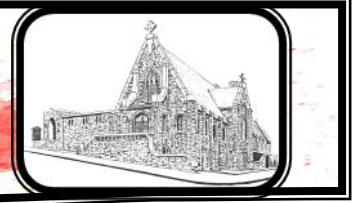


The Rainbow



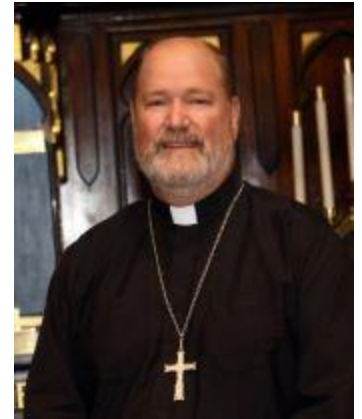
November 2023

A Letter from Fr. Paul

A Reflection on Thanksgiving (and the beach!).

Greetings to everyone and welcome to the Holiday Season! We already see the many lights and decorations and hear the music of the season. Our thoughts turn to visits with family and friends and festive celebrations. And it is truly a time to reflect on the blessings and gifts in our lives. I hope all of us have much to be thankful for.

I was fortunate to be able to enjoy some time away; I stayed at the beach with my oldest sister, Cathy, and my oldest son, Blaine, for a week and I can report that we didn't do much! We did get out and drive around often, taking in the local sights and stopping at tucked away places to eat. We visited a beautiful, old lighthouse, we did some antique and thrift shopping, and of course, we hit the bookstores. I feel we had the right mix of active touristy stuff and relaxation. We read a lot, Cathy and Blaine knitted a bunch, we munched on sammies and snacks, and we talked. We talked about life; family, friends, work, our pets, upcoming special events for us. I've often travelled and vacationed with Blaine, of course, but I can't remember the last time I spent this much quality time with my sister. It was probably on a family trip a long time ago or just when we were kids, growing up. It was wonderful to be in the same space, early in the morning; Blaine still in bed, me on the sofa with my fictional-history book and a dog next to me and Cathy at the breakfast table, going back and forth between reading and knitting. I tried not to think about how few chances we get in life to just be. The beach is a beautiful place. To. Be. There is so much active calm. I am truly thankful for my time there and for the chance to be with members of my family. I wish more would have been able to join us but that's life. I hope you all have chances this season to sit and be with your family and friends.



I am thankful for all who were confirmed and received into our church community back on October 22. It was a wonderful celebration. We are truly blessed that you are a part of our family! Plans are being made for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. There will be Advent wreath making, evening services and special Christmas Eve service times. Please, check the Christ Church event calendar, the e-newsletter and the Sunday bulletins for times and locations and make plans to join in on the wonderful activities. I am also thankful for Christ Church. You are an amazing community; full of love, compassion and commitment. It is a genuine joy to serve here as your priest. I thank you for your hard work, support, encouragement and for your prayers.

I wish you all many Blessings for the Holiday Season and Peaceful times together.

Fr. Paul

Trunk or Treat by Betty Nash

On October 28, the Evangelism Committee participated in the City of Bluefield's Trunk Or Treat at the City Park. There were lots of kids and lots of fun. Our table reminded people that "God Loves You..No Exceptions!" (of course accompanied by candy!!!)

Phyllis Walker Recognized by City of Bluefield for Decades of Service

By Mimi Merritt

Longtime Christ Church member Phyllis Walker was recognized Oct. 24 for decades of volunteer service and dedication to the community at the regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Bluefield Board of Directors.

Among Phyllis's many volunteer contributions to the betterment of Bluefield is her service as a member since 1957 of the East River Mountain Garden Club, for which she has twice served as president, as well as holding several local and state positions.

She also spearheaded the Candy Stripe program at Bluefield Regional Medical Center, training students from Bland, Mercer and Tazewell Counties.

Phyllis was the wife of former Bluefield, WV, mayor Nelson Walker.

Having recently celebrated a very significant birthday, Phyllis is still an active volunteer, currently giving time to the Union Mission's shop Fantastic Finds in downtown Bluefield, WV.

On hand to vote on the proclamation recognizing Phyllis's service to the community was Peter Taylor, a member of the City of Bluefield Board of Directors, a member of the Christ Church Vestry, and a longtime close family friend of Phyllis.



Left to Right: Treyvon Simmons, Board Member; Phyllis Walker; Doris Sue Kantor; Ron Martin, Mayor; Cecil Marson, City Manager; Peter Taylor, Board Member and Christ Church Vestry Member



Bishop Cowden Visits Christ Church *By Susanne Pulse*



The Rt. Rev. Matthew D. Cowden visited Christ Church on Sunday, October 22, for a Service of Confirmation and Reception.

On Saturday, October 21, Bishop Cowden and Father Paul travelled to Welch to visit the Highland Education Project (HEP). After that visit, the Bishop met with Senior Warden Becky Beckett and Junior Warden Peter Richardson at the Becketts' home. Bishop Cowden had dinner that night at the Church with the Vestry, their spouses, Father Paul, and Terry Whittington. Dinner was provided by David's Downtown. After dinner, the Vestry met with Bishop Cowden.

The Sunday morning service included a sermon by Bishop Cowden, seven confirmations and one reception.

Conformed were Linda Gillespie, Keith Olsen, Lee Rose, Lisa Van Dyke, Mark Van Dyke, Julie Blevins, and Wren Blevins. Received was Darla Olson. Congratulations to all. A reception catered by David's Downtown was held after the service in Rowley Hall.

The 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia *By Susanne Pulse*

The 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia was held Oct. 26 to Oct. 28 at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, WV, hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church. Father Paul Barker and Susanne Pulse, who served as a delegate, attended from Christ Church, Bluefield.

On Thursday, October 26, Evening Prayer opened the convention. After dinner, hearings were held for Resolutions and Budget.

Bishop Matthew Cowden gave his convention address during Morning Prayer on Friday, Oct. 27. After the morning session, buses departed for Morgan's Chapel, an historic church, where Noonday Prayer was celebrated, a lunch was served following the service, and Canon Slater gave a presentation on the history of Morgan's Chapel.

The Convention's afternoon session was held at the Holiday Inn, during which the 2024 Budget was approved. Elections were held for Trustee; Standing Committee, both clergy and lay; and the Sandscrest Board. Father Paul Barker reported on the status of the Highland Educational Project (HEP). Reports on Sandscrest and Peterkin were also given.

Thabo Cecil Makgoba, the Archbishop of South Africa, presented the keynote address at the banquet.

On Saturday, the Festival Concluding Eucharist with Ordinations to the Sacred Order of Deacons was held at Trinity Episcopal Church. Congratulations to Andy Allen Bird, Daniel Aaron Carr, Klara Mae Kovacs, Marilou McClung, Amelia Hope McClure, William Richard Sigler, Martina Steiner Unger, and Scott Frank Williams, our newest Deacons.

After the Eucharist, Convention was adjourned.



Parish Life Report

by Linda Ammar and Mary Catherine Williams – Parish Life Co-Chairs

We thank members of Parish Life who helped with the Vestry dinner with Bishop Matthew Cowden on Saturday, October 21. Then we had a Reception in Rowley Hall on Sunday for the Bishop and his wife, Melissa, plus the seven who were confirmed and the one that was received. Both the Vestry dinner and the Reception were catered by David's Downtown.

On November 12, we will have a carry-in luncheon after the 10:00 a.m. service. There will be no coffee hour that Sunday. Bring your favorite dish and enjoy the fellowship. Parish Life will furnish the beverages. We hope to see you there.

Our next Canterbury Club will be at 6:00 p.m. on December 10 at the home of John and Becky Beckett, at 1500 College Avenue.

The summer flowers were pulled on October 25. Thanks to everyone for their help in watering and taking care of them this summer.

Volunteers who have hosted coffee hour, THANK YOU for signing up. This is a very important ministry that we all share with each other. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Mary Catherine Williams or Linda Ammar.



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT

OCTOBER 2023

FOOD PANTRY

OCTOBER 19, 2023

Number of bags distributed: 56

Volunteers: Betty Nash, Bill Denney, Charlie Blevins, Lee Rose

UNION MISSION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023

Volunteers prepared, packaged and served 108 meals.

Menu: Stouffer's lasagna, roll, salad, brownie and soft drink.

Volunteers: Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, Shirley Ofsa and her daughter Pat Zachwieja, and Patty Richardson of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV; Betty Watson of Bluefield, VA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

A total of 223 meals were served. Volunteers prepared, packaged and served 150 meals. Mission staff prepared 73 subs and pizza meals. The primary menu was BBQ on a bun, coleslaw, baked beans, brownie and a soft drink.

Volunteers: Sheila Brooks, Art Mead, Shirley Ofsa, Patty Richardson and Linda Thomas of Christ Episcopal Church and Betty Watson of Bluefield, VA.

Please Note: Christ Episcopal Church will serve meals at the Union Mission once in November and once in December, as follows:

Wednesday, November 8 at 3:30

Wednesday, December 13 at 3:30



Minutes-CEC Vestry Meeting
October 18, 2023

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry was held in the Library, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present	Absent
Mary Catherine Williams	Vic Bowman
Susanne Pulse	Don Kersey
Peter Richardson	Mimi Merritt
Betty Nash	Peter Taylor
Becky Beckett	

Also present was Father Paul Barker. Father Paul called the meeting to order and declared a quorum. Becky Beckett gave the devotional.

Mary Catherine Williams made the motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting and Betty Nash seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Vestry members reviewed the financial documents. Financially the church remains in good condition. We started the year with significant income surpluses which are carrying us through the subsequent months. Unrestricted income for the month was \$10000 under budget. Unrestricted Income for the year is \$9000 under budget. Approximately \$60000 in unrestricted funds are needed for paying operating expenses through the end of this year. It is expected that this will be received from the following sources: St Lucy fund \$13000 (received already); Outstanding pledges \$13000; Non pledged income (end of year gifts and grants) \$24000; Operating account \$10000. Treasurer Don Kersey recommended that we approve a fourth quarter distribution from the St Lucy fund to be deposited the first part of January 2024 to cover any unplanned expenses accrued during the fourth quarter. No significant unplanned unrestricted operating expenses were experienced this month. Year to date restricted operating expenses for the food pantry are \$11000 greater than income received. In the past, the food pantry has received a generous donation from the 1912 Fund that has plussed up this outreach activity. Endowment funds balance decreased by \$56000 due to stock market downturn.

Mary Catherine Williams made the motion to approve the 4th quarter distribution from the St. Lucy's Fund to cover unplanned expenses. It was seconded by Betty Nash. A discussion was held. The motion was tabled.

Peter Richardson made a motion that Don Kersey send a letter to the congregation regarding outstanding pledges. Becky Beckett seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Becky Beckett gave the senior warden's report. She announced that we are ready for the Bishop's visit on October 22, 2023. We will review the funeral policy next.

Peter Richardson gave the junior warden's report. There were issues with the wifi after Frontier took over. Frontier came and the issue should be fixed. The Building and Grounds Policy has been revised. Peter Richardson made the motion for Becky Beckett to approach the Tierney Foundation and the 1912 Foundation for grants to repair the third floor roof. Mary Catherine seconded that motion. It was unanimously approved.

Mary Catherine Williams gave the Parish Life report. The Vestry will have dinner with the Bishop on October 21, 2023 at the Church. The Vestry will meet with the Bishop after dinner. There will be a reception after church on October 22, 2023. There will be a carry in lunch on November 12, 2023. Canterbury Club will be at the Beckett's on December 10, 2023. The Vestry will provide the chancel rail flowers for the Bishop's visit.

Susanne Pulse gave the communications report. The Rainbow and the weekly e-mail are still being produced.

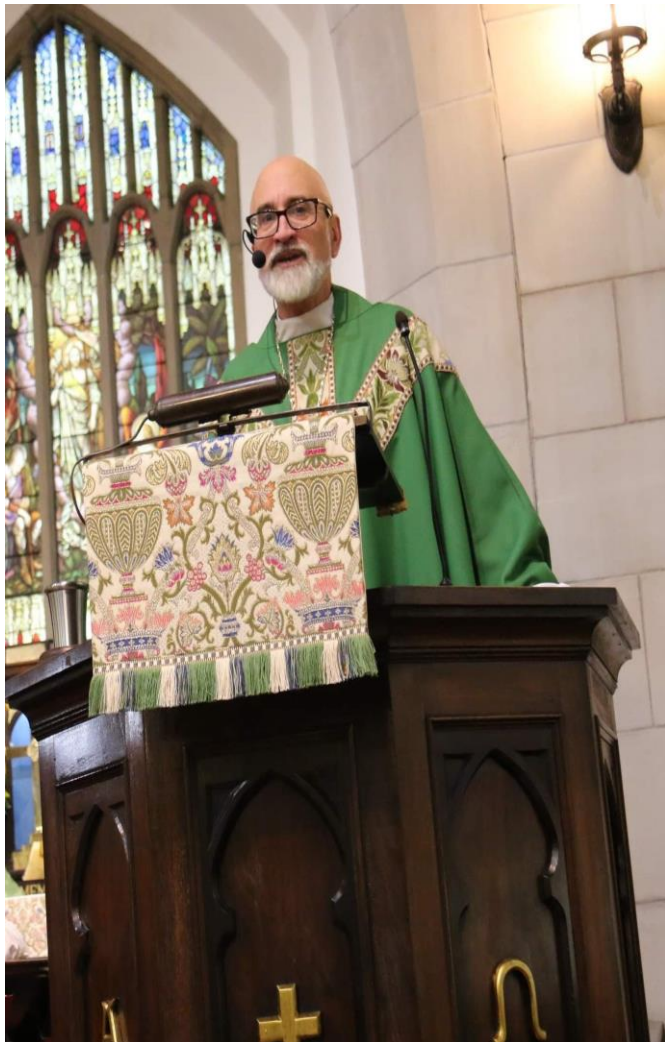
Father Paul gave the education report. Sunday School is going well.

Father Paul gave the Rector's report. Convention is October 26-28, 2023. He will be on vacation from October 29, 2023, to November 11, 2023. Father Russ Hatfield will be here both Sundays. Brian Tracey will preach on the second Sunday. Father Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, Martha Linkous, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Jim and Chris Justice, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Russ and Debbie Hatfield, Mary Lou, Brian, Don Harris, Ted Lewis, Rebecca Broyles, Jim Dyer, Brian, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, Rosemary, Eddie Hughes, Doug Truter, Jenessa, Ameiah, Beth Kane, Debbie H., and Mark

Birthdays:

11-1	Eleazer Resurreccion	11-6	Tricia Hein Brewster	11-14	Rob Merritt	11-22	Linda Ammar
11-3	Charlie Blevins	11-9	Frank Dragotto	11-15	Art Mead	11-23	Bill Denney
11-3	Chas Davis	11-9	Russ Hatfield	11-18	Debbie Faber	11-24	Patrick Paine
11-4	Kate Faber Tombillo	11-10	Kathy Burge	11-19	Jaret Taylor	11-28	Grey Kiser
						11-30	Elizabeth Burton



November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ALL SAINTS	2	3	4
5 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	6	7	8 3:30 Union Mission	9	10	11
12 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	13	14	15 6:00 Men's Dinner 7:00 Vestry	16 9:00 Food Pantry	17	18
19 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	20	21 10:30 DOK	22	23 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	24	25
26 The Last Sunday after Pentecost: CHRIST THE KING 10:00 Holy Eucharist	27	28	29	30 SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE	ALTAR GUILD: Betty Nash and Linda Thomas	

The following people have graciously donated flowers for the month of November:

November 5, 2023	Peter and Patricia Taylor
November 12, 2023	Teresa Paine
November 19, 2023	Paul and Rebecca Broyles
November 26, 2023	Stan and Gray Kiser

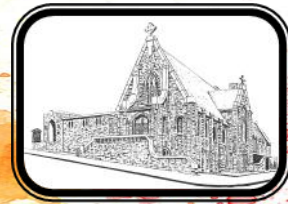
Lector and Acolyte Schedule for November:

Lector:	Acolyte:
Cameron Clement	Rob Merritt
Don Williams	Becky Beckett
Linda Ammar	Becky Kersey
Bill Denney	Mike Lilly

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:

The Rainbow



November 2023

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