

321 E. Church Street  
Martinsville, VA 24112  
276-632-2896  
www.christchurchmvl.org



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

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

The [Calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts](#) is one of these things that rarely affects the average Episcopalian in the pews but is an important part of our tradition. Unlike many Protestants, we believe in naming and celebrating our remarkable forebears in the faith who serve as shining examples of God’s grace throughout the history of the Church, but unlike Roman Catholics, we do not have an elaborate canonization process for testing saints. Generally, if a Christian who has been dead for two generations (or fifty years) is being celebrated at the local level for their memorable discipleship and (upon submission to General Convention) the wider Church deems them historically significant, then they are added to the Calendar. However, most Episcopal churches only celebrate Lesser Feasts at (generally less-attended) weekday worship services (as we do at our Wednesday Noon Eucharists).

I’ve been thinking about the Calendar because, on February 11, we celebrated a new Feast, the Consecration of Barbara Harris, who was the first female (also Black female) Bishop not just in the Episcopal Church but the whole Anglican Communion. Added to the Calendar by General Convention on a trial basis in 2022 and permanently in 2024, that Feast is an exception to the usual requirement for historical perspective: Harris only died in 2020, and even if we measure from her consecration, we’re still thirteen years short of the standard. However, coming less than two weeks after the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia elected the Rev. Karin MacPhail as our first female bishop, the Feast seemed unusually appropriate and relevant for us, in a way that wasn’t obvious back in January.

I commend the Calendar even to those who do not attend on Wednesdays (for those who use online resources in their daily prayer, [Mission St. Clare](#) posts daily office services celebrating the Lesser Feasts where applicable). In addition to providing small servings of Church history, the Lesser Feasts offer a variety of examples of Christian discipleship that we often find more relatable and attainable than the examples of Peter and Paul. Most, if not all, Episcopalians would discover at least one saint whose story particularly resonates with and inspires them, but unless we take an opportunity to celebrate the Lesser Feasts, we won’t learn if they are indeed appropriate and relevant to us.

- Fr. John

### **Lenten Program**

Our 2026 Lenten program will take place in the Undercroft on **Monday evenings (February 23 through March 23) from 6:00 to 7:30 pm**. After a light supper of soup, Fr. John will lead Canon Fodder, a program considering the history of how the Bible came to be and what was left out of the canon (the 66 books comprising the Bible as we know it).

### **Kings Grant Eucharist**

Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant on the first Thursday of each month. The next services will be **March 5 (at 1:30 pm)** and April 2 (at 2:30 pm).

### **The Women's Group**

The Women's Group meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 10, at 5:30 in the Parish House.**

Please sign up at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) if you plan to attend. We hope you can make it! Natalie Coleman and LaRue Powers

### **Church History Class**

Our monthly Church History class meets on **March 11 at 10:30 in the Undercroft.** This month, we will discuss the origin story of the Episcopal Church. All are welcome to join at any time, and no homework is required.

### **Public Theology**

Public Theology meets on **March 11 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.

### **Easter Flower Memorials**

If you wish to give Easter lilies as a memorial, "in honor of" or "in thanksgiving for" friends and family members, please complete the **attached form** and mail it to the church office or put it in the collection plate along with your check.

**The cost is \$16.00 EACH - Checks should be made payable to Christ Episcopal Church, with 'Easter Flowers' on the check memo line. Please Note: to print your flower memorials and thanksgivings in the Easter bulletin, we need to have your orders in the church office no later than Wednesday, April 25th, preferably sooner.** Due to space constraints, only the name of the person(s) the memorial is for will be listed. **More order forms are in the Narthex racks on both sides.**

### **Ecumenical Lenten Lunches**

The churches of Martinsville are again coming together to offer lunch and a brief devotion at Noon on the Thursdays of Lent. All are invited to attend any or all of these lunches; the devotions will conclude by 1:00 pm. The schedule is:

**March 5** - First Baptist East Church - 1043 East Church St.

**March 12** - First Presbyterian Church - 1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

**March 19** - Starling Avenue Baptist Church - 932 Starling Ave.

**March 26** - Chatham Heights Baptist Church - 1235 Chatham Heights Road

### **Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday, March 29, 9:00 am** - Community Palm Sunday Service @ J. Frank Wilson Park

**Palm Sunday, March 29, 10:30 am** - Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 pm** – Tenebrae

**Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2:30 pm** – Ecumenical Holy Eucharist @ Kings Grant

**Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm** - Holy Eucharist with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar (**followed by overnight Vigil in the Chapel**)

**Good Friday, April 3, Noon** - Stations of the Cross

**Good Friday, April 3, 7:00 pm** - Good Friday Liturgy

**Easter Sunday, April 5, 10:30 am** - Holy Eucharist (Easter Breakfast beginning at 9:00 in the Undercroft)

### **Maundy Thursday Vigil**

In obedience to Jesus, who wondered that his disciples were unable to keep watch with him for one hour in Gethsemane, some find it deeply meaningful to stay awake and pray for a portion of the night on **Maundy Thursday (April 2 this year)**. **Kyle Trent is organizing a vigil in the Chapel between the end of the Maundy Thursday liturgy and Friday morning; if you are interested in taking an hour, please sign up in the narthex or contact him at [kyletrent@kyletrent.com](mailto:kyletrent@kyletrent.com).**

### **Lipstick Warning**

In recent months, Fr. John and the Altar Guild have noticed an increase in lipstick stains that resist washing off the chalice and permanently discolor the linen purificators. We gently ask all those who wear lipstick to be mindful when they receive communion.

### **Loaves & Fishes**

Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) will be on **March 25**, with dinner being served from 5:00 to 6:00. Even if you are not helping with cooking, serving, cleaning, or donating fruit, desserts, beverages and ice, church members are encouraged to come and sit down for a meal with our neighbors in the community. **Sign up at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) or contact the Church office.**

### **Camera Operators Needed**

Since the Covid shutdown, Christ Church has continued to livestream our Sunday services to Facebook, allowing members who live at Kings Grant, who are on vacation, or who are otherwise unable to attend in-person to remain connected with the worship of our community. We are hoping to add a few more people to the rotation in order to continue providing these videos; if you are willing to help with this ministry (it's not particularly hard once you've done it a couple of times), please let Rives or Fr. John know.

### **Giving to the Church - by Mail**

You can mail a check or money order to the Church office at:  
Christ Episcopal Church  
311 East Church Street  
Martinsville, Virginia 24112

### **Give with PayPal, Debit or Credit Card**

**You may give online, safely, and securely, through your PayPal account or with any major credit card.**

**[Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia \(christchurchmvl.org\)](#) on our homepage**

**[https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted\\_button\\_id=Z52WJPBKZN96L](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=Z52WJPBKZN96L) on PayPal**

**Please pray for *Sue, Julia, Jennifer, Mallory, Hope, Doug, John, Ginger C., Jay J., David, Margaret, Ashley F., Michael, Randy M., and Ruth K.* Please let John or Deborah know if anyone needs to be added or removed from the prayer list.**

**Grace Network - Our Grace Network Assignments for March: Assorted canned greens (turnip, collard, etc.). For March: dish detergent, deodorant, laundry detergent, and other hygiene items. There are many families in our community that struggle all of the seasons of the year. But your participation in our mission to help is priceless, and we thank you so much for your dedication. Remember to pick up our assigned items when you visit the grocery store. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. **You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.****

### March Server Schedule

<b>10:30AM</b>	March 1 The Second Sunday in Lent	March 8 The Third Sunday in Lent	March 15 The Fourth Sunday in Lent	March 22 The Fifth Sunday in Lent	March 29 The Sunday of the Passion: PALM SUNDAY
Lector Prayers	Will Zimmer	Kelly Cain	Ann Gardner	Susan Critz	Pete Scouras Passion Readers: Bob Bushnell Kelly Cain Susan Critz Jay Dickens Hank Long
Chalists	Natalie Coleman Hank Long	Jay Dickens Dawn Stone	Bob Bushnell Nancy Spilman	Natalie Coleman Rives Coleman	Rives Coleman Dawn Stone
Ushers	Dan Cahill Rives Coleman	John Swezey Ben Lewis	Trippi Penn Jay Dickens	Pete Scouras Bob Weatherall	Michael Hodges Ben Beeler
Acolyte		Pete Scouras			
Camera Operator	Natalie Coleman	Hank Long	Hank Long	Rives Coleman	Rives Coleman
Counters	Butch Hamlet Linda O'Dell	Butch Hamlet Linda O'Dell	Butch Hamlet Linda O'Dell	Butch Hamlet Linda O'Dell	Butch Hamlet Linda O'Dell
Nursery Attendants	Caroline Davis <b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Caroline Davis <b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Caroline Davis <b>Volunteer Needed</b>		Caroline Davis <b>Volunteer Needed</b>

**Altar Guild Team #2 – Valerie Payne, Frankie Smith, Janice Cain, Rita Hodges, Michael Hodges,  
Linda O'Dell, Page Beeler, Michelle Probst**

WHAT'S LEARNED HERE IS FOR LIFE.

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January 20, 2026

Christ Episcopal Church  
311 East Church Street  
Martinsville, VA 24112

Dear Rev. John Adams and Church Friends,

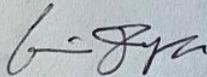
On behalf of Boys Home of Virginia, thank you for welcoming us to Christ Episcopal Church on Sunday, January 18, 2026. We are grateful for your hospitality and for the warm spirit with which you received our community.

At Boys Home, our mission is to help young men reach their full potential through faith, education, structure, and supportive relationships. Experiences like our visit to your church are an important part of that work. They allow our students to engage with caring adults, experience genuine community, and see firsthand what it looks like to live out values of faith, service, and respect. Our students Joewel, K'Shawn, and Taylor truly enjoyed being with you all and appreciated the kindness and encouragement they received.

We would be honored if you would join us for our Spring Open House on Saturday, April 25. The day will include lunch and opportunities to see our campus, meet students and staff, and learn more about the work we do. Additional details will be shared in the coming months.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. We look forward to future opportunities to partner together in service and mission.

Sincerely



Chris Doyle  
Executive Director