



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,

In March, the Vestry met with Diocesan Canon Jenni Faires to consider how we might evangelize in Martinsville and develop our congregation. Among the things that we observed was that Loaves & Fishes is a ministry that we do well (largely thanks to excellent cooking of Andy Williams and his helpers) and of which we are rightly proud, and Canon Jenni noted that getting more members involved in the ministries we already do well is an important way to keep those ministries strong and vital, which is in turn important for connecting new folks to the church.

So, based on a suggestion that was made at that meeting, we are introducing a new volunteer opportunity at Loaves & Fishes: Table Host. The role of a Table Host is simple: show up a few minutes before 5, grab a seat at a table currently lacking a Table Host, fill a plate with Andy’s delicious food, and while eating chat with those who are also eating at your table. Loaves & Fishes offers a safe and low-pressure opportunity to get to know our neighbors; for example, the majority of those who regularly eat with us are not homeless (or transient) but are food insecure residents of Martinsville, some of them military veterans. I will have cards with suggested conversation starters available for those who want them.

Beginning with the sign-up for the May 28 Loaves & Fishes, you will have the opportunity to volunteer as a Table Host, in addition to the continuing opportunities to Serve & Clean-up or bring desserts, Oranges, Apples, or Bananas. Especially for those who have not been to Loaves & Fishes recently, I hope you will take an hour out of your month to love our neighbors as Jesus commanded while sharing the fellowship of Christ Church and enjoying a tasty meal.

- Fr. John

Kings Grant Eucharist

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

Bible Studies

After going on hiatus through Easter week, both our weekly Bible studies resume in May. Our Sunday morning Bible study (9:30-10:10) will resume with Jeremiah 28, in which Jeremiah confronts the false prophet Hananiah, on **May 4**. Our Monday evening Bible study (7:00-8:00) picks up on **May 5** at Luke 20:20, as Jesus deftly handles trap questions set for him while teaching in the Temple. Both Bible studies meet in the Parish House, no preparation ahead of time is expected, and all are welcome.

History of the Early Church

Our concluding study in the History of the Early Church will take place on **May 7 at 10:30 in the Undercroft**, as we discuss the rise of Christian monasticism and consider the state of Christianity in Europe around 500.

Wednesday Eucharist

On Wednesdays, we celebrate Holy Eucharist at Noon in the Chapel (enter via the glass Undercroft door at the back of the church building). These brief (thirty minutes) spoken services commemorate the saint of the day from the Episcopal calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, and are perfect for those who want to attend a service but are unable to come Sunday mornings or who want an additional gathering for corporate prayer to help them through the week. As of now, we are planning to gather every Wednesday in May.

Women's Club Meeting

You are invited to join us in the Parish House on **Tuesday, May 13, at 5:30** for the monthly Women's Club meeting. Beverages and paper products will be provided. Please sign up at the following link [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) if you plan to attend and if you're bringing a food item. **We are looking forward to our evening of fellowship!**

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **Wednesday, May 14** at Renewal Brewing in Uptown Martinsville (32 Franklin St). Our topic this month is 'How the Hell Should I Know?' as we turn a tangent-not-taken from April's discussion of Jesus' resurrection into an evening of its own considering what we mean by Hell. We begin with socializing and pizza around 6:00, with the discussion going from 7:00 to 8:00.

Awards Sunday – Graduate Information Needed

At the 10:30 service on **May 18**, we will present the 2025 Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. award and offer a prayer for our graduates. We wish to celebrate our graduates by recognizing them in that Sunday's bulletin, so if you have someone graduating from high school, college, or a graduate, professional, or adult program, please send their information to Deborah at office@christchurchmvl.org or 276-632-2896 **by Friday, May 9**.

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) is on **May 28**, with dinner being served **from 5:00 to 6:00**. Even if you are not helping with cooking, serving, cleaning, or donating fruit or dessert, 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](#) to volunteer, be a table host, or to bring something.

The Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. Christian Leadership Award

Christian, Scholar, Soldier

"May God grant that the spirit of this award will help us increase in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man."

Since 1957, whenever possible, Christ Church has presented this annual award to a young person(s) who best represent the spirit of Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. A plaque to honor his life and in recognition of our eligible youth who exemplify his admirable traits, is displayed in the narthex of the church.

Beverly S. Parrish, Jr., was awarded many academic accolades for his achievements as a young man. To name a few, he was an Eagle Scout, active youth member of Christ Church, a successful student of science and engineering, and a distinguished member of several military groups while attending college. He was a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Beverly S. Parrish, Jr., was an active member of Christ Church who served as a crucifer for many years. He continues to be remembered for his honors and achievements, but more importantly, for his personal qualities of

kindness, strong sense of duty, and dependability. He had a “can do” attitude and was ready to assist his family and friends to the best of his ability. He was a Christian in every sense of the word.

Criteria for the Award

I. Service to Church (the Christian Spirit and Christian Leadership)

1. The Christian spirit: Acceptance of responsibility for Church, Sunday School, and other duties; Sense of acceptance of duty to God; Sense of reverence; Sense of loyalty to the Church; Humility and unselfishness; Friendliness and cheerfulness; Bible learning, prayer.

2. Participation in Church Activities: Choir, Crucifer, Acolyte, Youth Group, Young Altar Guild, Chalice Bearer, or Lay Reader.

3. Serving on committees.

4. Serving as a leader in Youth Group.

5. Serving at church activities such as Loaves & Fishes, mission trips.

6. Attendance in Sunday school and at church services

II. Service to school: Conduct/behavior; Special academic achievements; Extracurricular activities; Leadership experience; Sportsmanship/athletics; Artistic expression

III. Service to Community: Participation as a volunteer; Participation in organizations (Scouting, etc.); Participation in summer/part-time employment; Participation in local arts groups; Participation in civic groups.

**Beverly S. Parrish, Jr.
Young Christian’s Award Recipients**

1957	Ann Kearfott	2000	Megan Selman
1958	Duke Sutton	2001	Michael Gardner
1959	Benjamin Gardner	2002	Sarah Louise Lewis
1960	John Swezey		Tarleton Walmsley
1961	Suzanne West	2003	Jennifer Selman
1965	Susan Adams	2004	Page Wesley Cargill
	Joseph Kearfott	2005	Caroline Cain
1967	Paige Bishop		Banks Cargill
1968	May McCutcheon	2006	Sarah Beth Keyser
1969	Laura Hairston		Eliza Walmsley
1970	Sue Stiff	2009	James Hoy
	Bill Adams		Adrienne Joyce
1972	Jean Hairston	2010	Zachary Keyser
1973	Conrad Jones		Sallie Seiy
	Allyn Wright	2011	Lucy Hooper
1974	Nina McAdams	2012	James Coleman
1975	John Adams		Rebecca Moore
	Elizabeth Richardson	2013	McCay Ullstein
1976	Koy Edmiston		Lori Yeaman
1977	Kelly Jones	2015	Sophia Odachowski
	Clyde Toms	2016	Violet Mazurek
1978	Pete Scouras	2017	Anne Parker Coleman
1979	Kathy Bondurant	2017	Campbell Grace Pitzer
	Louise Simmons	2018	Benjamin Campbell Gardner
1982	Markley Shelton	2019	Macy Suzanne Wagoner
1984	Lewis Pitzer		Anneleise Suzanne Williams
1987	Russel Gardner	2020	Ann Mason Smith
1988	Rives Coleman		Landon Stone Wagoner
	Graham Gardner		Aurora Beth Wolchko

1989	Martin Gardner	2020	Alayna Gayle Williams
1991	John Gardner	2021	William Rhett Gardner
1992	Claudia Covert		Hadden Anne Probst
	Jason Farrar	2022	Emily Diane Williams
1993	Sarah Gautsch	2023	Claire Warner Coleman
1995	Andrew Rhett		Catherine deRosset Maxwell
1996	Melissa Edmonston	2024	Bradley Tyler Johnson VI
1997	J. Bryan Van Name		
1998	John Cargill		
	Thomas Gardner		
1999	John W. Selman, Jr.		

Dishes Left in the Parish House

If you have a dish(es) left from a previous reception, please pick it/them up at your earliest convenience. We have several glass serving dishes/plates and glass vases.

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

Comfort and heal *Sue (Rosser), Julia (Hall), Betty (Budde), Betsy (Smith), Jennifer, Carleigh, Carolyn (Byrd), Rebecca, Harry, Sanddii, Millard (Hall), Chuck (Crosby), Will (Zimmer), Virginia (Huckfeldt), and Alice (Penn)*; 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.

May Server Schedule

10:30AM	May 4 The Third Sunday of Easter	May 11 The Fourth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)	May 18 The Fifth Sunday of Easter	May 25 The Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday)
Lector Prayers	Susan Critz	Bob Bushnell	Ann Gardner	Jay Dickens
Chalist	Bob Bushnell John Swezey	Natalie Coleman Jay Dickens	Rives Coleman Steve Keyser	Hank Long Tom Webster
Acolyte				
Ushers	Trippi Penn Ben Lewis	John Swezey Kyle Trent	Jay Dickens Hank Long	Ben Beeler Bob Weatherall
Camera Operator	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams	Andy Williams
Counters	Natalie Coleman Steve Keyser	Natalie Coleman Steve Keyser	Natalie Coleman Steve Keyser	Natalie Coleman Steve Keyser
Nursery Attendants	Emily Williams	Emily Williams	Emily Williams	Emily Williams

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

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for **May - June: Deodorant (Men's or Women's) For May: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapped), and hygiene items.** As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network by 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.**

Collect for the Election of Our Bishop

In a letter sent February 19, Bishop Mark Bourlakas announced his resignation as Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia (effective May 22) to serve as an Assistant Bishop (based in Falls Church) in the Diocese of Virginia beginning June 1. The Standing Committee of the Diocese has offered the following prayer for this time of transition:

Creator God, whose Church lives beyond the walls of buildings and the boundaries of cities,
we ask that you guide our work
as the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia moves together
through a transition of leadership.

We pray for patience in dialogue and wisdom in discernment,
that the richness of our diverse voices, from farmland to small town, mountain to downtown,
will all be valued and heard.

We pray for the person who will be elected as our next Bishop,
for all those who are in discernment, and for the people of this diocese,
so that the work of spreading God's love in southwestern Virginia and beyond
will grow and flourish in the years to come.

In the name of your incarnate son we pray, Amen.