

The Rainbow

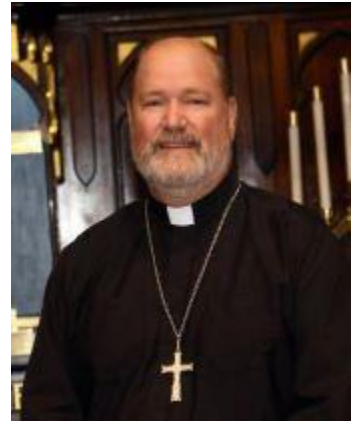


APRIL 2024

A letter from Fr. Paul

Greetings to All and welcome to April and the Easter Season! We are blessed with many signs of spring; flowers, blossoms, fresh cut grass, birds chirping. I was so moved by the beauty of our tulips that have opened around our Christ Church sign, I had to take a picture. I hope you all are enjoying the season thus far.

We are in a season of Easter joy. Our Gospel readings tell of the Risen Christ among the disciples, and we hear of fear being turned into joy. Our journey into this joy comes out of our Lenten preparation, from a more penitent time. We reflected on our lives and how and when we turned from God. We confessed our sins and asked for God's forgiveness. And during Holy Week we experienced the lifting up of our sins onto the cross, and that weight being taken on, willingly, by our Lord Jesus Christ. We celebrate Jesus' overcoming the suffering and death he endured for us in this incredible act of ultimate love. We show thanks by living in this love, by living out our renewed strength and energy of spirit. Because this is a season of joy and no longer of penitence, we omit the Confession of Sin during the season of Easter. This means, when worshipping together on Sunday, we go from the Prayers of the People right into the Peace, sharing a sign of God's love with one another, rejoicing together. I encourage us all this season, until the Holy Day of Pentecost arrives, to live in love, and if so moved, pray directly to God for forgiveness.



I hope we all have a wonderful Easter season and that we have many moments to take in the beauty that is God's gift, the colorful and active life around us. Stop and take some pictures, be active in nature. Greet one another with peace, live in love and rejoice in the many blessings and gifts in our lives.

Alleluia. Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Paul+

An Evening of Music *by Mimi Merritt*

Christ Church enjoyed a lovely evening of music in our Nave during Lent, when CEC members Maggie Jusiel and Tim Mainland performed a concert of Lenten music and other classical pieces from the 15th century on March 19.

Maggie and Tim, who perform regionally and beyond, both educated and entertained us on a wide variety of period instruments including the hurdy-gurdy, the lute, multiple recorders, a banjo, and a mandolin. A reception with punch, delicious treats, and fresh Spring daffodils followed in the Library.



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT
MARCH 2024

FOOD PANTRY
THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Number of bags distributed: 88

50 gift cards to Grants Supermarket were handed out

Bread was provided by Sheila Brooks

Volunteers: Betty Nash, Bill Denny, Mimi Merritt, Art Mead, Linda Gillespie, Patricia and Peter Taylor, Rev. Paul Barker

UNION MISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

A total of 98 meals were prepared, packaged and served. The menu was Stauffer's Lasagna, bread, salad, a cookie and soft drink. Volunteers who helped were Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, Shirley Ofsa and Patty Richardson of Christ Episcopal Church. James Fisher, a former member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Bluefield, VA, And Betty Watson of Bluefield, VA, also served.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

A total of 201 meals were prepared, packaged and served. The menu was a chicken sandwich, turkey subs, baked beans, chips, a cookie and soft drink.

Volunteers were Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, Shirey Ofsa, and Patty Richardson of Christ Episcopal Church, Bluefield, WV; Charlie Helmendollar, Senior Warden, Christ Episcopal Church, Pocahontas, VA, and his wife Fredia; and a former member of St. Mary's Church, James Fisher.

FELLOWSHIP HOME

A meal of roasted chicken, vegetable casseroles, potato salad, bread and brownies was prepared for the men at the Fellowship Home and delivered to them on Thursday, March 14. Volunteers who helped with this outreach were Mary Catherine Williams, Grey Kiser, Linda Gillespie, Linda Thomas, and Linda Ammar.

Minutes-CEC Vestry Meeting
March 20, 2024

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry was held in Rowley Hall, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mary Catherine Williams, Donald Kersey, Susanne Pulse, Peter Richardson, Art Mead, Ted Lewis, Becky Beckett, Mimi Merritt, Bill Denny

Also present was Father Paul Barker

Father Paul called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Mary Catherine Williams made the motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting and Art Mead seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Vestry members reviewed the financial documents. Financially the church remains in good condition. Income: Unrestricted income significantly exceeded budget due to church members paying a full year of their pledge and making their annual gifts last month. These funds along with a good beginning balance in our operating account will cover our normal expenses for the next couple of months. Expense: Our diocesan apportionment of \$2900 not reflected as paid for the month of February. Property maintenance was \$1200 under budget. Reimbursement from diocese not received for December through February - \$3200. Balance sheet observations: Both the St Lucy and Building Endowment funds experienced good growth this month. Bill Denney made the motion to approve the financial report. Mary Catherine Williams seconded the motion. The financial report was approved.

Emma Bennett is pursuing a two-year business/accounting degree on her own. Donald Kersey made the motion that she receive a one-time bonus of \$500.00 to acknowledge her effort in pursuing her education. Mary Catherine Williams seconded the motion. It was approved.

A discussion was held regarding a 5% cost of living raise for 2024 to the staff, Emma Bennett, Vanessa Hall, and Terry Whittington. Donald Kersey said the ballpark cost of the 5% raise for the three staff members would be about \$2,000. Art Mead moved that the Vestry approve the 5% cost of living pay raise for the staff to start the next pay period. Bill Denny seconded the motion. It was approved.

Becky Beckett gave the Senior Warden's report. Thank you notes were sent to Mother Erin Morey for serving as guest minister and celebrant March 17 and to the Mainlands for a concert March 19. The Wedding Policy will be the next policy that will be revised. A subcommittee will be formed to review and make suggestions. A discussion was held with the Rev. Canon Jordan Trumble regarding Christ Church calling Rev. Paul Barker as our Rector. Canon Trumble indicated that we could not do that until the end of Paul Barker's second year at Christ Church. The Vestry

discussed this issue after excusing Rev. Barker from the room. We reviewed Father Paul Barker's performance. Peter Richardson made the motion, subject to Father Paul Barker's approval, that Christ Church will call Father Paul Barker to be our next Rector. Mary Catherine Williams seconded the motion. It was approved. Father Paul rejoined the meeting. He was asked if he would like to be called to be Christ Church's next Rector. He replied yes. Peter Richardson made the motion that the Senior Warden would write a letter to Bishop Cowden on this matter as soon as possible. Donald Kersey seconded the motion and it was approved.

Peter Richardson gave the Junior Warden's report. Dunford Roofing revised the estimate from \$26,008 to \$31,300 for the third floor roof replacement project to include a membrane on top of the wall to keep water from infiltrating the wall. Bill Denny made the motion to accept the revised estimate and proceed as quickly as possible with the roof replacement. Mary Catherine Williams seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mary Catherine Williams gave the Parish Life report on the committee meeting on March 10. Refreshments were provided after the concert on March 19. The Vestry will provide coffee hour on Palm Sunday, March 24. The Vestry Retreat will be at Christ Church on April 6 from 10-3. On April 21, there will be a Parish Luncheon after church. The Reception for Father Russ and Debbie Hatfield will be May 19. The Church picnic is scheduled for August 25. On October 13, there will be a carry-in luncheon after church. Bishop Cowden is scheduled to visit Christ Church on December 1 with a reception to follow after the service. Coffee hour is going well. A college mission group from St. Joseph University, Philadelphia was at the church on March 4. Linda Ammar organized a meal for the Men's Fellowship Home recently. During the first part of June, flowers will be planted in the Memorial Garden and in front of the sign. Volunteers will be needed to water the plants. The Wade Center will send more groups to the Church for projects in the very near future. There may not be any youth mission groups this summer. Landscaping around the Church has been completed by Eugene Dillow at a cost of \$1,410.00

Bill Denny reported that the 65 bags prepared by the congregation for the February food pantry were distributed, and 50 gift cards were given out. Art Mead reported on the dinners provided at the Union Mission by Christ Church.

Father Paul gave the Education Committee report. The last Sunday School will be May 19 for the program year. There will be a Sunday School outing at the Blue Mountain Rustic and Gem Mine in Tazewell.

Mimi Merritt gave the communications report. The Rainbow and the weekly e-mail are still being produced. The Sunday morning service is livestreamed.


Father Paul gave the Rector's Report. Holy week is set. The blessing of the palms will be in the narthex. The week of April 26 to May 4, Father Paul will be on vacation. A Supply Priest will be needed for April 28. General Convention will be June 21 to 28. Bishop Cowden has asked Father

Paul to set up an exhibit regarding HEP at General Convention. Mary Catherine Williams made the motion to approve the Parochial Report. Becky Beckett seconded the motion. It was approved. Father Paul informed the Vestry that he was revising his office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 to 4:00 to 9:00 to 5:00 to include an hour's break midday.

New Business: None

Old Business: Mary Catherine Williams made the motion to approve the burial policy. Mimi Merritt seconded the motion and it was approved.

Father Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.




Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, Martha Linkous, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Jim and Chris Justice, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Fr. Russ and Debbie Hatfield and family, Mary Lou, Brian, Don Harris, Ted and Katherine Lewis, Brian, John and Becky Beckett, Jim Paine, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, Rosemary, Eddie Hughes, Doug Truter, Debbie H., Kimberly Norriss, Mark, Donna Thompson-Whitehead, Liz, Joan, Dave and Elvin




BIRTHDAYS

April 1 Alice Allen	April 15 Rob Snidow	April 18 Will Puckett	April 28 John Moir
April 13 Cici Dyer	April 16 Pete Beavers	April 20 Tom Coughlan	April 30 Paul Broyles, Jr
April 13 Jim Paine	April 16 Phil Mahood	April 23 Ed Fortune	.
April 13 Katherine Lewis	April 16 Betty Nash	April 24 Staci Thomas	
April 14 Cameron Clement	April 18 Macon Clement	April 27 Dorene Dimes	



A Celebration for Father Russ and Debbie Hatfield is scheduled for Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Father Russ and Debbie Hatfield, please send your contribution to the Church office no later than May 13, 2024.



Volunteers are needed to livestream the service on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Susanne Pulse.

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 The Second Sunday of Easter 10:00 Holy Eucharist	8	9	10 4:00 Union Mission	11	12	13
14 The Third Sunday of Easter 10:00 Holy Eucharist 11:00 Marriage Blessing	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due)	16 10:30 DOK	17 6:00 Men's Dinner 7:00 Vestry	18 9:00 Food Pantry	19	20
21 The Fourth Sunday of Easter 10:00 Holy Eucharist Carry in luncheon	22 Earth Day	23	24 Administrative Professionals 3:30 Union Mission	25 SAINT MARK THE EVANGELIST	26 Arbor Day	27
28 The Fifth Sunday of Easter 10:00 Liturgy of the Word	29	30	ALTAR GUILD: Chris Justice, Becky Beckett and Patty Richardson			

The following people have graciously donated flowers for the month of April:

April 7	Stacy and Tripper Thomas
April 14	Frank and Bernadette Dragotto
April 21	Tim and Maggie Mainland
April 28	Terry Whittington

Lectors and Acolyte Schedule for April:

April 7	David Hardin, Lector	Becky Beckett, Acolyte
April 14	Linda Ammar, Lector	Becky Kersey, Acolyte
April 21	C. Clement, Lector	Bill Denney, Acolyte
April 28	Ted Lewis, Lector	Teresa Paine, Acolyte

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



APRIL 2024

Editor: Susanne Pulse (susannepulse@gmail.com)

Copy Editor: Mimi Merritt

Contributors: Linda Ammar, Art Mead, Mimi Merritt

Graphic Design: Susanne Pulse