

The Rainbow



APRIL 2023

A Letter from Pastor Paul

Welcome to Holy Week and Easter. We begin April following Jesus through his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his betrayal, arrest and trial, his Way to the Cross, his suffering and death. And we finally rejoice along with all our Christian siblings around the world in his resurrection! It is our most powerful and beautiful of celebrations. We hope to see new faces and returning folks. I love the way Christ Church is always welcoming and friendly. I hope to see you all on Palm Sunday and Easter and please join us at one of our special services.

This paragraph will be filled with Thank You's! I thank all the attendees and participants of our Lenten series of Noonday Prayer and devotional study. I enjoyed our time together at prayer, study and sharing meaningful moments. I also want to thank our amazing team of bakers who baked such wonderful desserts for the HopeWords writers conference. I heard rave reviews! And I would like to thank all our worship servers; altar guild, the readers, acolytes, ushers, coffee hour hosts and all the behind-the-scenes coordinators and volunteers for making our Holy Week and Easter season so very special. Thank you, All!

The grounds around Christ Church look amazing! We are ready for Spring. I hope you've noticed the beautiful flowers and shrubs and smelled the new mulch. I love this time of year; so much renewed life. I thank God for the wonderful gift of this season, and I am excited to be with you all at Christ Church through our season of Easter. May our Lord and Savior continue to bless us this month and always,

Peace Always,

Pastor Paul

Holy Week and Easter Day at Christ Church

Please join us for our special, once-a-year Holy Week and Easter Day services, listed below.

Sunday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday - Holy Eucharist with music, Blessing and Distribution of Palms, Reading of the Passion Gospel

Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday - Holy Eucharist with music and stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 7 at Noon
Stations of the Cross

Friday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Liturgy with music and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

Sunday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m.

The Feast of the Resurrection with music - bring a bell to ring in the resurrection!

The Brannon Brothers

The following article, which currently appears at www.virginiatull.org, was published by the Virginia Tull Fine Arts Series, a ministry and outreach of Wake Forest Baptist Church in Wake Forest, N.C. Featuring Jeff and Jon Brannon, who grew up in Christ Church, it was submitted to The Rainbow by Don and Mary Catherine Williams, who provided the following information: Jeff and Jon are the sons of the late Robbie Brannon, a longtime Christ Church member, and his wife Cindy Brannon. Robbie's mother was our church administrator in the 1970s. Robbie was very active in Christ Church, having served as junior warden. He was editor of the church newsletter and was involved in its renaming. The children of our Sunday School, under the direction of Robbie, created the first Rainbow, published in November of 1993.

Virginia Tull Music and Fine Arts Series
2022-2023 Season - REMAINING CONCERTS

Jeff Brannon & Jon Brannon, Organists

Friday, April 28, 2023; 7:00 p.m.
Wake Forest Baptist Church Sanctuary




The Brannon brothers, both acclaimed organists, are delighted to be invited back to play an organ concert and are sure to delight the audience with their beautiful playing coupled with their brotherly competition and humorous banter. Jeff Brannon is a recent graduate of Bluefield University with a Bachelor of Arts in Church Music. He is currently serving as Music Associate and Organist at Bonsack Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia. In June 2021, Jeff worked as a music intern at Wake Forest Baptist Church under the guidance of Bryant Moxley. Jon Brannon is currently the Organist at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in Huntington, West Virginia and studied at Concord University. Jon is known best for playing the works of JS Bach, for which he was given an award from the Rogers Organ Company.

Donations Needed

Summer is on the way, and we will be planting flowers in the Memorial Garden and out front in the pots and in front of the sign. If you would like to donate to the flower fund you can send a donation to Christ Episcopal Church earmarked for summer flowers. Thank you in advance for your donation.


Parish Life Committee Co-Chairs
Mary Catherine Williams
Linda Ammar





ECW Meeting April 12 *by Patty Richardson*

The Episcopal Church Women will return to our quarterly meetings on April 12 at 6:00 p.m. in Rowley Hall. We will share a light dinner and dessert. All Christ Church women are invited to attend. We ask that you bring a monetary donation to cover the expenses of the dinner. Pastor Paul will attend and offer a brief devotional. There will be a sign up sheet posted in the Narthex so we can get an idea for how many to count on for our dinner. We hope that you will join us.



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT
MARCH 2023

FOOD PANTRY
THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Bags Distributed : 77

Kerosene Vouchers Handed Out: 51

Volunteers: Betty Nash, Liam Cole, Becky and Johnny Beckett, Patricia and Peter Taylor

UNION MISSION REPORT
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Total of 98 meals prepared, packaged and served on Wednesday.

Menu: 82 meals of Stauffer's Lasagna, salad, roll, brownie and beverage.

16 meals of ham & cheese sandwiches with dessert and drink.

Volunteers: Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, and Patty Richardson of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV; Marjorie Justice and Betty Watson of Bluefield, VA; and Tyler Watson, a Bonner Scholar at Concord U.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

107 meals were prepared, packaged and served by volunteers on Wednesday and 54 additional meals were distributed by Mission staff on Thursday, for a total of 161 meals served.

Menu: BBQ on a bun, coleslaw, dessert, beverage, and baked beans with Shirley

Ofsa's secret ingredients.

Volunteers: Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, and Shirley Ofsa of Christ

Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV; Charlie Helmandollar, Senior Warden, Christ Episcopal Church, Pocahontas; Majorie Justice and Betty Watson of Bluefield, VA; Mrs Helmandollar, "Fredia," Crossroads Church, Bluefield, WV; Susan Helmandollar, and Amber Taylor, Christ Episcopal Church, Pocahontas, VA.

Mark Your Calendars: There will be TWO Union Mission feedings in April 2023:

April 12, 2023, at 4:00PM (2nd Wednesday)

April 26, 2023, at 3:30PM (4th Wednesday)



Minutes of Vestry Meeting
March 15, 2023

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

Present

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

Also present was Pastor Paul Barker.

Pastor Paul called the meeting to order and declared the presence of a quorum.

Pastor Paul opened the meeting with asking everyone to express what they are thankful for. He also asked that the Vestry take turns giving the devotional at each meeting.

The minutes of the February 15, 2023, meeting were reviewed and upon motion of Mary Catherine Williams were unanimously approved.

Don Kersey presented the treasurer's report for the period ending February 28, 2023. The financial picture for the church is good and on track. We received \$17,715.00 from the Building Endowment fund for reimbursed building maintenance expenses. Total income for the month exceeded budget by \$10,000.00. Total operating expense for the month was approximately \$15,000.00 and was on target with the budget. Endowment funds were decreased by \$63,000. Betty Nash made the motion that the Treasurer's report be approved; it was seconded by Mary Catherine Williams, and unanimously approved by the Vestry.

Becky Beckett gave the Senior Warden's report. She, Pastor Paul and Peter Richardson met prior to the Vestry meeting. If anyone needs to add an item to the agenda, just let one of the three (3) know. The weekly bulletin has been updated with instructions when to kneel, stand and/or sit. With the HopeWords writer's conference set for the weekend of March 26 at the Granada Theater, there may be a big crowd that Sunday for Church.

Peter Richardson gave the Junior Warden report. A light was replaced in the driveway and a receptacle was replaced in the kitchen. Don Kersey made a motion that Peter Richardson is authorized to accept the bid from Dunford Roofing for replacement of the rubber roof over the office wing and library and to get a bid for the replacement of the third floor roof. There is \$10,000.00 in additional funds from grants received for the roof project. It was discussed that we approach the 1912 Foundation for approval to use the additional funds for another project.

Susanne Pulse gave the Communications report. Becky Beckett, Mimi Merritt, Pastor Paul and Susanne Pulse meet to discuss how better to utilize the Mailchimp program to improve the weekly e-mail.

Peter Taylor gave the Outreach report. Food Pantry will be held March 16, from 9:00 to 11:00.

Mary Catherine Williams discussed if additional food will be needed for the March 26 Coffee Hour since the HopeWords seminar will be in Bluefield that weekend.

Paul gave the Pastor's report. The Organ was tuned. Peter Richardson made the motion to pay that bill. Peter Taylor seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved. The Chamber of Commerce of the Two Virginias sent an invoice for membership. The matter was discussed and it was decided that we would not join at this time. Mary Catherine Williams made the motion to accept the 2022 Parochial Report with one change to Item 6. Betty Nash seconded that motion. The 2022 Parochial Report was unanimously approved. Bluefield City Manager Cecil Marson has invited Pastor Paul to a meet-and-greet with other clergy in Bluefield. The Holy Week schedule was discussed. Pastor Paul will be out March 31 and April 1 for a Commission on Ministry meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned and closed with a prayer by Paul.



BIRTHDAYS

April 1 Alice Allen	April 15 Rob Snidow	April 18 Will Puckett	April 28 John Moir
April 13 Cici Dyer	April 16 Pete Beavers	April 20 Tom Coughlan	April 30 Paul Broyles, Jr
April 13 Jim Paine	April 16 Phil Mahood	April 23 Ed Fortune	.
April 13 Katherine Lewis	April 16 Betty Nash	April 24 Staci Thomas	
April 14 Cameron Clement	April 18 Macon Clement	April 27 Dorene Dimes	

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

BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS



April 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 The Sunday of the Passion PALM SUNDAY 10:00 Holy Eucharist	3 MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK	4 TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK	5 WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK 11:00 Noon Day Prayer and Lent Study	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 Service	7 GOOD FRIDAY Noon Stations of the Cross 7:00 Service	8 HOLY SATURDAY
9 The Sunday of the Resurrection EASTER SUNDAY 10:00 Holy Eucharist	10	11	12 4:00 Union Mission 6:00 ECW Meeting & Dinner	13	14	15
16 The Second Sunday of Easter 10:00 Holy Eucharist	17	18 10:30 DOK	19 6:00 Men's Dinner 7:00 Vestry	20 9:00 Food Pantry	21	22
23 The Third Sunday of Easter 10:00 Holy Eucharist	24	25 Saint Mark the Evangelist	26 3:30 Union Mission	27	28	29
30 The Fourth Sunday of Easter 10:00 Holy Eucharist	Altar Guild for the Month of April: Chris Justice, Betty Nash, and Linda Ammar					

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

April 2	Mike and Sloane Hunter
April 9	Peter and Patty Richardson
April 16	Frank and Bernadette Dragotto
April 23	Tim and Maggie Mainland
April 30	Terry Whittington

Lectors and Acolyte Schedule for April:

April 2	David Kersey, Lector	Becky Kersey, Acolyte
April 9	Don Williams, Lector	Katherine Lewis, Acolyte
April 16	C. Clement, Lector	Becky Kersey, Acolyte
April 23	Rob Merritt, Lector	Becky Beckett, Acolyte,
April 30	Mike Lilly, Lector	Rob Merritt, Acolyte

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



APRIL 2023

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