

# The Rainbow



January 2022

## A Letter from the Rev. Lou Hays

Dear Friends and Colleagues in Christ,

I am grateful for this opportunity to introduce myself as I prepare to begin my service at Christ Episcopal Church. I want to thank the Wardens, Vestry and our Bishop for entrusting me with the sacred responsibility of administering the sacraments, preaching the Gospel, tending to the sick and the lonely, and providing advice and counsel as you transition from your beloved Chad to the next person God is calling to serve as your Rector.

It is such a privilege to walk with you as you grieve the departure of Chad and his family and as you prepare for the next chapter of the bright future to which God is calling you. While change is always difficult, I pray that this interim period will be fruitful and life-giving for all of us. This can be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on and appreciate all that, with God's help, you have accomplished with Chad, to continue to experience and serve Christ in the present moment, and to reflect on where God is calling you and the parish going forward.

I am a relative newcomer to the area, having moved with my wife, the Rev. Michelle Boomgaard, to Charleston in October of 2020 when she was called to serve as Priest-in-Charge of St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston. Yes, I will be traveling some distance to be with you, and at least initially, my time with you will primarily be on Sundays. In addition to leading the 10 a.m. service, I will be available to meet with individuals or groups and attend to other matters throughout the late morning and afternoon. I will also be in communication with staff and parish leaders throughout the week as necessary by phone, text and email.

Here is some information about my background. My first career was in federal, state and local government as an attorney and later as a planner and leader of social welfare and health care programs. After a long period of discernment, I entered the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, receiving a Master in Divinity degree. Prior to entering seminary, I also earned a Master of Public Health Degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Hygiene. My public health background has been helpful to me in understanding the pandemic and how best to cope with it.

Ordained as deacon and priest in the Diocese of Maryland, I first served as Assistant Rector of St. James Parish in Lothian, Maryland, then as Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Madison, Connecticut, and finally as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania. While at St. Paul's, I was fortunate to have hired Paul Barker to serve as Director of



Youth Ministry, which led to our mission trips to work with HEP in McDowell County and the continuing relationship with Christ Church. Small world!

After retiring as Rector of St. Paul's, I moved with Michelle to Ontario, Canada, when she became Rector of St. Christopher's Anglican Church in Burlington. While in Canada, I served as interim rector of the Church of the Epiphany and later St. Jude's Anglican Church, both in Oakville. The Anglican Church of Canada is in full communion with the Episcopal Church as part of the World-Wide Anglican Communion.

Although I grew up in the Presbyterian Church, it seems as though I'm now surrounded by Episcopal clergy. In addition to Michelle and me, my older son, Bret, is Rector of the Church of the Advent in Tallahassee, Florida. My younger son, Craig, lives and works in New York City.

I look forward to getting to know as many of you as possible. My first Sunday with you as celebrant and preacher is January 23. If you wish to speak with me beyond the opportunity presented following the service, I will be happy to schedule time with anyone who wants to speak with me privately. I can most easily be reached via email, at [Lou@cecbf.org](mailto:Lou@cecbf.org)

I hope you have had a joyful and blessed Christmastide and pray that 2022 will be a year of blessings for all of us.

In Christ's love,  
the Rev. Lou Hays

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### **The Rev. Chad Slater Named Canon to the Ordinary**

From *Dayspring* December, 2021



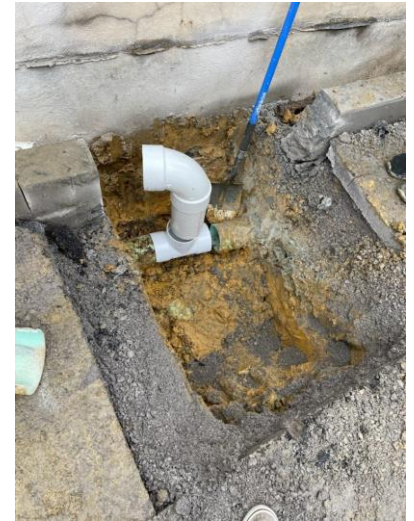
The Rev. Chad Slater has accepted Bishop Klusmeyer's call to become the new Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of West Virginia. The Bishop made the announcement of the appointment Nov. 14. Bishop Klusmeyer said, "I had the privilege of ordaining Chad to both the diaconate and the priesthood back in 2012 and 2013. He has served as rector of Christ Church, Bluefield, since 2013. "Along the way, Chad has served on Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee and has helped in rebuilding the Highland Educational Project, among other things," the Bishop said. Fr. Slater, his wife Jennifer and their children, Benjamin and Emma, will move to Charleston for a January start date. A native West Virginian, Fr. Slater presently serves as Diocesan Ecumenical Officer, representative to the West Virginia Council of Churches, dean of the New Southern Deanery and as a member of the Peterkin Board. He has

served on the Standing Committee where he was secretary, was the interim director of the Highland Educational Project and was twice elected as a deputy to General Convention. Locally, he serves on the Bluefield Zoning and Planning Board and provides pastoral oversight at Immanuel Lutheran Church. In 2019, he was awarded a Lilly Grant for a program titled Ubuntu in Appalachia to study community development models from African churches and how they could benefit West Virginia. He graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science in 2004 and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Bexley Hall in Columbus in 2013.

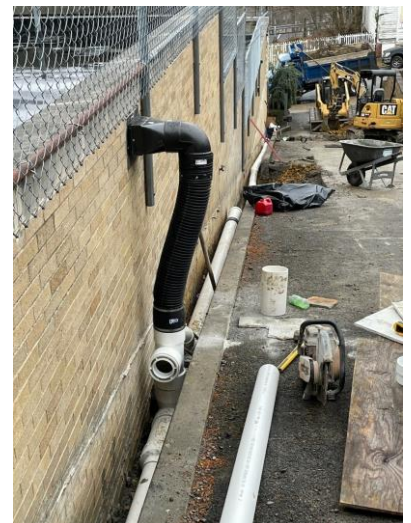
## Drainage Project by David Kersey

For years, we have had moisture/water problems inside the church, all along the east wall. The most obvious area affected is along the bottom of the office wing hallway, where the plaster perpetually has been “bubbled” and sloughing off. The Vestry authorized our Junior Warden, Peter Richardson, to investigate and address the problem.

It was initially assumed that the problem was surface drainage seeping down the outside of the wall. The original plan was to dig out between the driveway and wall and install a French drain. Lambert’s Construction was retained for the work.



After the initial excavation and with the assistance of the Bluefield Storm Water crew with their drain pipe camera, it was determined that all of the flat roof drains connect into three cast iron downspout pipes, contained within the 12-inch concrete exterior wall of the church. Those three pipes exit the wall at the base and are tied into a terra cotta pipe, designed to discharge the rainwater into the City storm drain. The terra cotta pipe has collapsed, meaning that all of the rainwater from the roof has been dumped into the soil all along the east wall. Lambert’s was able to cut into the concrete wall from outside, cut into the cast iron drain pipe, connect PVC pipe into the cast iron, and



then run a new PVC drain pipe down the exterior wall and tie it into the storm drain. Then a French drain was installed above the drain pipe and the concrete curbing between the wall and driveway was reinstalled.

Now we wait for rain....



## **ECW Delivers Cookies to Shut-ins**

Home-baked Christmas cookies made by members of Episcopal Church Women at Christ Church blessed 18 households this year. Thank you to all who helped make this a success!



Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck and Louisa Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Randy Snider, Margarett Joplin, David, Martin, Harry, Ben Rose, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kensley, John, Betty, Matt, Eric, Carol, Dave, Gail, Jean, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, Ivy and the Gaines Family, John, the Rev. Brian Shoda, the Patterson Family, Velma Harmon, and Taylor Frazier III, and Brian

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### Message from Saint Margaret of Scotland Chapter of the Daughters of the King



We are certain that everyone has seen *The Daughters of the King* mentioned in the Sunday bulletin and *The Rainbow*. Saint Margaret's Chapel is named for our local order of The Daughters of the King. Saint Margaret is the patron saint of Scotland, and her feast day is celebrated November 16.

#### Who We Are

Daughters of the King are women and girls between the ages of seven and 107 who desire a closer walk with the Lord. We are Christian women, both lay and ordained, who are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life and supported through the companionship of our sisters. We are all at different stages of our Christian journey – some have just begun and some have been on this path for a long time. But no matter where we are on our sacred journeys, our primary goal is the same – to know Jesus Christ and to make him known to others.

#### Vision Statement of the Order

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world.

#### Order vs. Organization

A Christian order is a community of men or women living under a religious rule. Because Daughters of the King accept a Rule of Life, we define ourselves as an order, not an organization. Our community is found primarily in our local chapters, but it extends around the world.

We don't just enroll as members and attend meetings. After a three-month period of study and discernment, each new member takes vows to uphold the two Rules of the order, the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service.

## Women of All Ages

Membership in the Order is open to women at every stage of life. The diversity of different ages strengthens and enriches our adult, or senior, Daughters of the King chapters. Younger women benefit from the discipleship of experienced spiritual mentors, and older women are invigorated by the fresh faith and energy of youth. Many senior chapters help spread the Kingdom to the next generation by sponsoring and supporting a Junior Daughters of the King chapter at their churches.

## Junior Daughters of the King

Junior Daughters are young women and girls from 7 to 21 years of age, who make a promise to pray daily and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Membership is extended to all baptized girls, regardless of denomination. Junior Daughters meet in chapters of three or more girls, under the guidance of a senior Daughter who serves as Directress. Upon admission, Junior Daughters receive a silver Greek fleury cross with the initials FHS For His Sake, as a symbol of their promise of daily prayer and service.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact any of our members listed below:

Becky Beckett	304-324-0233	Polla Rumberg*	304-323-3943
Chris Justice	276-322-3648	Becky Steorts	304-308-2112
Claire Lampert*	304-327-0344	Linda Thomas	304-325-9748
Bea Paine	304-325-9577	Mary Catherine Williams	276-326-2411
Teresa Paine	276-326-3103		

\*Sacred Heart Catholic Church

We usually meet the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m., but we are open to having some meetings at other times like afternoon or evening. We do have two members from Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Submitted by Mary Catherine Williams, president



## December Ministry Report

### Food Pantry

December 12, 2021

50 bags distributed

48 kerosene vouchers handed out

Volunteers: Betty Nash, Charlie Nash, Peter Taylor

### Union Mission

Preparation of meals at the Union Mission will continue on January 12 at 3:00 p.m. and January 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

## Fellowship Home

Snack baskets made possible by the generous contributions from the congregation were delivered to the men's home on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.





A regular meeting of the Vestry was held on December 15, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Vic Bowman	Alyson Bowling
Peter Taylor	Betty Nash
Peter Richardson	
Delia Kersey	
Linda Ammar	
Elizabeth Clement	
David Kersey	

David Kersey called the meeting to order, declared the presence of a quorum and opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes of the November 17, 2021 were reviewed. Upon motion of Delia Kersey and second of Peter Taylor they were unanimously approved. The minutes of the special meeting held on December 8, 2021 were reviewed and unanimously approved upon motion of Linda Ammar and second of Delia Kersey.

The financial report was reviewed. Questions regarding the second PPP loan were raised with regard to where the amount appeared on the income statement and whether it had been forgiven. David Kersey agreed to inquire into those issues.

The Senior Warden reported that he was waiting to hear from the Bishop on finalizing an agreement with Rev. Lou Hays.

For the Junior Warden report, Peter Richardson stated that we are waiting for an estimate on installation of electrical outlets in the nave.

The Communication commission report was given by Delia Kersey. The Rainbow continues to be produced with the great help of Mimi Merritt and Susanne Pulse.

Elizabeth Clement reported that the Education Commission had sponsored a Thanksgiving program for the children with a meal and scavenger hunt.

Peter Taylor, in absence of Betty Nash, reported that Outreach would hold the monthly food pantry with kerosene vouchers on Thursday December 16.

Linda Ammar, for Parish Life, reported that a farewell reception for the Slaters will be held at David's on Saturday January 15 from 3 to 5:00 p.m.

New Business-Upon motion of Peter Richardson and second of Delia Kersey, the Senior Warden and Finance Chair were authorized to draft a budget for the upcoming year.

The annual meeting will be held on January 9, 2021 after the regular service.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.



January 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Feast of the Holy Name
2 Second Sunday after Christmas Day 10:00 Holy Eucharist	3	4	5	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ	7	8
9 First Sunday after the Epiphany Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ 10:00 Holy Eucharist	10	11	12 3:00 Union Mission	13	14	15
16 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist	17	18 The Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle	19 7:00 Vestry Meeting	20 9:00 Food Pantry	21	22
23 Third Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist	24	25 The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle	26 St. Timothy & St. Titus 4:00 Union Mission	27 St. John Chrysostom	28	29
30 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist	31					

**Birthdays:**

1-4 George Clement	1-15 Liliana Bennett	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 2	Norma Mahood Bay
January 9	Clement Family
January 16	Tom Coughlan
January 23	Jay Kephart
January 30	Denise Melvin



Christ Episcopal Church  
200 Duhring Street  
Bluefield, West Virginia 24701

To our friends and family:



**January 2022**

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