



321 E. Church Street  
Martinsville, VA 24078  
276-632-2896  
www.christchurchmvl.org



June 2022

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

One of the significant challenges of the Christian life is evangelism: how do we, as individuals and as a church community, share our faith with our neighbors and invite them to join us? In a world where the first thing that often comes to mind with the word 'evangelism' is people knocking on doors and handing out pamphlets, we may have a hard time even thinking or talking about evangelism, nevermind living it. That said, for us Episcopalians evangelism is rarely about knocking on strange doors or making cold calls. Evangelism is whatever we do as a church to build awareness of who we are in the wider community, especially through our visible outreach to the least of these. Evangelism happens every time one of us talks to someone outside Christ Church about our faith and works, including the simple act of inviting a friend to a church service or event. Evangelism occurs when we welcome unfamiliar faces on Sunday, help them navigate our worship service, or chat with them about choir, Altar Guild, Loaves & Fishes, or whatever other ministries of Christ Church excite us.

On Tuesday, June 7, at 5:30 pm in the Parish House, we are holding an evangelism brainstorming session, during which we will identify what sorts of community outreach and new member incorporation are included in our work of evangelism, discuss possible evangelical actions we could take now or in the near future, and consider how to move forward. If you have stories about how someone's evangelism brought you to Christ Church or want to share ideas for how we might evangelize or feel energized by the prospect of bringing new people into our church community, please do plan to attend. I will provide light snacks and drinks.

- Fr. John

### **Masks Highly Recommended**

Because of the recent increase in Covid cases (with several parish members among those afflicted), the wearing of masks in church is strongly encouraged at present.

### **Kings Grant Eucharist**

The June 2 service at King's Grant has been cancelled due to COVID. We will resume this ministry in July.

### **Funeral Receptions**

Christ Church is in the middle of a stretch where we have had funerals three Saturdays out of four, with the end-of-school-year picnic thrown in for good measure. Four receptions in a three-week span requires a lot of food and a lot of work; I (Fr. John) am grateful to everyone who brought food or otherwise helped (including the Youth Group, who helped clean up after the picnic). I encourage those who did not have the opportunity to contribute to the picnic or the reception after the funeral of Campbell Pitzer to sign up for the receptions after the funerals of

Martha Edmiston (June 4 at 2:00 pm) or Nadine Barrow (June 11 at 2:00 pm). Not only must we take care not to burn anyone out by expecting them to help with all four events, but in my short time here it has become obvious to me that feeding people is an important ministry of this church, and so involving as many members as possible in this work is also important.

### **Bondurant Funeral Service**

The funeral service for Nancy Bondurant will be Thursday, June 23 at 4:00 pm. There will be a reception at Chatmoss Country Club following the service.

### **Summer Service Time**

Following Christ Church's summer tradition, from June 5 through August 28 our Sunday service will start at **10:00 am** (instead of 10:30), with tea, lemonade, cookies, brownies or bar cookies on the patio after worship (beginning on June 12). We will need two volunteers to sign up each week. The signup list will be emailed.

### **Pentecost**

June 5 is the Feast of Pentecost, a principal feast of the Church; you are invited to wear red in celebration of the Holy Spirit. We will be baptizing three new members into the Body of Christ and celebrating with a reception afterwards in the Parish House.

### **Sunday Bible Study**

Our Sunday School for adults, teenagers, and older children resumes on June 12 after a brief hiatus following the completion of our long and intermittent sojourn through the Acts of the Apostles. Over the summer, we will look at a smattering of passages from the legal material in the Pentateuch (particularly Leviticus), in an effort to better understand what is included in the Law, why it might be included, and how it might or might not apply to us. We meet in the Parish House an hour before the Sunday service (so through the summer we begin at **9:00 am**).

### **Public Theology**

Public Theology will meet on June 8 at 6:00 pm at Mountain Valley Brewing (4220 Mountain Valley Rd, Axton).

### **Loaves & Fishes**

Loaves & Fishes, our monthly program feeding dinner to the hungry in our community, is undergoing a leadership transition. David Cole, who has spearheaded Loaves & Fishes for several years, is stepping down to enjoy a well-earned break; we are grateful for his hard work and dedication, particularly in adapting the meals for Covidtide and keeping them going during these past couple of years when many similar ministries folded or took a long hiatus. Thank you, David!

David has handed the reins to Mychal Joseph Gallop, who will be coordinating our meal toward the end of June. Although we cannot move back to the Undercroft right now due to the present spike in local Covid cases, we are looking for more volunteers to join and relieve the small crew that served almost every month through Covidtide; please talk to Mychal Joseph ([br.mychaljoseph@gmail.com](mailto:br.mychaljoseph@gmail.com)) if you are interested in helping.

### **Grace Network's Back2School Event**

At the start of each new school year, Grace Network provides new socks, shoes, and backpacks with school supplies to students who need them in Martinsville and Henry County. Volunteers are needed to help register students (on the morning of July 9 and evening of July 19), buy supplies and pack the bus (July 15-17), fill backpacks (August 2), and help with the event proper (August 6); prayers for the kids and the volunteers are also appreciated. For more information,

please see the flyer in the narthex of the church, and to volunteer please contact Tracy Hinchcliff at [tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetWORKmhc.org](mailto:tracy.hinchcliff@gracenetWORKmhc.org) or 409-330-0847.

**Grace Network** - Our Grace Network Assignments for **June: Apple Sauce (12-15oz)**. For the month of **June: dish detergent, deodorant, laundry detergent**. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. Please remember to pick up our assigned item the next time you visit the grocery store. You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.

### **2022 Graduates and Beverley Parrish Award**

During our May 22 service, Emily Williams was named the 2022 winner of the Beverley S. Parrish, Jr. Award, given to a high school senior who exemplifies a spirit of responsibility, respect, reverence, and humility. In addition to Emily, we also celebrate the high school graduation of Kaitlyn Gallop and the college graduations of Marion Johnson and Woodson Smith.

### **Fr. John's Office Hours**

As part of his weekly calendar, Fr. John blocks out a couple of times where he does not schedule other visits or meetings so that those who wish to chat without a specific appointment can reliably find him. These 'office hours' are presently Tuesday mornings, 9:00 - 10:30 at the Ground Floor, and Wednesday afternoons, 2:30 - 4:00 at his office in the Parish House. He is also happy to schedule specific meetings simply to get to know the people of Christ Church better, and encourages you to email, text, or call him ([johndavidadams85@gmail.com](mailto:johndavidadams85@gmail.com) and 571-232-1294) if you are sick, having surgery, otherwise in need of prayer, or just want to visit.