

The Rainbow



January 2023

A New Year's Message from Pastor Paul

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone enjoyed a Merry Christmas season. Mine was spent with my children and then hustling to get ready for the move to Bluefield. It was frantic at times and exciting!

The beginning of 2023 gives us an opportunity to reflect on 2022 and to look into the days before us. Last year felt like a long transitional period that required a lot of hard work, compassion, and dedication from the Christ Church community. An item to reflect on that sums up much of the community's efforts is the Parish Profile. This isn't merely a snapshot in time; this is who we are and what we value and where we see ourselves, preparing for and welcoming in the new year and beyond. We learned much about ourselves by identifying and expressing our core values: our love of worship, of community and fellowship, and of social outreach. I encourage us all to reflect on our profile often – when we meet, when we plan, when we welcome, when we pray.

And when we look to the new year, we can remember our desires for the future as written in our profile: To welcome returning and new members, to expand our worship and Christians formation, to increase our social outreach, and to build on Christ Church's presence in Bluefield and the region.

The hard work from 2022 doesn't stop. We build on it. After reflection comes action. We are already doing so much, so well, at Christ Church! Our many ministries are thriving because of our dedicated volunteers. Let's continue to invite and welcome folks into service. We are the hands and feet of Christ in the world, we have the strong faith and footing to grow and to be a bright beacon in our community, and we show this through our love of God, our love of neighbor, and our love of church.

I am so excited to begin this year together! For my friends who I have worked with in the past, I look forward to growing our friendship. And for those I have not met yet, I look forward to meeting you and sharing stories.

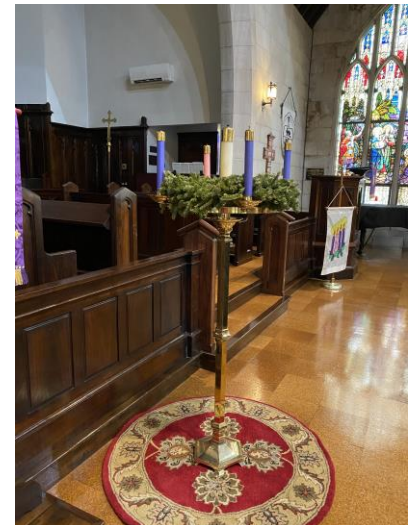
May the Peace and Love of God fill us all with Joy this new year.

Pastor Paul



Christ Church has been beautiful as always during the Advent and Christmas season, thanks to the gifts of our church family. We want to thank the following:

- David Hardin, for placing the greenery in the containers in the front of the church.
- Bill Davis, for the door wreaths given in memory of Betsy Davis.
- Marc and Patricia Meachum, for the Advent wreath given in memory of loved ones.
- Peter and Patty Richardson, for the Christmas Tree given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Richardson.
- The very many who contributed poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary.



Rob and Mimi Merritt are the proud, brand-new grandparents of Maya Ashton Merritt, born Dec. 22, 2022. Maya is the daughter of Charlie Merritt, who grew up in Christ Church, and his wife, Ashley Merritt.

Canterbury Club

John and Becky Beckett hosted Canterbury Club on December 18 at their lovely and historic Bluefield home. About 30 people attended, including our new Pastor Paul Barker. Everyone enjoyed a festive spread of hors d'oeuvres and desserts, followed by Christmas music played on the piano by Brian Tracey in the Becketts' music room. Many thanks to John and Becky for their gracious hospitality.

Christmas Eve Services *by Mimi Merritt*

The Pandemic taught us to be flexible for any and all last-minute surprises despite the best laid plans, and Christmas Eve services this year were no exception.

What was thought to be a thermostat malfunction in the church's heating system in the Nave on the bitterly cold night forced the two services downstairs to a very warm Rowley Hall. Information sent via email to church members on Dec. 28 from Senior Warden David Kersey, however, stated that "The temperature in the Nave was 32 degrees because the thermostat setting was incorrect." In the email, David wrote that our heating and cooling expert from S & R Refrigeration thinks that the settings were manually changed by one or more people. It is important to note that the thermostats – especially those in the Nave and in Rowley Hall – "are complicated instruments and should not be touched by anyone who does not understand how to operate them," according to David's email.

At the 5:00 service, which I attended, spirits were high despite folding chairs and the absence of stained-glass windows to reflect candlelight. Though we lacked an organ, our Christmas hymn singing was saved magically by Christ Church members Maggie and Tim Mainland and their storehouse of musical instruments, including the hurdy-gurdies. Our interim rector Lou Hays delivered his next to last sermon (the 11:00 service was the last), and the poinsettias had made it downstairs, along with everything necessary for Eucharist, thanks to so many helping hands.



What's new for January *By Mary Catherine Williams*

Our next **Canterbury Club** will be January 8 at the home of Linda and Missy Thomas, 345 Mountain View Ave., at 6:00 p.m. Come and bring your favorite dish and an adult beverage of your choice.

Coffee Hour hosts are needed. Sign up on the white board located outside the Library. Ask Mary Catherine Williams (276-326-2411 or mkw@dlwco.com) if you have any questions. This is a very important ministry at Christ Church.

The **Food Pantry** is still collecting hats, scarves, gloves, socks, and blankets for our Food Pantry friends. A plastic tub is located in the narthex for these items.

The **Daughters of the King** is still collecting sweatpants for the children at The Wade Center. Plastic tubs are located in the narthex for these items. Sizes needed are M (8-10), L (12-14) and XL. We thank you for donating these items.

To any committee in Christ Church: we will need your report for the Annual Meeting on January 22. Please have them to Emma for printing by January 11. Contact Susanne Pulse (susannepulse@gmail.com) or Mary Catherine Williams (mkw@dlwco.com) if you have any questions.



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT

DECEMBER 2022

FOOD PANTRY
DECEMBER 15, 2022

55 grocery bags distributed

44 kerosene vouchers handed out

Volunteers: Art Mead, Sheila Brooks, Betty Nash, Liam Cole, Bill Denny, Patricia and Peter Taylor

UNION MISSION WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Meals prepared: Total of 128 (53 served on Wednesday; 75 served on Thursday)

Menu: BBQ on a bun, coleslaw, baked beans, and a brownie.

Wednesday Volunteers; Shelia Brooks and Art Mead of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV; Marjorie Justice and Betty Watson of Bluefield, VA, and Tyler Watson, a Bonner Scholar at Concord University.

FELLOWSHIP HOME

Snack Baskets were delivered to the men at the Fellowship Home on Monday, December 19. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this outreach activity.



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.

Birthdays:

1-4 George Clement	1-15 Liliana Bennett
1-4 James Dyer	1-15 Mark Williams
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
	1-26 Frank Wilkinson
	1-29 Benjamin Slater

Minutes-Vestry Meeting
December 14, 2022

Present: Peter Taylor, Elizabeth Clement, Linda Ammar, Mary Catherine Williams, Susanne Pulse, Betty Nash, David Kersey, and Vic Bowman

Absent: Peter Richardson

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

The meeting was called to order and presence of a quorum declared by Lou.

As the devotion, Lou prayed for the parish, the Vestry and for guidance. Then Lou and the Vestry read the Prayer Attributed to St. Francis, from the Book of Common Prayer, in unison.

The minutes of the November 16, 2022 meeting were reviewed and upon motion of Mary Catherine Williams and second of Elizabeth Clement approved unanimously.

The treasurer's report was given by Don Kersey. The P&L statement was reviewed along with the balance of accounts and notes on significant observations. After a brief discussion, the report was unanimously approved upon motion of Susanne Pulse and second of Elizabeth Clement. A rough draft of the 2023 budget was distributed and briefly discussed. A final proposed budget will be submitted in January, after all pledges and year end expenses have been received and incurred. Don Kersey advised that the Debottis Fund document allows for withdrawal of the annual income, so long as it is requested by year end. If distribution is not requested the income rolls over into principal. The income for 2022 is approximately \$6,000. Upon motion Mary Catherine Williams and second of Linda Ammar, the Vestry unanimously approved withdrawal of the income and authorized the treasurer to request same.

David Kersey gave the Senior warden report. Based on the current financials, it was recommended that the Vestry request a St. Lucy distribution for the 4th quarter of 2022. Upon motion of Vic Bowman and second of Betty Nash, the vestry unanimously approved the recommended request.

There was no Junior Warden report. Mary Catherine Williams advised that she had arranged opening of the niche for Bea Paine's interment and will request the stone engraving this week, as soon as she receives additional information from the family.

Peter Taylor reported that Food Pantry will be held tomorrow, December 15. Last month, between 40 and 50 food bags were distributed, along with 34 kerosene vouchers. There are plans to begin hosting breakfast next year. The shelving for the closet, purchased with the Community Foundation of the Virginia's grant, are on backorder.

Elizabeth Clement is working with the children to include them in the service processional.

Linda Ammar stated that Parish Life was working on the reception to follow Bea Paine's funeral service.

Susanne Pulse reported that the Rainbow and weekly emails are being published regularly and that the January Rainbow will go out early in the month.

Victor Bowman briefly again reviewed the proposed budget for 2023 and noted it should be close to balanced. They are going to work on a better format for the financial reports in the coming year.

Lou gave the rector's report. Lou presented a resolution for allocating a portion of Paul Barker's compensation package for his housing allowance. Lou has been in discussion with Paul about the calculation and Paul has approved the resolution figure. The figure set forth in the resolution results from a calculation taking into consideration the house purchased by Paul and expenses associated with that house, as permitted/directed by applicable IRS regulations. The resolution does not alter or amend the terms of Paul's compensation as set out in our LOA or the budgeted line items for Paul's compensation. Upon motion of Vic Bowman and second of Peter Taylor the Vestry unanimously approved the resolution.

Lou brought up the issue of a written Annual Report. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Vestry would prepare a written report. Lou revisited the issue of nametags and how they would be important for Paul and new members/visitors. Mary Catherine Williams reported that they have been ordered and should be received soon.

Lou gave an update on stewardship. We have received 29 pledges totaling \$83,500. Which amount is essentially the total pledged for 2022. We are expecting at least 5 additional pledges, based on history. Six pledges are new; 12 reflect increases; 8 are the same; and, 3 decreased. Lou reported that, statistically, those numbers reflect a good result for our pledge drive.

The church has donated \$1,525 to the HEP Christmas project-\$500 from RDF; \$500 from ECM; and the balance from individual contributions. Mary Catherine Williams advised that ECW had agreed to contribute \$500, of which Lou was unaware. So our church has/will contribute a total of \$2,025, an exceptional gift to that worthy cause.

Lou then reflected on his ministry with Christ Episcopal Church and stated that he enjoyed his time with us and appreciated the love and support he had received, as interim minister. He encouraged the Vestry to support and mentor Paul Barker. The Vestry then thanked Lou for his service and leadership, particularly with the search process and stewardship campaign.

New Business-David Kersey reported that ECM would try to host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper this year and would need to meet in January to discuss. It was agreed to move the time of the Vestry meeting back to 7:00 p.m., to allow for an ECM dinner meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Upon motion of Vic Bowman, the meeting was adjourned followed by Compline, led by Lou.

Submitted-David Kersey

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 The Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ 10:00 Holy Eucharist	2	3	4	5	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ	7 2:00 Celebration of the life of Bea Paine
8 The First Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist** 6:00 Canterbury Club	9	10	11 4:00 Union Mission	12	13	14
15 The Second Sunday After Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist	16	17 10:00 DOK	18 The Confession of Saint Peter The Apostle 6:00 Men's Dinner 7:00 Vestry	19 9:00 Food Pantry	20	21
22 The Third Sunday After Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist Annual Meeting after Church Service	23	24	25 The Conversion of Saint Paul The Apostle 3:30 Union Mission	26	27	28
29 The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany 10:00 Holy Eucharist	30	31				

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

January 1	Norma Mahood Bay
January 8	The Clement Family
January 15	Tom Coughlan
January 22	Jay Kephart
January 29	Denise Melvin

Lector and Acolyte Schedule for January:

	Lector	Acolyte
January 1	David Kersey	Becky Kersey
January 8	Katherine Lewis	Becky Beckett
January 15	Ted Lewis	Becky Kersey
January 22		
January 29		

Altar Guild for January: Linda Ammar and Elizabeth Clement

**The Rev. Canon Chad Slater will be with us

Norma Mahood Bay is moving.
 Her new Address is 3319 Springhouse Circle,
 Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087
 Phone number and e-mail remain the same

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



January 2023

Editor: Susanne Pulse (susannepulse@gmail.com)
Copy Editor: Mimi Merritt
Contributors: Linda Ammar and Mimi Merritt
Graphic Design: Susanne Pulse