for consideration, please bring it to the church office or E-mail to [editor@cecbf.org](mailto:editor@cecbf.org)

Don Williams, Editor  
The Rainbow  
412 Ridgeway Dr  
Bluefield, VA 24605-1630

Or mail it to the following address:

**clickbait Old Testament**



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