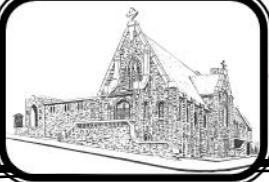


The Rainbow



Thank you, from Paul Barker

September, 2020

It is always a wonder how quickly time will seem to pass, especially in the month of August! Pentecost couldn't have been 14 weeks ago! Yet, I have already started my goodbyes and hope to wrap up the rest of them to you here, in this article of thanksgiving.

I am so blessed and grateful to have spent three months as your pastoral intern. From the very beginning, on that first Monday morning after Pentecost, it seemed Christ Church was alive. Folks were out in the memorial garden planting flowers and pulling weeds, projects were being worked on downstairs in the hall and in the office hallway, and over in the nursery. The sanctuary had been prepared for in-person worship so that we met the Bishop's Phase 2 safety guidelines. I took over as techy to insure that our services were available on livestream for folks to watch online. This was a duty I quickly showed to Alyson Bowling, our Reader and Acolyte, and David Kersey, our Usher. Thank you, to you two, for making sure that worship was complete and running smoothly. Your service to CEC is vital! To Linda Ammar and the Altar Guild; thank you for your service to this important ministry. The worship space was in very good order and the appearance was beautiful! Others who helped out with worship: Becky Kersey, Don Williams and Macon Clement, Thank you! Worship would not be complete, even when singing is not permissible, without the wonderful music ministry of Terry Whittington. Thank you for bringing such life to the service!

As I mentioned, many projects were underway this summer: the completion of the air units, the upgrades to Rowley Hall, and column building and painting, just to start the list. Thank you, to David Kersey and Peter Richardson for their work in the Hall. On all the little projects and the endless details involved, I am so thankful for the ever-presence of Mary Catherine Williams! I learned most everything I needed to about CEC from her. Her smile and laugh and dedication to her church are something I deeply admire and will always cherish. We have become such good friends. Thank You, Mary Catherine! And where there's Mary Catherine, there's usually Don. I learned valuable behind-the-scenes elements from you, Don. Thank you!

I could not have done my job efficiently had I not enjoyed a close working relationship with our parish administrator, Emma Bennett. I know I burned a trail into the carpet between our offices! She was always understanding when I had to learn something and willing to pause for several moments a day and just talk, about anything – the community, the world, and scripture. Thank you, Emma!

Other volunteers I saw on a regular basis I want to thank as well; Liz Clement, Betty Nash, Patty Richardson, and Susanne Pulse. At Food Pantry, Don Kersey, Peter Taylor, Charlie Blevins. At Union Mission, Art Mead, Delia Kersey, Sheila Brooks, Eleazor Resurreccion. My Bible Study Buddies, Liz and Patty. My emotional support team, Jim and Chris Justice, Norma Mahood-Bay, Shirley Ofsa, the Rev. Mary Lou Mannschreck. You all always brought a smile to my face when we would talk. Thank you for that support!

And how about all of you who watched our livestream from home all those Sundays! Phil and Valerie Mahood, Howard Troutner, Stan and Grey Kiser, Denise Melvin, Marie Wharen Blackwell and everyone else. Thank you for tuning in and for your comments.

And lastly, I want to say some special thanks to the Rev. Chad Slater and his family. It was his openness to possibilities that opened the doors to this crazy idea of bringing a Candidate to the Holy Orders of Deacons from the Diocese of

Pittsburgh down here to oversee the spiritual and operational well-being of CEC. Thank you, Becky Beckett, Senior Warden, and all the Vestry members for ensuring that I had everything I needed to be successful. Your commitment to the strength of CEC is amazing. And, thank you, Fr. Russ Hatfield, for being a strong mentor and friend. I look forward to the chance to buy you lunch when in Pittsburgh!

I was trying to keep this article short, but the evidence is to the contrary. There are, truly, so many of you that do so much, I know I've missed acknowledging some of you. But, and here's the head fake, as you can see, it takes a lot of dedicated and loving people to run a community of God. And that is exactly what you have at Christ Church. I know that we have often said that this was not the summer we had planned, but we saw past any stumbling blocks and worked hard through it all, together. I have definitely learned so much from all of you! This internship has been an incredible experience and I am fortunate and blessed. Peace Always, Paul

Building and Grounds Report By Mary Catherine Williams/ Tom Coughlan, Jr. Warden

Spring and Summer have been very busy at Christ Church. We started out with our HVAC project, which Peter Richardson and David Kersey chaired. It is now up and running, cooling and heating the kitchen, Rowley Hall, the nave, and the chancel areas. David and Peter worked on the decorative columns to cover the HAVC wires and tubes in Rowley Hall and in the organ area. There is still some landscaping that is being worked on. This will screen the outside units on Tazewell Street. After the old radiators were removed, we had to replace some of the cork tile in the nave, a project directed by Tom Coughlan. Thank you, Peter, and David, for all your work on these projects.

Then we had additional much-needed landscaping work to complete around the church. David Hardin oversaw this project. A tree on the east side of the church was growing into power wires. AEP came and looked at the tree and said that it needed to be cut down. They told David that they would take care of it, so we did not have to pay to have it cut down. There was other wiring that was coming off the power pole that had to be taken care of, and I think it is finished. A pile of crushed stone that had been dumped at the top of our driveway was removed. David Kersey was able to have the berm at the top of the driveway replaced with asphalt. Thank you, David Hardin, for organizing this project.

Terry Whittington and David Hardin purchased and planted the flowers for the pots in front of the church. They also purchased flowers for the memorial garden. Then Linda Ammar, Linda Thomas, Elizabeth Clement and Art Mead planted the flowers in the memorial garden. After that, several members volunteered to water the flowers this summer. Linda Ammar volunteered to schedule the watering. Those that helped were Patty Richardson, Elizabeth Clement, Betty Nash, Charlie Blevins, Mary Catherine Williams, and Linda Ammar. Terry Whittington sprayed the weeds that came up in the sidewalk around the church, a never-ending job. Thank you, Terry. Thanks to all who helped with these projects. If you have not seen the flowers, you may want to go by the church and look at them. They have been beautiful this summer.

Rowley Hall, the kitchen, the hallway outside of the kitchen and the organ area have fresh coats of paint. Jim Pulse helped change out all the light bulbs on the main level to LED bulbs this spring. John Allen power washed the Columbarium. We had the handicapped door repaired this summer so that it closes better. Work on the front door is scheduled soon. The nursery will need some work done since we have had a water problem there. We still have some inside wall repair to do and some caulking on the outside of the east side of the building.

The Historical Society sign on Tazewell Street has been relocated nearer to Duhring Street.

The church purchased an Automated Exterior Defibrillator (AED) and it has been mounted in the narthex. Maintaining our church is a never-ending job!

United Thank Offering Ingathering *By Patty Richardson*

September is the month designated for the United Thank Offering to be taken up and blessed in each participating Episcopal Church. Christ Church will take part in the collection of the UTO during the month of September.



The United Thank Offering is a special offering that has been sponsored traditionally in our church by the Episcopal Churchwomen; however, anyone can participate whether they are a member of the ECW or not. The idea is that you set aside a box, bowl, basket or any other container to collect your offering any time you are thankful. You could be thankful for something as small as a good parking place or a birthday wish from a friend. It could also be for things on a much larger scale such as getting a new job, recovering from a serious illness, or having your family celebrating the birth of a new child. We all have many things to be thankful for at this time. Your donation can be whatever you decide. It can be a little or a lot. Your donation can be collected as blessings happen during the year or only at the collection time. You may use one of the little cardboard boxes pictured here during the year or you may choose to make an annual donation.

You may use a special offering plate that will be on the ushers table at the church, or drop your offering by the church during the week, or mail it into the church. You may also contribute online by going to the website episcopalchurch.org. All donations for 2020 will be awarded to organizations helping with Covid Relief efforts. Please be generous!

A prayer for the United Thank Offering:

Lord God,

Thank you for your faithful people giving thanks and sharing with those in need. Keep us mindful of all our abundant blessings. Help us to be generous in giving through the United Thank Offering. Thank you for this opportunity to spread your love both near and far. Amen

Daughters of the King *By Mary Catherine Williams DoK President*

As of right now, I have decided to cancel DoK meeting for the near future. I think that we should wait until we can open the church for in-person meetings.

Landscape Survey for Bishop Search *By Father Kim Webster, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Charleston*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, our diocese is in a time of discernment as we work toward calling our next bishop. Part of the process is collecting data about ourselves, our hopes, our dreams, and our understanding of the type of person who will best lead us. Holy Cow, a consulting company, has developed a survey called Landscape. It is an online and hard copy survey, which will be live for you from Sunday September 6, 2020, through Sunday, October 4, 2020. Holy Cow says about this survey: "As we search for a bishop, it's important to gather as much information from as many individuals as possible. What do YOU think we should seek in a bishop? The characteristics you identify as vital to leading our diocese will guide our discernment process. All congregations and clergy within our diocese are invited to complete the survey. Please do not discuss the questions with one another prior to completing the questionnaire so that the responses you record are your own. Please give your impression as it is now, even if you feel that your opinions are not well informed and could change by talking to others. Use the "Don't know" response only in those rare cases where you have no impression at all. At the end of the survey, you will be given a chance to respond to questions about which you wish to comment. You will need 20 minutes to fill out the entire survey and to make comments. You cannot save your responses and return to the survey later, so please complete the survey in one

sitting. Otherwise, you must start over from the beginning. Thank you for your time, your thoughts, and your continued prayers.” Our Search Committee will also begin Holy Listening sessions, where you will be able to voice your comments via Zoom and in some cases in limited in-person sessions, if that option is possible in our current pandemic situation. Thank you in advance for your participation and your prayers as we continue to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

The Diocesan Bishop Coadjutor Search and Nominating Committee *By Linda S. Comins, Dayspring editor and a member of St. Matthew's, Wheeling*

The Diocesan Bishop Coadjutor Search and Nominating Committee has begun its work, with a few modifications necessitated by pandemic-related restrictions. During the 2019 diocesan convention held in Wheeling last October, Bishop W. Michie Klusmeyer announced that he was calling for the election of a bishop coadjutor to be his eventual successor in the Diocese of West Virginia. A coadjutor holds the right of succession to become head of a diocese upon the diocesan bishop’s retirement. Bishop Klusmeyer has not announced a date for his retirement. He will retain ecclesiastical authority within the diocese until he steps down. Under The Episcopal Church’s canons, a diocesan bishop has up to three years to retire after a coadjutor’s consecration. After Bishop Klusmeyer’s retirement, the coadjutor will become the eighth bishop of West Virginia.

The diocese’s Standing Committee, which is in charge of the selection process, named members of the search committee in March, after reviewing applications. The search committee is charged with identifying candidates for the bishop coadjutor’s position. Serving on the search committee are clergy and laity from parishes throughout the diocese. The Standing Committee has hired the Rev. Gary Butterworth of Andersonville, N.C., to serve as search consultant.

The Rev. Al Prichard is leading the search committee as its chair. The Rev. Stan Holmes is serving as chaplain to this committee. The Rev. Jordan Trumble is acting as the Standing Committee’s non-voting liaison to the search committee. Other members of the search committee are Sonya Armstrong, John Beall, the Rev. Marjorie Bevans, Andy Bird, John Canfield, Linda Comins, Diane Cormack, Ray Lowther, the Rev. Nancy Martin, Paul Miller, Greg Pennington, Susanne Pulse, Marti Steiner and the Rev. Kim Webster.

The search committee planned to launch its work with a two-day retreat in late March, but that event was canceled because of the statewide pandemic shutdown. As the closure extended, the group decided to open its process in June with three consecutive evening sessions conducted by using Zoom online technology. Since that time, the committee, its subcommittees and subcommittee chairs have continued to hold virtual Zoom meetings. Members of the search committee have formed three subcommittees: survey, profile, and education-communication. The survey subcommittee is working directly with Holy Cow! Consulting to prepare the diocesan-wide survey. Webster is chair of this subcommittee. The profile subcommittee, led by Beall as chair, is creating a multimedia profile to show to potential applicants for the bishop coadjutor’s position. The profile will include data gleaned from the survey, information about churches and ministries within the diocese and a brief history of the Diocese of West Virginia. The education-communication subcommittee, with Comins as chair, is sharing a weekly series of reflections to help survey respondents in discernment for the diocese’s next bishop. The subcommittee also plans to provide educational material concerning the role of a bishop coadjutor and the responsibilities of a bishop diocesan. In addition, the education-communication subcommittee is making periodic announcements and releasing other information to the diocese regarding the search process. After interviewing finalists for the coadjutor’s position, the search committee will present a slate of candidates to the Standing Committee for its approval. After nominees have been introduced to the diocese, a bishop coadjutor will be elected by lay delegates and clergy during an annual diocesan convention or at a special convention. The Standing Committee has not set a date for the election.

VESTRY MINUTES WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020

The regular monthly vestry meeting was held on August 19, 2020.

Present: Becky Beckett, Senior Warden, Tom Coughlan, Junior Warden, David Kersey, Linda Ammar
Pastor Paul Barker, Frank Dragotto (by Zoom), Don Kersey (by Zoom). Absent: Allyson Bowling,
Elizabeth Clement, and Delia Kersey.

Pastor Paul opened the meeting with a devotional reading from “*Devotions for the Beach*”.

Treasurer’s Report: Frank Dragotto presented the Treasurer’s Report for June 30 and July 31. For the month of June, the church expenses exceeded income by \$8,000.00; for the month of July, the church expenses exceeded income by \$10,000.00. For that same period in 2019, the church was \$8,000.00 in the black. The balance sheets for the same two months were also reviewed. Thanks to a rebound of the stock market, the overall asset picture of the church has improved somewhat. Whereupon, there was a general discussion regarding the reduction of church collections from members since the onset of the pandemic. It was acknowledged that this is a difficult time for everyone and that the church would not presently make an appeal for additional financial support from the members. Upon motion of Linda Ammar and second of David Kersey, the Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved.

Senior Warden’s Report: Becky Beckett gave the Senior Warden’s Report. Peter Richardson and David Hardin continue to work on proposals for some sort of screen outside the church on Tazewell Avenue, to hide the exterior heating and cooling units. Requests had been received from the congregation to obtain plaques for the St. Mary’s columbarium cross, so that they would all be uniform. After brief discussion, upon motion by David Kersey and second of Linda Ammar, the vestry unanimously approved authority for Becky Kersey, who had obtained quotes on same, to proceed with ordering the plaques. Upon receipt, the plaques can be engraved locally. Senior Warden Beckett reported that on two recent occasions we have experienced vagrants sleeping and/or sitting on the church steps on Duhring Street. We have had church personnel startled and made uncomfortable by such presence. As a corollary, we have had some concern expressed for church security during church services. After a full discussion of both issues, and with input from Father Slater, it was agreed that the main church doors would not be locked during service on Sunday mornings. It was also agreed that any church personnel who arrive at the church and find any unwanted persons present or are worried about the security of the church, should call the Bluefield Police Department before attempting to enter the church. On September 2, the Church Insurance Company will send an auditor for the annual review of the building and contents. The Bishop Coadjutor Search and Nominating Committee has issued three reports. Those three status reports have been made available on Pastor Paul’s weekly email. It was agreed that the vestry would ask Susanne Pulse, who is a member of the Search Committee, to write an article for the Rainbow on the status of that process.

Junior Warden’s Report: The Junior Warden’s Report was presented by Junior Warden Tom Coughlan. The report of Thompson & Litton, dated May of 2019, was reviewed. Upon discussion of those recommendations and in consideration of the proposals submitted by McGonagle Home Improvement, it was agreed that action on that report would be tabled, upon motion of David Kersey and second of Tom Coughlan. Chuck McGonagle will be present at the church to perform the annual backflow prevention device test, required by the West Virginia Water Company.

Commissioner Reports: David Kersey gave the Communication Committee report. The newsletter is being distributed regularly. Many thanks to Susanne Pulse for her work on that, Mimi Merritt for her contributions and the contributions of other members of the congregation in making that monthly newsletter interesting and informative.

Education Commission: In the absence of Elizabeth Clement, Senior Warden Beckett reported that the church had made gifts to its graduating youth members. The church chapel has been cleaned up after the electrical and heating and cooling projects. Additional cleaning efforts have been made in the children’s chapel. Outreach Commission:

The Outreach Commission Report was given by Donald Kersey. Food pantry will be held on August 20, 2020. Because of the decline in numbers since the onset of the great pandemic, it was not necessary to purchase food for this month's food pantry. Pastor Paul reported that diapers and homemade masks will also be available for distribution at the food pantry.

Parish Life: Parish Life Chair Linda Ammar reported that, after a survey of numbers, it was decided to cancel the scheduled September picnic. Once again, the cancellation is a result of the great pandemic. Linda Ammar and Mary Catherine Williams have also worked hard to clean the kitchen and Rowley Hall, after the recent work.

Rector's Report: Pastor Paul reported that he and Father Slater will meet this week to work on transitioning Father Slater back into the fold. Pastor Paul reported that his work at the church and service to community this summer have been a great success. Pastor Paul reminded the vestry that he had been hosting a weekly bible study, which started in July. Although there has been faithful attendance and participation, the participants are few in number. Whether that ministry will continue will be re-evaluated. He commented that a Facebook live chat service might be considered, again due to the great pandemic. Pastor Paul reported that the church continues to operate in Phase 2 of the Coronavirus protocol, meaning that social distancing is recognized and masks are always utilized in the building. Regular sanitation of the worship space and offices is being accomplished each week. Pastor Paul noted that Bishop Klusmeyer has been watching the services on Facebook and in the absence of complaint from the Bishop, assumes that our compliance is acceptable to him.

Old Business: None. New Business: Father Slater will return permanently with Labor Day Sunday on September 6. There being no further business, the meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor Paul.

The Puckett Family has moved to North Augusta, South Carolina. Bruce has taken a position with Matthews Motors in Augusta, Georgia. We are sad to see them leave but are excited for their new possibilities. Their present temporary address is 205 Hickory Place, North Augusta, South Carolina 29841. Please keep Bruce, Dee and Will in your prayers during this time of transition.

Picnic scheduled for September 13, 2020, has been cancelled. It has been rescheduled for August 29, 2021

Prayer List: 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, Mike McLeod, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Bob Moore, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, the Riddle Family, Kathy, Patsy Arnold, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarett Joplin, Scott Rust, Emily Broome and her son Randy, David, the Vinson Family

UNION MISSION
Wednesday, August 12th
91 meals prepared
36 meals served on Wednesday
55 served by staff on Thursday
Menu: BBQ on a bun, cole slaw, baked Beans, chocolate dessert, beverage
Volunteers from Christ Church, Bluefield WV, Christ Church, Pocahontas, VA, and the Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Bluefield, WV

FOOD PANTRY
Thursday, August 20th
28 bags distributed
Volunteers: Betty Nash, Charlie Blevins, Peter Taylor Patricia Taylor, Jennifer Slater

UNION MISSION
Wednesday, August 26th
128 meals prepared; 87 served on Wednesday; 41 served by staff on Thursday; Menu: BBQ on a bun, cole slaw, baked Beans, brownie and milk.
Volunteers: Paul Barker, Elizabeth and Cameron Clement, Delia Kersey Art Mead and Eleazer Resurreccian

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	7 Labor Day	8	9 3:30 Union Mission	10	11 Patriot Day	12
13 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	14 Holy Cross Day	15	16 7:00 Vestry	17 9:00 Food Pantry	18	19
20 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	21 Saint Matthew Apostle and Evangelist	22 Fall begins	23 3:30 Union Mission	24	25	26
27 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	28	29 Saint Michael and All Angels	30			

The following people have graciously offered to donate flowers for the month of September:

September 6, 2020 Richard and Carolyn McCue Matthews
 September 13, 2020 Jim and Chris Justice
 September 20, 2020 Frank and Bernadette Dragotto
 September 27, 2020 Sheila Brooks

BIRTHDAYS:

September 7 McConni Meachum
 September 8 Mark Van Dyke
 September 8 Terry Whittington
 September 8 Bill Wimmer
 September 9 Joe Graham
 September 10 Dart Cox

September 10 Bobbie Kersey
 September 13 Samantha Kinney
 September 16 Will Czarnik
 September 19 Becky Beckett
 September 22 Don Kersey, Jr.
 September 23 Lynn King

Altar Guild for September:

Mimi Merritt, Teresa Paine and Linda Ammar

September 23 Norma Mahood-Bay
 September 25 Patrick Anderson
 September 25 Gina Wilkinson
 September 27 Mimi Merritt
 September 30 Trey Snidow

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



September 2020

Editor in Chief:	David M. Kersey
Editor:	Susanne Pulse (susannepulse@gmail.com)
Copy Editor:	Mimi Merritt
Contributors:	Linda Ammar, Bea Paine, Mimi Merritt
Graphic Design:	Susanne Pulse