



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

October 2026



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

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,

Probably the best thing I can do at the top of this newsletter is encourage you to read through the announcements that follow and mark your calendars accordingly. The first week of the month is a big one, as we greet our Martinsville neighbors at Uptown Oktoberfest (Saturday the 3rd), bless our pets (on Sunday afternoon the 4th), and gather for what will hopefully be another fun Trivia Night (and potluck with a Dip or Treat theme on Wednesday the 7th), and of course we're little more than a month away from the annual Oyster Roast (so buy your tickets if you've not done so already). Hope to see you there!

- Fr. John

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

Comfort and heal **Sue (Rosser), Julia (Hall), Mallory, Ginger C., Jay J., David C., Ashley F., Michael (Martin), Jim A., Ruby (Stultz), Valerie B., LaRue (Powers), Jean, Tina H., Dorothy C., Nancy (King), Jimmy S., Honore** 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.

Oktoberfest – October 3

Christ Episcopal Church is once again participating in the Oktoberfest on **Saturday, October 3rd**. We will have bookmarks and balloons to give to folks, along with St. Francis medals for attending pets.

We need volunteers to set up and take down. We would love for church members to give an hour to work the booth, fill & handout balloons, be “Balloon Wranglers,” and help assemble the St. Francis medals with ribbon and tie them on the pets. **Please consider signing up with your name and contact information beside the time slot that works for you at Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia.**

Most of all, as we all continue to find ways to encourage newcomers and grow the body of CEC, this event is an excellent opportunity to introduce the community to our wonderful church in a very low-key way. **Hoping you will consider joining us on October 3!!!**

Blessing of the Animals

For the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who among other things is famous for preaching to a flock of birds and otherwise expressing his reverence for all of God's creation, we will offer a short service for the Blessing of the Animals. On **October 4 at 3:00 pm**, you are invited to join us with your dogs, cats, and any other pets in the **Gathering Place (the benches between the Parish House and the church building)** unless the weather is inclement, in which case we will be in the Undercroft.

Trivia Night

Please join us on **October 7** for an evening of fellowship and a game of Trivia hosted by Fr. John! The meal, beginning at **6:00 pm**, will be a **Dip or Treat Potluck: bring your favorite dip (ranch, hummus, caramel, etc.), spread (pimiento cheese, chicken salad, Nutella, etc.), and/or vessel to get dips and spreads from the dish to your mouth (carrots, chips, sliced bread, sliced apples, etc.) to share, or just bring yourself.** The game, which should conclude by 8:00 pm, will (much like February's Trivia night) feature categories appropriate to October. This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends (especially those whose knowledge base differs from yours) to join us at Christ Church.

Kings Grant Eucharist

Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at **Kings Grant at 1:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.** The next services will be **October 13**, November 10, and December 8.

Women's Group Meeting – October 13

Come on, let's meet at the Parish House. Join us at the Women's Group meeting on **Tuesday, October 13th at 5:30 in the Parish House.** We'll provide water, wine, and soft drinks. If you can bring a snack, wonderful; if not, bring yourself. **Please sign up at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) or call the church office if you plan to attend.** Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Church History Class

On **October 14 at 10:30 am in the Undercroft**, we will conclude our study of the Crusades with the 13th-century close of the crusading era in the Holy Land. All are welcome to join (and encouraged to stick around for the Noon Eucharist in the Chapel).

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **October 14 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.

Third Sunday Supper and Evening Prayer

Join us on **Sunday, October 18 at 5:30 pm** at a new opportunity for fellowship and worship! We will begin with Evening Prayer before adjourning for supper, which will be a **potluck. You are invited to contribute a main dish, side, salad, or dessert to share, but are also welcome to bring just yourself.** We hope that, in addition to giving us another occasion to socialize, this service will allow members who can rarely attend on Sunday mornings or Wednesdays at Noon to join us for worship and give us a chance to invite our friends and neighbors to a low-pressure service and meal.

Loaves & Fishes – September 30

We are always looking for volunteers to help prepare/serve/clean up, as well as folks to bring desserts and fruit to distribute. As is often the case, we plan to skip Loaves & Fishes in November (Thanksgiving Eve) and December (the week between Christmas and New Years). **September 30th Loaves & Fishes is being hosted by Kelly Cain with help from Ron Probst. Come out and show your support.** Sign up at [Christ Episcopal Church - Martinsville, Virginia](#) to donate items or help with preparing and serving.

All Saints and Baptism

November 1 is the Feast of All Saints, and this year we will celebrate by welcoming a new member of the communion of saints! Khycir, Beverly and George Lyle's son, will be baptized during the 10:30 service, and you are encouraged to join us for this festive occasion. **There will be a reception in the Parish House following the service.**



(artwork by Claire Warner Coleman)

Oyster Roast – November 6

The Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast, our annual fundraiser featuring great food, live music, a silent auction, and more, is on **Friday, November 6, beginning at 6:00 pm**. Tickets (\$60 check or cash, \$62.58 credit via PayPal) are available on the website (<https://christchurchmvl.org/event-signup.cfm?eID=3>). Contact Rives Coleman (rcoleman@rivessbrown.com or 276-732-2859) or Ron Probst (rlpsystems@gmail.com or 276-224-5433) for more information or to volunteer to help. Tickets for the 50/50 Raffle (\$10/ticket, maximum winnings of \$2,500) can be purchased now from Linda, Michael, and Rives.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church will take place after the **10:30 service on November 15**. In addition to discussing our ongoing efforts to improve the grounds and offer more fellowship opportunities, we will consider the current state of the finances and elect four members to three-year terms on the Vestry. If you feel that God is calling you to serve on Vestry, please talk to one of our outgoing members (Bob Bushnell, Rives Coleman, LaRue Powers, and Bob Weatherall).

Bishop's Visit (*note date change*) and Church Membership

In the Episcopal Church, there are several paths to official membership. **Baptism** by water, in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is full membership in the body of Christ, and is available to those (of any age) who have not been baptized previously; all Christians, baptized in any denomination, are welcome to receive communion. For those baptized as infants or young children, **Confirmation** is a mature public affirmation of faith made before the Bishop that confers administrative membership (such as voting rights at the annual meeting and eligibility to run for vestry) in that particular church; such membership may then be transferred from one Episcopal church to another. **Reception** is when the Bishop welcomes someone confirmed in another Christian denomination into the Episcopal Church and is administratively equivalent to confirmation. **Reaffirmation** is available for those who were previously confirmed but desire to publicly reaffirm their baptismal vows before the Bishop, often after a period of prayerful discernment and/or an extended hiatus from involvement in a church community.

Our new Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Karin MacPhail, will be visiting Christ Church for Sunday worship on **February 21, 2027**. This is the next opportunity for anyone desiring to be confirmed, be received, or reaffirm their baptismal vows at Christ Church, and is one of five days in the year (along with the Baptism of Jesus, the Great Vigil of Easter, Pentecost, and All Saints Sunday) that is particularly appropriate for a baptism. **If you are interested in confirmation, reception, reaffirmation, or baptism next February, please talk to Fr. John before November.**

Picture Policy

We are in the process of developing a new website, which we hope will go live after the Oyster Roast; we have been collecting recent pictures and taking new ones to enliven said website. If you are 18 or older and attend worship, fellowship, or other church events and DO NOT want pictures of you to appear on our website, please email or mail a message to Deborah stating as much. If you are the parent (or legal guardian) of a child under 18, please send us written permission without which we will not post pictures of your child. With a few exceptions (primarily staff), we do not identify people by name in pictures on the website.

October Server Schedule

10:30AM	October 4 The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	October 11 The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	October 18 The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost	October 25 The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Lector Prayers	Ann Gardner	Kelly Cain	Will Zimmer	Susan Critz
Chalist	Jay Dickens Steve Keyser	Bob Bushnell Nancy Spilman	Dawn Stone John Swezey	Hank Long Tom Webster
Acolyte				
Ushers	Bob Weatherall Hank Long	Jay Dickens Pete Scouras	Rives Coleman Dan Cahill	Ben Lewis Michael Hodges
Camera Operator	Natalie Coleman	Hank Long	Vicki Crosby	Linda O'Dell
Counters	Kelly Cain Butch Hamlet	Kelly Cain Butch Hamlet	Kelly Cain Butch Hamlet	Kelly Cain Butch Hamlet
Nursery Attendants	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis	Caroline Davis

**Altar Guild Team #4 – Becky Farrar, Susan Smith, Natalie Coleman,
Ashley Ullstein, Dawn Stone, Kyle Trent**

Please remember that if you cannot serve on your scheduled date, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. If, however, you cannot find a replacement, please contact your chairperson. Fr. John Adams – Lectors, Chalist, Acolytes, and camera operator; Ben Beeler – Ushers; Deborah Searce - Counters

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for **October - December: Saltine Crackers (box)**. For **October: 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.

Concerts in Danville

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Danville Music Series is pleased to present two upcoming Concerts. Dr. Robert Poovey (Master of the Choristers and Schola at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem, NC) will present an Organ Recital on Friday, October 23 at 7:00 pm on the Church's 3 manual, 39 stop, mechanical action Andover Organ. Singers of New and Ancient Music (a chorus committed to creating high-quality sacred and secular music and giving back to the community, under the direction of Dr. Allan Friedman) will present a concert on Sunday, Nov 1 at 4:00 pm. Both concerts are free, though donations are gratefully received.