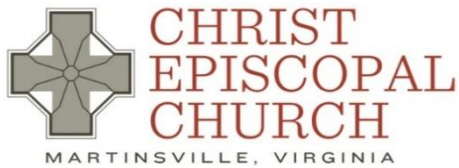
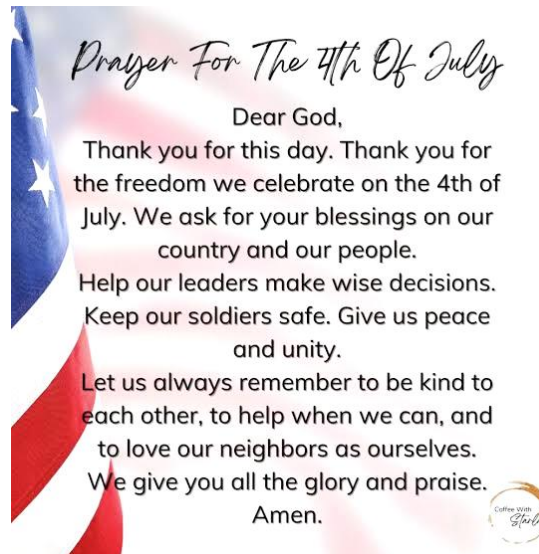


July 2026



321 E. Church Street
Martinsville, VA 24112
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www.christchurchmvl.org



Prayer For The 4th Of July

Dear God,

Thank you for this day. Thank you for the freedom we celebrate on the 4th of July. We ask for your blessings on our country and our people.

Help our leaders make wise decisions. Keep our soldiers safe. Give us peace and unity.

Let us always remember to be kind to each other, to help when we can, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We give you all the glory and praise. Amen.

We are a community of faith striving to love God fully and our neighbors as ourselves.

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

On June 13, at St. John's in Roanoke, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia celebrated the ordination and consecration of the Rt. Rev. Karin MacPhail as our Seventh Bishop Diocesan. It was a festive and joyous occasion, with a large contingent of bishops and priests from outside the Diocese joining Karin's family and a packed house of clergy and lay people from across Southwestern Virginia; of particular note were all three of the living former Bishops of this Diocese (the Rt. Rev. Mark Boulakas, the Rt. Rev. Neff Powell, and the Rt. Rev. Heath Light) and, as chief consecrator, the Most Rev. Sean Rowe (the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church for whom we often pray in the Prayers of the People).

I am grateful to all of you who took the time to watch the service live or later on; it is a rare pleasure to sing and pray with so many Episcopalians, and even rarer (since our Diocesan Conventions worship in a hotel ballroom) to do so in a church. I particularly want to celebrate those who made the trip to join us in the building, especially Baylie Coleman for bearing the Christ Church banner in procession with parish banners from across the Diocese (with additional gratitude to Bob Weatherall for transporting said banner to Roanoke and back). Christ Church was also represented in the crozier, first presented to Bishop Marmion by the youth of this church in 1960 and again presented to Bishop MacPhail along with the other symbols of her new office (most notably, a surprisingly colorful, liturgically red cope with matching mitre, stole, and chasuble, all featuring a dogwood motif).

While Christ Church will not get our first episcopal visit (at which she will lead Sunday morning worship) until next year, we do have an opportunity to meet her sooner. In June and July, she is meeting with all five Convocations of the Diocese for "a time of unity and community," during which she will engage us in conversation and fellowship, enjoying lunch and celebrating Holy Eucharist with us. The Roanoke Convocation (which includes us) is gathering on **July 25 from 10:30 to 1:30 at Phoebe Needles** (732 Turners Creek Rd, Callaway), and all are invited to join.

- Fr. John

Kings Grant Eucharist

Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant monthly, typically on the first Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm. The next services will be **July 2** and August 6.



SWVA Bishops at Bishop Karen's Ordination



Baylie Coleman carried the CEC Banner

Summer Sunday Lemonade

Continuing a summer tradition, we will have fellowship time with lemonade and cookies on the patio (or in the undercroft if it's raining) **after the 10:30 service, July 5 through August 30**; if you are willing to help bring beverages and treats or set up and clean up, **please sign at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#)** for your Sunday.

Church History Class

On **July 8** at 10:30 in the Undercroft, we will continue our study of the Crusades, discussing the First Crusade and the changes it wrought in European Christianity. All are welcome to join (and encouraged to stick around for the Noon Eucharist in the Chapel).

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **July 8** at the Ground Floor (1 E Church St); food and drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be available from the usual menu. We begin gathering at 6:00 pm, with the program going from 7:00 to 8:00.

Save the Dates!

There are many Fall events on the calendar; you are encouraged to mark these dates and, in addition to planning to attend, prayerfully consider whether you might help organize food or otherwise contribute your time and talents to making the event a good one. More details will be included in future newsletters.

Third Sunday Supper and Evening Prayer – August 16, September 20, October 18

In an effort to increase the number of fellowship events and offer an additional worship opportunity for those unable to attend Sunday mornings or Wednesdays at Noon, we are launching a three-month experiment of Evening Prayer and Supper in the Chapel and Undercroft on the Third Sunday of the month.

Loaves & Fishes – September 30, October 28 (also July 29 and August 26)

We are always looking for volunteers to help prepare/serve/clean up, as well as folks to bring desserts and fruit to distribute. For September and October, we are also looking for individuals or groups to organize the meal (pick the menu, compile the shopping list, and coordinate volunteers to do the shopping and cooking). As is often the case, we plan to skip Loaves & Fishes in November (Thanksgiving Eve) and December (the week between Christmas and New Years). Sign up at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) to volunteer or to bring something for July's meal.

Sunday Breakfast – September 13

Much as we did on Easter, on the Sunday after Labor Day we will gather for breakfast in the Undercroft before the 10:30 service.

Bible Studies – resume September 14 (Monday Nights) and **September 20** (Sunday Mornings)

Oktoberfest – October 3

Jay Dickens is spearheading our effort to offer an attractive booth at Uptown Oktoberfest this year.

Blessing of the Animals – October 4

In a traditional celebration of the Feast of St. Francis, in this short afternoon service we pray for the dogs, cats, and other animals that enliven our daily lives.

Trivia Night – October 7

Following in the footsteps of our Back-to-School evening last year and Mardi Gras this year, we will gather for supper followed by a game of Trivia hosted by Fr. John (the questions are not yet written, but expect categories related to the month).

Oyster Roast – November 6 – SAVE THE DATE

Our traditional celebration and fundraiser, with Ron Probst and Rives Coleman serving as chairs this year.

Annual Meeting – November 15

After the 10:30 service, the congregation proceeds to the Undercroft for lunch and annual business including election of new Vestry members, overview of the finances, and presentations reviewing the previous year and looking forward to the next.

July Server Schedule

10:30AM	July 5 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	July 12 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	July 19 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	July 26 The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Lector Prayers	Will Zimmer	Pete Scouras	Ann Gardner	Susan Critz
Chalist	Dawn Stone John Swezey	Natalie Coleman Rives Coleman	Bob Bushnell Jay Dickens	Hank Long Tom Webster
Acolyte				
Ushers	Dan Cahill Pete Scouras	John Swezey Ben Lewis	Trippi Penn Michael Hodges	Jay Dickens Gus Barber
Camera Operator	Vicki Crosby	Hank Long	Linda O'Dell	Natalie Coleman
Counters	Michael Hodges Susan Critz	Michael Hodges Rives Coleman	Michael Hodges Jay Dickens	Michael Hodges Steve Keyser
Nursery Attendants	Volunteer Needed (Caroline is off)	Volunteer Needed (Caroline is off)	Caroline Davis	Volunteer Needed (Caroline is off)

Altar Guild Team #1 – Beth Sibbick, LaRue Powers, Jane Thomasson,
Beth Cahill, Dan Cahill, Bill Sibbick, Pete Budde

Let Deborah or Fr. John know if anyone needs to be added or removed from the list.

Comfort and heal *Sue (Rosser), Julia (Hall), Mallory, Ginger C., Jay J., David C., Ashley F., Michael (Martin), Jim A., Tracy, Paige F. Ruby*; and all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy.

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for **July – September: Boxed Dinners (Hamburger Helper)**. For **July: toilet paper, feminine products, deodorant, and hygiene items. You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.**

Hi, Church Families!

Greetings from Grace Network and I wish you a Happy Summer!! As we approach warmer temperatures, we also are aware of economic struggles for many of our community families. Your participation in our mission to help is priceless, and we thank you so much for your dedication. Please remember to pick up our assigned item the next time you visit the grocery store.

Getting your precious donations allows us to stay in stock each day for the families that we serve. In our last fiscal year, we served over 1200 households with food totaling over \$165,000! So, your donations are essential in order for us to do this amount of good for those we serve and we are grateful for you!

God Bless You All!

In Christ, Tracy L Hinchcliff

Executive Director, Grace Network