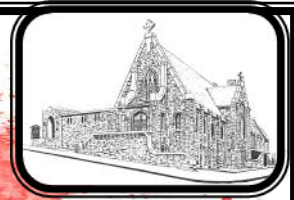


The Rainbow



February 2026

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE VESTRY OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH-BLUEFIELD-January 21, 2026

A regular meeting of the Vestry was held on January 21, 2026. Present were Father Paul Barker, Darla Olson, Art Mead, David Kersey, Rob Merritt, Ted Lewis, Bill Denney. Dee Puckett, Peter Taylor and Jim Pulse were absent.

Father Barker called the meeting to order, declared the presence of a quorum and opened with a reading of the Collect for Martin Luther King Day (which is actually April 4, the date of his death).

Treasurer Don Kersey had provided a written summary of his financial observations for the month, along with the balance sheet and income statement. He will not be regularly attending the Vestry meetings but is available for questions at any time. Pledged income collected was \$2,000 more than budgeted last year. Non-pledged income increased \$37,000 for the year, due mostly to a gift from the 1912 Foundation. There is two months' worth of expense coverage, as of year-end. Upon motion of Ted Lewis and second of Darla Olson, the treasurer's report was approved.

Father Paul entertained a motion from Bill Denney that Ted Lewis be nominated for Senior Warden and he was elected by acclamation.

Father Paul then made the following appointments to Vestry positions:

Dee Puckett-Junior Warden, with David Kersey assisting-Linda Ammar will continue to oversee maintenance of the Memorial Garden;

Parish Life-Darla Olson;

Outreach-Bill Denney and Art Mead;

Communications-Rob Merritt, with the assistance of Mimi Merritt and Susanne Pulse;

Education-Elizabeth Clement, who continues to do an excellent job with the program and now junior acolytes;

Worship-Rob Merritt will continue to schedule lay readers and acolytes.

Darla Olson gave the parish life report. We have raised \$995 for the luncheon for the Bishop's visit, which has been rescheduled for Palm Sunday. Hosts for coffee hour have been scheduled for January and February.

Peter Taylor had submitted a report on Evangelism/Outreach. Only 51 food bags were distributed at the December food pantry, down substantially likely due to cold weather. Art Mead reported that the Union Mission served 2,168 meals and our church provided 12 volunteers.

Ted Lewis gave the Finance report. We are investigating a new sound system, considering some problems we have had with ours recently. Recent visitors to Sacred Heart Catholic Church have commented on their sound system and we are arranging a visit from Electronic Specialty from Dunbar, WV, who provided the system to Sacred Heart.

Father Paul gave the Worship/Rector's report. The annual meeting was well attended, with 42 in attendance; there will be Evening Prayer on February 25; while David and Terry are gone, March 15 and 22, Tim and Maggie Mainland will provide service music; a Vestry Retreat to set Vestry goals will be held on the top floor of old city hall on Saturday, March 7 from 10 am-2:00 pm; Father Paul will be on vacation from January 25 through 29 and Father Russ Hatfield will hold the service on January 25, weather permitting; the ECM will host the annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday; on Ash Wednesday, there will be Imposition of Ashes at noon and Holy Eucharist at 6:30 p.m.; the diocesan capital campaign training will be held at Sandcrest on February 21 and 22 and we may attend; the Bluefield Land Bank was successful in obtaining a FHL bank loan for the Duhring Street housing project, which project we pledged to support with food and medical assistance; and, we will approach the city about the parking lot adjacent to the church, to the east, to potentially replace the parking we will lose to the housing project.

There being no other new business or old business, Father. Paul adjourned the meeting with a closing prayer. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted, David M. Kersey, Recorder



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Episcopal Churchmen hosted the annual Pancake Supper on February 17, Shrove Tuesday, and it was SUPER! They served over 200 meals of pancakes, sausage, cooked apples and refreshments. It was great to see so many parishioners and folks from the community gathered at Christ Church. Thank you all who helped with the evening event!



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family



FEBRUARY 2026

Editor: Mimi Merritt
Contributors: Linda Ammar, Mimi Merritt and Art Mead
Graphic Design: Susanne Pulse