

The Rainbow



February 2023

A Letter from Pastor Paul

For being a short month, February is looking pretty busy. My first month with you as Pastor seemed to go by quickly as well. I have learned so much from so many and I am thankful for your comments and feedback. I hope our conversations on how to keep Christ Church growing continue.



I will be continuing our Noonday Prayer services on Wednesdays at 11 a.m., live on Facebook, from St. Margaret's Chapel. Beginning in Lent, the service will be open to in-person attendance for those who would like to join in the Chapel. Also, during Lent, after prayer, I will lead a short Bible study (more like a devotional reflection) to round out the hour. This will be a good time to observe the season of self-reflection, prayer, sacrifice and study. To help us through our Lenten journey, I have selected Mary Bea Sullivan's book, "Living the Way of Love", a 40-day devotional. We have several copies available to anyone who would like to attend Wednesdays or use it on their own. If we run out, we can get more or you can order a copy from Amazon. Here's a description; "Organized into the seven practices our presiding bishop calls us to reclaim as we offer ourselves to Jesus' way of love. Mary Bea is a faithful person sharing her story, her ministry, and her love for our hearts to hear." - The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan.

The Episcopal Men are at it again! They will be hosting a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 21, from 5:30-7 p.m. They haven't been able to do this for a long time so it's great to have this wonderful community event back. All men of Christ Church are considered members of ECM and so are invited to help with the dinner. A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex hallway. We'd love to have you as a part of the pancake team! Tickets are available from ECM for only \$5, children under 12 for \$3. I don't know about you, but I have purchased my own special bottle of maple syrup.

Looking to Ash Wednesday, February 22, we will have two services; at noon and 7 p.m. Ashes will be imposed and Communion offered at both. I hope you can join us for one of these services as we begin our Lenten discipline. May God bless us and keep us safe and healthy this month.

Peace Always,

Pastor Paul

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner by *Peter Richardson*

The Episcopal Church Men will again sponsor a pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday, February 21, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12. Tickets are available from any ECM member, from the Church office, or at the door. All members of the Church are invited to participate.

The proceeds of ticket sales for this dinner represent the primary funding source for the many charitable and worthwhile causes supported by the ECM. In years past, those causes have included the Mercer County Fellowship Home, the Bluefield Union Mission, the Wade Center, the Food Pantry and Kerosene Fund, and maintenance of the Church, including replacement of exterior doors and replacement of equipment in the Church kitchen.

MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT

FOOD PANTRY Thursday, January 19, 2023

65 grocery bags distributed
48 kerosene vouchers handed out
Volunteers: Betty Nash, Bill Denny, Patricia and Peter Taylor, Sheila Brooks

UNION MISSION Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Meals prepared: 76 (58 served "hot" on Wednesday; 18 served on Thursday)
Menu: Stouffer's Lasagna, salad, roll, dessert pastry and beverage
Wednesday Volunteers: Pastor Paul Barker, Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, Shirley Ofsa, and Patty Richardson of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV;
Marjorie Justice and Betty Watson of Bluefield, VA.

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Meals prepared: 118 prepared and served on Wednesday
Menu: BBQ on a bun, coleslaw, baked beans, a brownie, and beverage
Wednesday volunteers: Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, Shirley Ofsa, Patty Richardson, and Pastor Paul Barker of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV.

Other

Meals have been taken to the Lewis and Williams families to help them as family members continue to recuperate at home.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Covid restrictions downsized activity the past two years for Episcopal Church Women (ECW) at Christ Church, but the group, which welcomes all women in the parish, is eager to resume activity with dinner meetings in the Spring and never ceased to continue its work. In fact, under the leadership of Patty Richardson, in 2022 ECW provided a Thanksgiving Dinner to the Men's Fellowship Home and made a \$500 donation to the Christmas Fund at the Highland Education Project (HEP). Just before Christmas, several volunteers gathered to continue a popular and long-standing tradition of packing gift boxes with homemade cookies to deliver to shut-ins and friends.

Dinner meetings in the past have included a meal, a short devotion or evening prayer, and a brief business meeting. Activities of ECW include supporting the Church Periodical Club, a ministry providing religious and secular written materials to organizations that cannot otherwise obtain them, and The United Thank Offering.

ECW has refurbished the church nursery and donated children's books for distribution at West Virginia Bridge Day at the New River Gorge. ECW also prepares and delivers meals to sick and homebound parish members.



ECW members Mimi Merritt, Mary Catherine Williams, Grey Kiser, Linda Ammar, Patty Richardson, and Lisa Tracey in Rowley Hall filling cookie boxes for shut-ins and friends just before Christmas.

Minutes of Vestry Meeting
January 18, 2023

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

Present

Linda Ammar
Peter Taylor
Peter Richardson
Betty Nash
Susanne Pulse

Absent

Mary Catherine Williams

Vic Bowman

David Kersey

Elizabeth Clement

Also present were Don Kersey, Treasurer and Pastor Paul Barker.

Senior Warden David Kersey called the meeting to order and declared the presence of a quorum.

Pastor Paul opened the meeting with a devotional from a book authored by President Jimmy Carter.

The minutes of the December 14, 2022 meeting were reviewed and upon motion of Betty Nash and second of Peter Taylor were unanimously approved.

Don Kersey presented the treasurer's report for the period ending December 31, 2022. We received significant unrestricted contributions for the month, some of those being pre-paid pledges for 2023. Those resulted in the church being over budget for the calendar/fiscal year and allowed us to begin 2023 with a significant cash balance. A different format for the P&L to be generated going forward was presented and explained. The balance sheet was reviewed and there were no significant changes in balances. Upon motion of Susanne Pulse and second of Peter Taylor, the financial report was unanimously approved. Don and Vic Bowman then presented the proposed budget for 2023 which assumes income of \$180,000 and expenses of \$214,000, leaving a deficit of over \$30,000. It is not uncommon to have deficit budgets and, nevertheless, historically the church has not had difficulty paying its bills. Don pointed out that we are starting the year with enough cash to offset the deficit, so we are presently secure financially. Upon motion of Betty Nash and second of Linda Ammar, the budget was unanimously approved and will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting this Sunday.

David Kersey gave the Senior Warden report. All requirements of the Eli Lilly sabbatical grant have been met and approved by the foundation and the remaining funds left in our account have been returned to and received by Eli Lilly. David gave Canon Chad Slater all the credit for completing the necessary paperwork. To fill the Vestry positions being vacated by David Kersey, Linda Ammar and Elizabeth Clement, Mimi Merritt, Becky Beckett and Don Kersey have agreed to stand for election at this Sunday's annual Meeting. Susanne Pulse and Mimi Merritt have agreed to be convention delegates, with Rob Merritt and Jim Pulse serving as alternates.

Peter Richardson gave the Junior Warden report. A leak in the narthex roof has been repaired. A new hot water heater was purchased and installed.

Susanne Pulse gave the Communications report. The Rainbow for January was published on time and the weekly emails are continuing to be distributed.

Linda Ammar gave the Parish Life report. She thanked the vestry for hosting the farewell reception for Rev. Lou Hays. Becky and John Beckett hosted the December Canterbury Club and Linda Thomas hosted the January Canterbury Club. She thanked them for opening their homes to the church members and guests.

Peter Taylor gave the Outreach report. Food Pantry will be held tomorrow, January 19 from 9:00 to 11:00. Kerosene vouchers will be distributed and approximately 60 people will be expected. It is not clear that there are that many attendees are using kerosene for heat, compared to the number of vouchers being distributed. For next season, we should consider giving food gift cards instead of kerosene vouchers.

Paul gave the Pastor's report. He began by thanking the Vestry for its hard work during this past transitional year, leading us to this point and calling him as Pastor. The Bishop has called a diocesan staff meeting for February 27 and 28 and March 1, in Frederick, Maryland, so he will be gone those days. He will attend his daughter's college graduation on April 22-24, so we will have to have cover for that Sunday. His regular office hours will be Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. His off days will be Friday and Saturday. His Sunday hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mondays will be his day for H.E.P.

Paul will put together a written Rector's Report for the Annual Meeting package, reflecting the statistics of worship and attendance for 2022.

On Wednesday's Paul will host Chapel live on Facebook from St. Margaret's Chapel, and Russ Hatfield is expected to participate.

Paul expressed his appreciation that the congregation is willing to wear nametags on Sunday, to help him, but because of his familiarity with the congregation, he does not think we need name tags. The Vestry deferred to Paul's preference.

New Business-Peter Richardson reported his understanding that some of the telephones in the church are inoperable. Vic Bowman volunteered that he and Don would look into that.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned upon motion of Vic Bowman and closed with a prayer by Paul.

Sideline Smokies – Submitted by Becky Kersey (recipe from Betty Crocker)

- 1 (16 oz) pound of bacon
- 1 (14 oz) package of little smokie sausages
- 1 cup of brown sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Cut bacon into thirds

Wrap 1/3 of each bacon slice around a smokie and secure with a toothpick

Place in a glass baking dish or a jellyroll pan lined with foil. Sprinkle brown sugar on top of each smokie.

Bake 40-45 minutes. Serve immediately or keep warm in slow cooker.

Congratulations new church officers!

Vestry:
Becky Beckett, Don Kersey, and Mimi Merritt

Trustee:
David Kersey

Convention delegates:
Mimi Merritt and Susanne Pulse

Convention alternates:
Rob Merritt and Jim Pulse

BIRTHDAYS

February 3	Missy Thomas	February 19	Denise Melvin	February 25	Kay Sudduth
February 5	Kathy Walk	February 19	Jim Pulse		
February 10	Peggy Walk	February 22	Kathy Huffstetler		
February 13	Jim Justice	February 22	Margaret Anne Marra		

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, John Beckett, Brian, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, and Barry Dinger

February 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11:00 Noon Day Prayer	2 Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple	3	4
5 The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist	6	7	8 11:00 Noon Day Prayer 4:00 Union Mission	9	10	11
12 The Sixth Sunday After Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist	13	14	15 11:00 Noon Day Prayer 7:00 Vestry Meeting	16 9:00 Food Pantry	17	18
19 The Last Sunday After Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist	20	21 SHROVE TUESDAY 10:30 DOK 5:30 Pancake Supper	22 ASH WEDNESDAY Noon: Ash Wednesday Services 3:30 Union Mission 7:00 Ash Wednesday Services	23	24 Saint Matthias The Apostle	25
26 The First Sunday in Lent 10:00 Holy Eucharist	27 Diocesan Staff Retreat Pastor Paul away	28 Diocesan Staff Retreat Pastor Paul away	Altar Guild for February: Patty Richardson and Elizabeth Clement Pastor Paul is also away on March 1, 2023			

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

February 5, 2023	Jim and Chris Justice
February 12, 2023	Betty Nash and Charlie Blevins
February 19, 2023	Tripper and Stacy Thomas
February 22, 2023	ASH WEDNESDAY
February 26, 2023	LENT

Lector and Acolyte Schedule for February:

Lector	Acolyte
Rob Merritt	Katherine Lewis
Linda Ammar	Mike Lilly
Cameron Clement	Rob Merritt
Don Williams	Becky Kersey
Rob Merritt	Becky Beckett

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



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Editor: Susanne Pulse (susannepulse@gmail.com)

Copy Editor: Mimi Merritt

Contributors: Linda Ammar and Mimi Merritt

Graphic Design: Susanne Pulse