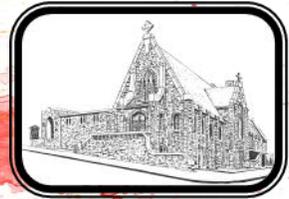


The Rainbow



JANUARY 2021

We Three Kings



Christ Church is proud to have three figurines representing the Three Wise Men. These figures were handmade by our own Shirley Ofsa.



“It was a lot of work involved but a labor of love,” Shirley told us by Facebook. “I bought the heads and hands and used old towels and used draping liquid to dip the towels in and then formed them. Let them dry and then painted them,” she said. “The turbans and jewel boxes were different items I used and decorated them. One is a flash cube. I have the heads for Mary and Joseph but haven't done them yet. It takes a lot of time. A lady in Kimball had a class years ago to show us how.”

It may be Epiphany but even the Wise Men have to adhere to social distancing rules!

Fellowship Home Christmas Basket

Members of Christ Church collected numerous goodies for the men of the Fellowship Home at Christmas time. Linda Ammar delivered the rather full basket. Thank you to everyone who contributed and made the season that much merrier for the residents of the Fellowship Home.

ECM Send Christmas Dinner to the Fellowship Home

The Episcopal Church Men typically invite the men of the Fellowship Home to a feast before Christmas every year. Given the circumstances this Christmas, dinner was delivered to the residents of the Fellowship Home. A meal of turkey, ham, green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, desserts, and more was catered by our own David Harden and delivered by Fr. Chad. The meal was a great and much appreciated opportunity to spread joy!

ECW Delivers Cookies to Shut-ins

Home-baked Christmas cookies made by members of Episcopal Church Women at Christ Church blessed 17 households this year. Thank you to all who helped make this a success!

Mailing Addresses for our Members Doreen Dimes and Joe Sanders *by Mary Catherine Williams*

Dorene Dimes remains a patient at Mercer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Bluefield, WV. If you could send her a card, I'm sure that she would appreciate it. No one is allowed to visit her, so I think cards would be nice. The address is: Ms. Dorene Dimes, Mercer Nursing and Rehab Center, 1275 Southview Dr., Bluefield, WV 24701.

Joe Sanders is still a resident at Glenwood Park. I'm sure he would love to hear from us at Christ Church. His address is: Mr. Joe Sanders, 1924 Glenwood Park Rd., Rm.106, Princeton, WV 24739-7969. He is not allowed visitors at this time because of the COVID pandemic.

In-Person Worship Update

While the Vestry made the decision in October to halt in-person worship while either Mercer or Tazewell County was in red on the Harvard map, by order of the Bishop of West Virginia all churches in counties which are red on the Harvard map must be closed to in-person worship.

Given the circumstances this means that for the foreseeable future worship will be conducted online only. When this changes the congregation will be notified. Until then, let us all do our part to slow the rate of transmission, get vaccinated, and put this scourge behind us. We are nearing the "light at the end of the tunnel." Let us not trip and fall a few feet from the finish line.

The Twelve Days of Christmas Lessons and Carols

We would like to thank the following individuals for making our Christmastide journey a reality: William Allen, Jim Bartlett (organist at Immanuel Lutheran Church), David Hardin, Tim Mainland, Maggie Mainland, Brendan Moir, Diana Moir, John Moir, Sandy Moir, Emma Slater, and Laurel Thompson. A special thank you is to Jennifer Slater for recording and uploading the videos. Through all of their talents we were able to more fully appreciate the Incarnation of our Lord in this most strange time. If you missed them you can still find them on our YouTube channel

Food Pantry by David Kersey

The monthly food pantry is Christ Church's longest running outreach ministry. Don Kersey wrapped up three years of supervising the food pantry in December. As Vestry member, he chaired the Outreach Commission but his term expired at the end of the month. Betty Nash plans to assume leadership in January.

December was a banner month for the food pantry. We received over \$2,000 of food donations from Grant Supermarkets as part of the 20 Days of Giving Campaign sponsored by our local television station, WVVA. On two separate occasions, pallets of food were picked up from the Green Valley Grant's location with the help of Peter Taylor and his full size pickup truck. Father Slater helped unload and stack the food in the undercroft.



The December food pantry hosted approximately 80 individuals and 45 kerosene vouchers were distributed.



VESTRY MINUTES
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH – BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

A regularly scheduled Vestry meeting was held on December 16, 2020, by Zoom attendance, due to the coronavirus pandemic

Present: Don Kersey, Frank Dragatto, Linda Ammar, David Kersey, Tom Coughlin, Elizabeth Clement, Delia Kersey, Rev. Chad Slater

Absent: Becky Beckett, Alyson Bowling

Reverend Slater called the meeting to order and declared the presence of a quorum. He then opened the meeting with a prayer.

Treasurer's Report: Frank Dragatto presented the Treasurer's report. The balance of accounts showed a marked increase, as a result of the market conditions at the close of last month. The financial statement through November 30 reflects a deficit of \$22,301.94, which includes the federal PPP loan of a little more than \$17,000, which we have treated as income in the documents, even though it is only a government loan at this point in time. We have submitted a request that the government forgive the loan and are hopeful that it will be forgiven, especially since we are a non-profit church and the size of the loan is de minimis. Upon motion of Delia Kersey and second of Don Kersey, the treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports: Don Kersey provided the outreach report. The church men provided the Fellowship Home men with Christmas Dinner, catered by David's. Ordinarily, the ECM will host the Fellowship residents at their December dinner meeting, but these are no ordinary times. Due to the global pandemic, the ECM decided to send the Fellowship Home the catered Christmas dinner, since we are not meeting in person. Rev. and Jennifer Slater delivered the dinners. Food Pantry will be held on December 17 and kerosene vouchers will be distributed along with the usual food items. With the onset of colder temperatures and issuance of kerosene vouchers, the attendance has ticked up. The Food Pantry did receive donations from Grants Supermarkets as part of the WVVA 20 Days of Giving Campaign. Father Slater reported that the St. Paul's Congregation in Pittsburgh sent us a \$2,500 contribution for the Food Pantry.

Linda Ammar reported that the customary Christmas baskets of snacks had been delivered to the Fellowship Home.

Rector's Report: Rev. Slater reported that we continue to broadcast the Sunday service with the church's Ipad. A new microphone is being acquired in an attempt to improve the audio quality. We are studying how to live stream the service on Facebook and You Tube, with Christmas Eve service being targeted as the first such attempt.

There will be a community Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m. in the parking lot below the church, hosted by our church, First Presbyterian and Immanuel Lutheran. A PA system will be used, attendees will stay in their cars and an FM transmitter will be set up so the service can be tuned in

on the auto stereo. Terry Whittington will play the carillon. Christmas Day mass will be recorded and uploaded for viewing on demand.

Father Slater reported that appeals for help have been greater than usual for the season and it is a busy time for the church.

Senior Warden Report: In the absence of Becky Beckett, Don Kersey reported that the Vestry search Committee had been meeting and have identified two candidates for election in January. A third candidate is still being sought.

A proposed budget was distributed and discussed. With suggested modification regarding the “Other” income line, the proposed budget was unanimously approved for presentation to the annual meeting upon motion of Don Kersey and second of Linda Ammar.

Reflections

by Father Chad Slater

2020 was supposed to be a great year.

I was to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime trip with my family, our parish was to host a conference meant to change the way we and others did ministry in our community, and we were poised to continue our growth and outreach.

Then everything fell apart.

There is much we could be bitter about from the last twelve months. We could be angry that plans change and traditions we hold dear to had to be altered. We could be maddened by the way life has been changed over these past many months. We could be saddened by the loss we all have experienced in one way or another.

Or, we could look on this past year as one of transformation.

We were forced to slow down in the spring. I noticed the beauty of the natural world a little more than I had in the past. My yard was filled with gorgeous flowers when usually either the deer or the frost gets to them before they bloom. I learned that singing, the Holy Eucharist, Coffee Hour, Canterbury Club, and dining with friends meant more than I ever knew.

In the summer I had my sabbatical—a rest and respite with my family I had thought I needed but quickly learned that I knew I needed. We were able to do some socially distanced traveling and family bonding and to find refreshment by the end of the time away.

Pastor Paul was able to skillfully lead the congregation while I was away. He provided pastoral care not only to the souls of this parish but to the way in which we communicated. He set up the weekly emails and the online Bible Study, and he managed our Sunday morning livestreams that now gather dozens—and often now, hundreds—of viewers.



This fall things slowed down again. Halloween became less about showing off costumes at my house, to bringing joy to our neighbors as we walked by and waved. All Saints Day became a time to remember those who had lost their lives in the midst of this pandemic. Thanksgiving suddenly was less about a bountiful meal and more about truly being glad for what we have and hope for.

Now in winter, as the year comes to a close, Christmas was as slow for me as I can remember in well more than a decade. We worshiped in the parking lot and online for Christmas Eve and I enjoyed spending the evening with my children. Christmas Day, normally a day that's a blur of activity and travel to family members' homes to celebrate the occasion with gifts and food, was a white Christmas. We actually spent the entire day in our pajamas, watching movies and eating all those wonderful things not on my diet.

2020 was supposed to be a great year, but instead everything fell apart.

Reflecting on the year, though, may give us the opportunity to put our lives—2021—back together...in a new order, one in which we recognize what our priorities actually are. I hesitate to say that this year is a gift in some ways because of all the heartache the year has seen. However, it was the year we were handed and if it were not a gift it was, at least, an opportunity.

Let us take this opportunity to slow down, reflect, remember, and resolve to make our lives more peaceful and fulfilled in 2021.

May God richly bless you in this coming year and may we never again lose sight of or forget our blessings.

Amen.

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, 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, Scott Rust, Emily Broome, David, Cady, Martin, Marion Lowe, Margaret Westfall, Harry, Ben Rose, Rev. Mark Seitz, Jay Kephart, Al Marra, Rich Longworth, and all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers.

2021 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Christ Episcopal Church will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Given the circumstances we now face, and by authority to do so by an Act of the Convention of the Diocese of West Virginia in October 2020, this Annual Meeting will be conducted by Zoom. We will celebrate our accomplishments over the past year, review where we now are, and look forward to the ministry and mission that awaits us in 2021! A link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed later. Please make every effort to attend this online meeting. Thank you!



January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Feast of the Holy Name	2
3 Second Sunday after Christmas Day 10:00 Morning Prayer	4	5	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ 10:30 Online Bible Study	7	8	9
10 First Sunday after the Epiphany Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ 10:00 Morning Prayer	11	12	13 No online Bible Study today 7:00 pm Online Annual Meeting	14	15	16
17 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 Morning Prayer	18 The Confession of St. Peter	19	20 10:30 Online Bible Study 7:00 Vestry	21 9:00 Food Pantry	22	23
24 Third Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 Morning Prayer	25 The Conversion of St. Paul	26 St. Timothy & St. Titus	27 St. John Chrysostom 10:30 Online Bible Study	28	29	30
31 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 Morning Prayer						

Birthdays

1-4 George Clement	1-15 Liliana Bennitt	1-26 Frank Wilkinson
1-4 James Dyer	1-15 Mark Williams	1-29 Benjamin Slater
1-4 Patty Wilkinson	1-16 Sheila Snidow	
1-6 Buck Sowers	1-18 Sandy Moir	
1-9 Lisa Van Dyke	1-20 Teresa Paine	
1-10 Linda Thomas	1-24 Catherine Beemer	
1-11 Lee Rose	1-24 Howard Troutner	

Altar Guild

Elizabeth Clement, Betty Nash and Linda Ammar

Flowers:

January 10	Norma Mahood Bay
January 17	Clement Family
January 24	Tom Coughlan
January 31	Jay Kephart

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



JANUARY 2021

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