

The Rainbow



JUNE 2023

A Letter from the Pastor

Welcome to June and summer! This can be a time of change; the kids are out of school, graduates are looking forward to a summer off before the next chapter of life, families and individuals are making plans for vacations.

Here at Christ Church, we are coming out of a “program year” and into a traditionally slower season. In the Church year, the season after Pentecost is referred to as ordinary time. It is the long period of Sundays through the summer and fall that take us to Advent when our church new year begins. It can be daunting when you come to worship on a Sunday morning during the summer and see on the bulletin “The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost” and realize you have seven more to go! Ordinary time is a misleading term. We Christians, in the past few months, have journeyed through our Lenten discipline of prayer, scripture study, self-reflection, service and sacrifice in preparation for the celebration of Easter and the Rising of Jesus Christ from the dead. We recently celebrated the gracious gift of the Holy Spirit to the early disciples, and to us, at Pentecost. The expectation of Ordinary time, therefore, is what do we do with this gift? How do we live out our preparation, our renewal and strength of spirit that we have been developing?



The more meaningful question is, how do we live as “ordinary” Christians in the everyday, modern world. One way that many of you, at Christ Church, are doing this, is by staying busy! Many of you are involved in taking care of the flowers and green spaces around Christ Church, Canterbury Club is back up and running, providing monthly opportunities for wonderful dinners and times of fellowship. Parish Life committee and others are busy with all the planning details to ensure that our upcoming Ordination celebration on June 17 is as wonderful an event as it can be. The Food Pantry ministry continues through the summer months because the needs of many of our neighbors continue. Our community is hosting a dinner for the St. Paul’s, Pittsburgh, youth mission team who is staying in the neighborhood and performing many work projects in the Bluefield area and for us. We, as a renewed and strengthened faith community, are staying busy and putting our gifts to work. Keep up the work and enjoy the time off you all have planned.

I want to extend a BIG Thank You to Christ Church and the many people who have been working so hard in the planning of my upcoming priestly ordination. This is an emotional and, yes, sometimes stressful time, and you all have been incredible! There are 101 little things to plan for and another hundred to set in motion when the joyous day arrives. We, as a faith family, haven’t done this in 10 years, but I’ve heard the history and I look at the many photos up on the hallway walls and I’m learning that Christ Church knows what they’re doing when it comes to putting on a celebration! I am so excited to being ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church, Praise be to God and thanks to the people, and I look forward, with joy in my heart, to many years of work, service and sharing with you all!

Thank you and may God continue to bless each and every one of us this month and always,

Peace Always, Pastor Paul

Mark your calendars for the Ordination to the Priesthood for Pastor Paul!

This celebration will take place at Christ Church on Saturday, June 17, at 10 a.m. A luncheon reception will follow the service in Rowley Hall.

In the official wording of the Bishop's announcement, "God willing and the people consenting, The Right Rev. Matthew D. Cowden, Bishop of West Virginia, will ordain Paul Barker to the Sacred Order of Priests in Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church." And what a joyous event it will be!

If you are planning to attend the luncheon, please let us know by signing up in one of the following three ways:

- Sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.
- Contact the church office at (304) 327-6861 or e-mail Emma at secretary@cecbf.org.
- Contact Mary Catherine Williams, Co-Chair of the Parish Life Committee at mkw@dlwco.com or call her at 276-326-2411.

This will help us in planning this joyful and important event.

Thank You!

Wedding Announcement
by Mary Catherine Williams

Jeff Brannon and Alandra Blume were married at Christ Church on May 25 at 11 a.m. by Pastor Paul Barker. Jeff is the son of Cindy Brannon and the late Robbie Brannon. Best Wishes to the couple.



Youth Mission Group from St. Paul's Returns This Month
By Mary Catherine Williams and Linda Ammar, Parish Life Co-Chairs

The Youth Mission Group from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mt. Lebanon, PA, will be doing work at our church June 13.

Our Parish Life Committee will be hosting them for dinner that evening. We have been hosting them for the past six-to-seven years and have enjoyed having them with us. Last year they did a lot of work in the storage room off of Rowley Hall, getting it ready for a Food Pantry project.

MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT
MAY 2023

FOOD PANTRY

THURSDAY, MAY 18

Bags Distributed: 41

Volunteers: Betty Nash, Liam Cole, Patricia and Peter Taylor, Art Mead, Becky Steorts

UNION MISSION REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

Wednesday, May 10, 2023:

Meals: 105 meals prepared, packaged, and served.

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

Volunteers: 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, MAY 24

218 Episcopalian-sponsored meals were prepared, packaged and served: 163 BBQ meals and 55 turkey and cheese sandwiches.

Menu: BBQ on a bun, coleslaw, baked beans spiced by Shirley Ofsa, dessert, and a beverage.

Volunteers: Sheila Brooks, Art Mead, and Shirley Ofsa of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV; Charlie Helmandollar (Sr. Warden), Susan Helmandollar and Amber Taylor, Christ Episcopal Church, Pocahontas, VA; Marjorie Justice and Betty Watson, Bluefield, VA.

FYI: Meals served at the Bluefield Union Mission this June, July, and August 2023 will be handled by student volunteers from as far away as New England. Episcopal-sponsored meals will resume September 13, 2023.



If you are interested in helping water the flowers in the Columbarium and in front of the church please sign the sheet located in the front hall. Thank you!!!

If you are interested in helping with the planting and watering of the flowers in the Columbarium for the summer please contact Linda Ammar.

God loves everyone. No exceptions.

You've seen this message on Pastor Paul's pickup truck, and now you can wear it on your very own T-shirt.

Vestry member Betty Nash, who chairs the Evangelism ministry, has organized a project that will help Christ Church members and friends proclaim this beautiful evangelistic message to everyone they see. Inspired by the bumper sticker on Pastor Paul's truck, she knew that T-shirts bearing the same message would be a perfect way to encourage everyone to spread the good word that Christ Church is an open and inviting place to worship.

Betty plans to place an order sheet for the T-shirts in the church hallway, which will be \$17 each.

Minutes-CEC Vestry Meeting May 17, 2023

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

Present

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

Also present were Pastor Paul Barker

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

Susanne Pulse gave the devotional.

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

The Vestry members reviewed the financial documents. The financial picture for the church is good and on track. We received two large annual pledge payments in April. Total income for the month exceeded budget by \$6000. Total operating expense for the month was approximately \$17000 and was on target with the budget. Susanne Pulse made the motion to approve the financial documents and Mary Catherine Williams seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Becky Beckett gave the Senior Warden's report. She wanted to thank everyone who assisted with Jay Kephart's funeral on Saturday, May 13, 2023. Upon request of the Vestry, Becky sent thank you notes to the 1912 Foundation and the Tierney Foundation for their generous donations for the roof project. Paul Barker's Letter of Agreement with Christ Church was distributed for review by the Vestry. Becky Beckett and Mary Catherine Williams met with David Hardin to discuss the lunch for Pastor Paul's Ordination on June 17, 2023. David Hardin will provide three (3) options for review and selection. The lunch will cost approximately \$20 to \$23 a plate. David Hardin and Terry Whittington will provide the flower arrangements for the luncheon. A discussion was held on whether to have wine available at the luncheon. Peter Taylor made the motion that wine be served at the Ordination Luncheon. That motion was seconded by Mimi Merritt. It was unanimously approved. The cost of the luncheon may be paid for by the interest from the DeBottis Fund. Don Kersey will verify that no vote by the congregation is necessary to access the interest income on that fund.

Peter Richardson gave the Junior Warden report. Faucets need replaced in the bathrooms on the main floor. Mary Catherine Williams is waiting on Wolfgang Plumbing to provide an estimate for the replacement. Swiftnet will come and evaluate Pastor Paul's desktop computer. It may need to be replaced by either a new desktop model or a laptop computer. It cost \$100 to power wash the stones in the Columbarium. That was paid for by funds in the Columbarium account. The Vestry wishes to thank Jim Pulse for his work on the plaster wall in the hallway. It looks better.

Outreach: Peter Taylor gave the Outreach report. No kerosene vouchers will be given out at the Food pantry in May. The food pantry will be May 18. The Outreach Committee wishes to thank Mary Catherine Williams, Patty Richardson, Chris Justice and Linda Thomas for helping with the donation from the Postal Services' Stamp Out Hunger campaign. David Hardin helped Betty Nash unload the food from her car.

Parish Life: Mary Catherine Williams gave the Parish Life report. The committee met on May 7 to make plans for the Ordination luncheon. The youth group from Pittsburgh will be here June 11 through the 17th. We will have to feed them one night. The Church Picnic will be August 27, 2023, at the City Park, Shelter Number 1. There is a signup sheet in the narthex for Canterbury Club.

Evangelism: Betty Nash has called the Lutheran Church and the Presbyterian Church regarding the community picnic but has not received a response from either church. Betty suggested that Christ Church set up a table at Bluefield State College on Move-In Day, August 4, 2023, and provide water and a snack.

The Vestry would like to give a big thank you to Elizabeth Clement for leading Sunday school.

Communications: Susanne Pulse gave the communications report. The Rainbow continues to be published once a month a weekly e-mail is sent out.

Rector's Report: Pastor Paul had a positive experience at the Clergy Retreat. He will be out on June 3, 2023, for a friend's ordination in Pittsburgh. He will take a week of vacation in July, 2023.

Pastor Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Fr. Russ Hatfield, Brian, Becky Steorts, Don Harris, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, Rosemary, Eddie Hughes, Melinda Young

BIRTHDAYS

June 3 Patricia Meachum

June 6 Martha Linkous

June 7 Charlie Merritt

June 8 Anne Wilkinson

June 10 Kristen Kersey Douglas

June 11 Emily Goodykoontz

June 11 Nathaniel Kersey

June 13 Jason Cole

June 14 Caroline Merritt

June 16 David Kersey

June 18 Juliana Paine

June 20 Susan Thomas

June 21 Becky Kersey

June 23 Marc Meachum

June 24 Mary Lou Mannschreck

June 25 Martha Shewey

June 26 Joe Sanders

June 30 Jarrod Sudduth

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

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 The First Sunday after Pentecost Trinity Sunday 10:00 Holy Eucharist	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 The Second Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	12 Saint Barnabas The Apostle	13 6:00 Dinner for the Youth Group from Pittsburgh	14	15 9:00 Food Pantry	16	17 10:00 a.m. ORDINATION OF PASTOR PAUL BARKER
18 The Third Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	19	20 10:30 DOK	21 6:00 Men's Dinner 7:00 Vestry	22	23	24 The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
25 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	26	27	28	29 The Apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul	30	ALTAR GUILD FOR JUNE: Linda Thomas and Gray Kiser

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

Lectors and Acolyte Schedule for June:

June 4 Tom Coughlan
 June 11 Phil and Valerie Mahood
 June 18 Don and Becky Kersey
 June 25 Dr. and Mrs. Steven Ward

June 4 David Hardin, Lector
 June 11 Don Williams, Lector
 June 18 Rob Merritt, Lector
 June 25 Davis Kersey, Lector

Mike Lilly, Acolyte
 Becky Kersey, Acolyte
 Katherine Lewis, Acolyte
 Becky Kersey, Acolyte

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



JUNE 2023

Editor: Susanne Pulse (susannepulse@gmail.com)

Copy Editor: Mimi Merritt

Contributors: Linda Ammar, Art Mead, Mimi Merritt

Graphic Design: Susanne Pulse