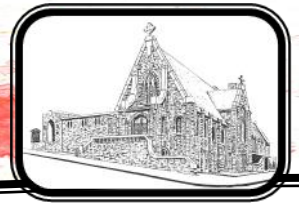


The Rainbow



September, 2022

Betty Nash Faculty of the Year Recipient *by Mimi Merritt*

Christ Church member Betty Nash was recently named Bluefield State University's 2021-2022 "Faculty of the Year" recipient.

A professor in the bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program at BSU, Betty received her bachelor in science degree in nursing from the University of Tennessee and a master of science degree in nursing from WVU. She is certified as a Critical Care Registered Nurse through the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, and she co-authored the application for the development of the School Nurse Program at BSU. She helped move the BSN program to an all-online format.

A faculty advisor to the BSU Student Government Association, Betty also coordinates the Food Pantry on campus.

As a faithful member of the Christ Church community, Betty volunteers her time as a member of the Vestry, as a monthly regular in our Food Pantry, as a member of the Altar Guild, and as our parish nurse, a role that took on a special significance during the Covid pandemic.

She and Christ Church member Charlie Bevins have two grown children, Jason Blevins and Jessica Cole, and two grandchildren, Liam and Lily Cole, both of whom were baptized at Christ Church.

In the Bluefield community, Betty is an active member of the Bluefield Beautification Commission and the Trillium Garden Club.



Lay Eucharistic Visitors Are Coming! *By the Rev. Lou Hays*

What are Lay Eucharistic Visitors and why do we need them? A Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) is a parishioner who has been trained and commissioned to bring communion to someone who is unable by reason of illness or disability to come to church. We need LEVs because there are more homebound parishioners of Christ Episcopal Church than one clergyperson is reasonably able to visit on a regular basis.

You may remember that one of the hopes and dreams expressed by the congregation and included in our parish profile is "better care for our elderly and homebound parishioners." Your new Rector will have his or her hands full getting acclimated to Christ Church and Bluefield and beginning to work with the Vestry and congregation on the hopes and dreams expressed in the parish profile. Expecting that person to visit all of our homebound parishioners soon after arriving is unrealistic. It will be challenging for the new Rector to visit everyone within the first six to twelve months.

Our homebound parishioners can look forward to receiving communion several times a year, and a visit from the priest intermittently.

So how does this ministry work? On Sunday morning, some of the consecrated bread and wine will be put in special containers and placed in a communion kit after the congregation has received. Right before the Post Communion Prayer, the LEV assigned for that particular Sunday will come up to the altar to receive the communion kit as the priest says, "In the name of this congregation I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood. We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup." Soon thereafter, the LEV will travel to the homebound person's residence to give that person communion.

The LEV will normally be accompanied by one or more parishioners. The visit serves several purposes. It allows the parish to connect with the parishioner, bringing greetings, love, and news from the congregation. It allows the parish to answer questions the person may have about what is going on at Christ Church. It allows the LEV to report back to the priest if there are pastoral or other issues that need clergy attention. And, of course, it allows the homebound parishioner to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Currently several parishioners are being trained to serve as LEVs. I hope that in the not-too-distant future, you will see a LEV being commissioned on Sunday morning as a visible sign of our connection to those unable to come to church. Thanks be to God!



A BIG THANK YOU!!! *By Mary Catherine Williams*

The Daughters of the King would like to thank everyone who contributed to The Wade Center school supplies project. It was a huge success. We are sure that these supplies will be helpful to our community kids. I guess we all remember when we started a new school year with new supplies. These supplies were delivered to The Wade Center on August 16. Thanks to Linda Ammar in helping me with the delivery.



The 15th Lambeth Conference, held this summer in Canterbury, England, was followed by many Christ Church members. Both Bishop Mike and our new Bishop Matthew attended this first Lambeth Conference since 2008, and we viewed photographs and dispatches posted on social media by Bishop Matthew and others. Longtime Christ Church member and our organist and choirmaster Terry Whittington recently reflected the following on his own Lambeth memory:

I went to London for a visit in 1968. Bishop William Marmion (the Bishop of Southwestern Virginia) gave me the telephone number for Father Andrew at Lambeth Palace. This was during the 10th Lambeth Conference. I was invited to Lambeth that afternoon for sherry in the apartment of Father Andrew, the Chaplain to His Grace, the Archbishop.

When the Archbishop arrived from a meeting, we went downstairs to the library, and I met Dr. Michael Ramsay, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Later I was given a tour of the Palace including the chapel, sacristy, library, and formal dining room. The dining room was set for a banquet that evening for the bishops.

Then we went to the room that housed the armory when the archbishop had a standing army. I later went back to my hotel where I shocked my friends who had lived there all their lives and had never had this opportunity. Father

Andrew let me know that the archbishop did not give private audiences any more than Queen Elizabeth did, but it still happened.

David Hardin and I were staying in Palm Beach, Florida, in January 2016. We always attended Bethesda-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church. That Sunday morning Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, retired, was preaching the sermon. His wife was also with him.

Certainly, all of these were highlights of my life.

Annual Church Picnic *by Mimi Merritt*

Sunday, August 28, was the day of a Christ Church favorite event, the annual church picnic and service at Lotito Park in Bluefield. Blue skies, a breeze that was sometimes gentle and sometimes decidedly exuberant, great food, and good cheer among an attendance of about 50 made the day a success.

Father Lou's sermon lamented tragic and alarming events of the previous week. In Bluefield, a bomb threat at the Federal Courthouse and at Westminster Presbyterian Church turned out to be a hoax, but only after frightening the city, disrupting downtown business, and making headlines that reached far beyond our mountains. At the Chautauqua Institution in western New York, world famous author Salman Rushdie had been brutally stabbed on a lecture stage by a 24-year-old. The reality that nowhere on earth can guarantee safety was not lost on Father Lou, whose car's license plate bears the name Chautauqua, a place "dedicated to exploring the best in humanity," according to its website, and a location he visits frequently. And yet, as Sunday's scripture reading from Hebrews reminds us, "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

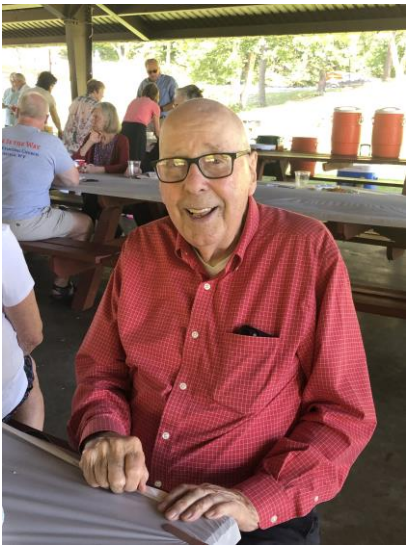
Brian Tracey provided the music on his keyboard, with hymns that were particularly uplifting: "Holy, Holy, Holy," "Jesus is Lord of All the Earth," "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God," "In Christ There is No East or West," and "I the Lord of Sea and Sky."



Following the service, parishioners and guests dined on David Hardin's fried chicken and an abundance of vegetable sides and fruit bowls and delectable desserts contributed by church members. Highlights included Shirley Ofsa's legendary Crack Cake and Coconut Cake, and homemade lemonade made by young Theron Lewis, who apparently has inherited his parents' creative culinary talents.

Following lunch, tradition continued as many boarded the Ridge Runner #36 locomotive for a festive ride around the city park.





MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT

AUGUST 2022

FOOD PANTRY

8/18/22

23 bags distributed Volunteers: Betty Nash, Lily Cole, Peter Taylor

UNION MISSION

Meals will be prepared at the Union Mission on the following dates and times:

4:00 PM on Wednesday, September 14

3:30 PM on Wednesday, September 28

Food Pantry Request *by Betty Nash*

Our friends at the Food Pantry really enjoy receiving gloves, hats, scarves, and socks. There will be a collection box in the hall to drop your items. Thank you so much!!



IT'S TIME FOR PANSIES!!! *By Mary Catherine Williams*

Summer is almost over and fall and winter are coming. Last year after a few years off, we planted winter pansies. If you would like to contribute to the pansies fund, you may send a check or money to the church earmarked "Pansies Fund." We probably will pull the summer flowers sometime in late September or early October. We will need volunteers to pull the summer flowers and plant the pansies when the time comes. Last year they were such a joy to see during the winter and spring months. All that we have to do is plant them. They usually do not need to be watered. Thanks in advance to everyone who contributes.



Prayer List: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Chris Justice, Brian, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, and Lilian Blackman



BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| September 7 | McConni Meachum | September 13 | Samantha Kinney | September 23 | Norma Mahood-Bay |
| September 8 | Mark Van Dyke | September 16 | Will Czarnik | September 25 | Patrick Anderson |
| September 8 | Terry Whittington | September 19 | Becky Beckett | September 25 | Gina Wilkinson |
| September 8 | Bill Wimmer | September 22 | Don Kersey, Jr. | September 27 | Mimi Merritt |
| September 10 | Bobbie Kersey | September 23 | Lynn King | September 30 | Trey Snidow |



Minutes-Vestry Meeting
Christ Episcopal Church August 10, 2022

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry was held in Rowley Hall, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mary Catherine Williams, Susanne Pulse, David Kersey, Betty Nash, Peter Richardson, Elizabeth Clement, Linda Ammar

Absent: Vic Bowman, Peter Taylor

Also present were the Rev. Lou Hays and Treasurer Don Kersey.

Lou called the meeting to order and declared the presence of a quorum. Lou gave a short, interesting talk about Clare of Assisi, as August 11 is her Feast Day. She was inspired by Francis of Assisi at age 18 and began her own Order, which she led until her death. Lou then led the vestry in reading Psalm 63:1-8 and then the Collect for Clare.

The minutes of the meeting of June meeting were reviewed and upon motion of Mary Catherine Williams and second of Betty Nash, approved unanimously.

Don Kersey gave the Treasurer's report and reviewed the monthly financial statement and balance sheet. Our endowment investments are up. The pledge income received to date exceeds the budgeted amount. The non-pledged income is up, due to receipt of the St. Lucy withdrawal for the second quarter. The actual deficit to date is less than the budgeted deficit. Lou advised that in review of the pledges for this year, two of the cards was misinterpreted and the true pledged amount for this year is \$80,854, not \$90,000. Upon motion of Betty Nash and second of Linda Ammar, the report was unanimously approved.

David Kersey gave the Senior warden report. We need to obtain an estimate for the rubber roof over the office wing, which Peter Richardson agreed to do. We will then apply for funding from one or more of the foundations which have helped us in the past.

Peter Richardson gave the Junior Warden report. The miscellaneous furniture has been removed from the church and delivered to Diocesan House. The expenses have been reimbursed by the diocese. The work on the Memorial Garden railing should begin this weekend. The gate at the top of the outside basement stairs has been refurbished, but an adjustment needs to be made to the latch, which should be done while the worker is here for the railing. There was a leak in the Narthex roof in June. Dunford was called and they repaired the leak. There is some miscellaneous furniture on the third floor of the classroom wing, which should be disposed of.

Mary Catherine Williams and Linda Ammar reported that the arrangements for the parish picnic at the City Park are being made. Lou suggested using the portable sound system. Meals were delivered to the Men's Fellowship Home.

Susanne Pulse advised that the Rainbow and weekly emails are being sent regularly. The number of mailed hard copies of the newsletter have been reduced to about 10.

Betty Nash advised the Food Pantry will be held Thursday August 18. The food will not be delivered until next Monday.

Lou gave the Rector's Report. The Search Committee has completed its script for candidate interviews. We have had inquiries for the position, but not yet received applications. The position should be returned to the Episcopal News Service website. They will run for only 2 weeks, before the ad is taken down. After a 2-week rotation period, they will put it back up. All applications must first be reviewed and approved by the Bishop, before coming to the church.

Ten people have expressed interest in the Lay Eucharistic Visitor ministry. Two orientation sessions will be scheduled.

Lou asked for feedback on Brian Tracy's sermon. Everyone reported that Brian did an excellent job and all comments received were very positive. Lou will be out of town for the last Sunday in September and first Sunday in October.

The stewardship campaign is coming up. It will be a very important campaign, with the prospect of a new priest. We have pledges from only 29 persons, with a few more giving, but not pledging. We can and need to do better. The planned Kick-off Sunday will be Sunday, October 9. Lou is considering asking several members to give a 3 or 4-minute talk during the services that month, expressing why they pledge. We will present and bless the pledges on Sunday, November 6, All Saints Sunday. He suggests three (3) different letters to pledgers, givers and others. The new Tithely on-line option for giving and pledging will be offered.

New Business-Bishop Cowden sent an email asking if parishes had visitation date requests. The Vestry agreed that any date would be fine. There will be three (3) farewell receptions for Bishop Klusmeyer. The closest to Bluefield will be held in Charleston on October 15. The date will be published to our members, so they may attend. There being no old business, Lou closed the meeting with a prayer and it was adjourned upon motion of Linda Ammar.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
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To our friends and family:



September 2022

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