

Parish Life

2021 - 2022



“Looking Out for All God’s Creation”

Christ Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 164
Blacksburg, VA 24063
(540) 552 - 2411
www.christchurchblacksburg.org

Christ Episcopal Church

The Normal Weekly Schedule

Sundays:

- 8:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist, alternating Rite I & Rite II
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages; Nursery opens
- 9:45 a.m. Choir warm-up, in the Choir Room
- 10:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist, alternating Rite I & Rite II
with Children's Chapel in Martin Chapel.
- 11:45 a.m. Choristers, in the Choir Room
- 5:00 p.m. Middle/High School's "Public Theology" meets on the 2nd
Sunday of the month.
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group (5th - 12th grades) meets on 4th Sunday of the
month.

Mondays:

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, in the Parish Hall

Tuesdays:

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study, in the Parish Hall

Wednesdays:

- 5:30 p.m. Canterbury Fellowship, in the Church & Parish Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, in the Choir Room

Thursdays:

- 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, in the Parish Hall

Fridays:

Typically the clergy's day off

Special services and programs are announced in the Sunday bulletin, on the parish website, in the weekly parish email, and the parish newsletter, "The Compass."

as Christ Church. There is certainly always room for more!

(Contact: Scott West+)

Welcome to Christ Church

Whether you are a newcomer to Christ Church or have been part of the parish for many years, I wish to welcome you! I hope you will be part of all that Christ Church has to offer those wishing to explore, engage, and embrace the Christian faith as the Episcopal Church expresses it. You are invited to worship and to participate in our common life as a parish, including various educational, outreach, and faith-building ministries. For this program year (i.e. September through June), our theme is “Looking Out for All God’s Creation,” which will undergird our efforts as we walk together in this journey of Christian faith through worship and programs. In a day and time when much of our world has struggled with caring for one another through the pandemic, my hope is that this year’s presentations and discussions will provide the Christian foundations and reminders which all of us need to remember as we live the life of faith.

The Rev. Scott A. West, Rector

Sacramental Life

The sacraments of the Episcopal Church are comprised of two rites: Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

Holy Baptism is the initiatory rite, whereby one is made a Christian, an Episcopalian, and a member of Christ Church. Baptism makes one a full member of the Church, the Body of Christ.

Holy Communion is the on-going, sustaining rite, in which we all may experience God’s grace. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church. Those seeking Holy Baptism should speak with the rector.

Other Sacramental Rites:

In the Episcopal Church we observe five other sacramental rites as outlined in the Catechism found in the Book of Common Prayer: **Confirmation, Holy Matrimony, Ordination, Penance, and Unction**. These five rites, while imparting God’s grace within each, are not necessary for every Christian, hence they’re being called sacramental rites.

Confirmation is the mature, public profession and acceptance of the Episcopal expression of his or her Christianity by either one who has been baptized as a child or who has chosen to become a part of the Episcopal Church. Only bishops in the Episcopal Church celebrate Confirmation, and in preparation for Confirmation, classes are offered for those interested in learning more about the Christian faith and the Episcopal Church. Watch for future announcements as to when Confirmation/Inquirers' classes will be offered, and if one is interested in being confirmed, please speak with the Curate or Rector.



Holy Matrimony, or the rite of Marriage, is conducted according the Book of Common Prayer or other rites authorized by the Episcopal Church and the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Marriage is permitted for same-sex couples in the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. In the case of remarriage of either party, previously divorced, permission must be obtained from the bishop in order for the celebrant to officiate. Pre-marital counseling is required for all.

Ordination requires a multi-step process beginning with discerning a call to ordained ministry either to the diaconate and the priesthood. Further exploration and education is typical.

Penance is the intentional confession of sin to a priest and hearing absolution. “Reconciliation of a Penitent,” a liturgy within the Book of Common Prayer, is offered on Good Friday of each year or at other times as requested.

Unction is the anointing with blessed oil of those who are sick, following the ancient Biblical practice; this sacramental rite can be arranged by speaking with the Rector.
(*Contacts: Joseph Butler+ and Scott West+*)



YOUTH GROUP'S PICNIC TABLE PROJECT
ADULT CHOIR, CHORISTERS, AND HANDBELL CHOIR

Growing Our Faith

Sunday School

Each Sunday (9:30-10:20) our children meet upstairs in the Education Wing for fellowship and worship. This year our curriculum, “A Journey with Mark” focuses on the Gospel of Mark, taught by Elizabeth Struthers Malbon and Elizabeth Foster. All children ages 2nd through 5th grades are welcome. We especially encourage parents and visitors. Our middle/high school youth join the congregation downstairs in the Parish Hall for Adult Forum on Sundays and on the second Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m. for their own education time, Public Theology. (*Contact: Ed Champion*)

Adult Forum: On Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall, a variety of presentations and interactive discussions are conducted on diverse topics relating to our faith and the Episcopal Church, usually focused upon a theme. The theme for the 2021-2022 program year is “Looking Out for All God’s Creation.”

(*Contact: Lisa Hammett*)

Rector’s Bible Study: The Rector leads a Bible study each Tuesday from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall. We take a rather leisurely approach as we read through scripture and discuss what piques our interest. We are once again working our way through the Old Testament. Our purpose is to explore scripture and glean from it whatever we can.

(*Contact: Scott West+*)



Music

Adult Choir

The adult choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room and sings at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Warm-up on Sundays is at 9:45 a.m. The choir sings on Holy Days, funerals, Evensongs, and special services.

Choristers

Children of reading age and ability are invited to sing with the Christ Church Choristers. Participating in the Royal School of Church Music Program, choristers learn the great hymns of our faith, anthems to challenge one's musical spirit, and even occasionally instrumental parts to accompany the singing.

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir is open to anyone from 5th graders to adults. Five octaves of handbells and three octaves of choirchimes are played. The choir participates in Sunday liturgies, Holy Day and special services throughout the year. Rehearsals are on Thursdays at 6:45 p.m.

(Contact: Pamela Trent)

Worship Life

The worship of God is the heart of what we do and who we are at Christ Church and as Episcopalians. The Book of Common Prayer forms our worship as well as guides us in the Christian faith. We strive to worship God with our best efforts in beauty, reverence, and dignity, while realizing all worship is a particular human act to be experienced more than to be performed. Absolutely everyone is welcome to worship!

Christ Church uses the Book of Common Prayer in all its breadth, and our worship conforms to the Prayer Book's format and standards. We sing from *The Hymnal 1982* and occasionally from *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, a supplemental hymnal. The choirs of Christ Church sing regularly, with the adult choir singing every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. (or at 9:30 a.m. in summer), and the Choristers, the children's choir, sing regularly. The Handbell Choir rings with frequency too. Lay Eucharistic Ministers, licensed by the bishop, assist in

the distribution of Holy Communion at every service, and Lay Eucharistic Visitors often take blessed bread and wine to those who cannot attend services. Acolytes, both youth and adults, participate in leading worship and serving at the altar. Ushers and altar guild members assist in preparing for worship as well. Each of these ministries always invites and welcomes new participants.

In addition to Sunday morning liturgies, other times for corporate worship are offered weekly and seasonally. Canterbury Fellowship, our campus ministry, holds a service on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. to which all are invited. On the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist is celebrated in the Showalter Center and at 11:00 a.m. at the Kroontje Center at Warm Hearth Village. Evensong, the sung service of Evening Prayer, is planned 2021-2022. Additionally, Holy Day Eucharists and Holy Week liturgies offer particular worship opportunities.

**Our Nursery welcomes infants to 6 year olds on Sundays
from 9:30 - 11:45 a.m. from September through May
and at some special services and events.
Summer Nursery hours are Sundays from 9:15 - 10:45 a.m.
We always have two adults always on duty.**



Ministries within the Parish

Acolytes: Children, youth, and adults form the acolyte corps who serve in a leadership roles of crucifer/server, Gospel Book bearer, and torch bearers for Sunday, Holy Day, and special services. Acolytes serve at both the 8:30 and 10:30 Sunday liturgies; third grade is the minimum age for children to serve. (*Contact: John Homer*)

Altar Flowers: Flowers are placed at the altar every Sunday except during Lent and are given usually as memorials, remembering loved ones, or in thanksgiving of birthdays, anniversaries, or special life events. Should you wish to place flowers at the altar on Sunday and find another has reserved that date, you may share the date or chose another time. Cost is \$60 per Sunday for two vases, and the flowers are provided by Stonecrop Farm of Giles County. (*Contact: Joan Efird*)

Altar Guild: The Altar Guild prepares the sanctuary and chancel for services, including setting the altar with silver vessels and seasonally appropriate paraments, polishing brass, placing numbers on hymn boards, and general tidying. The work requires ensuring the vessels are properly cleaned and stored, the linens laundered, and the items used in worship at the altar are properly set. Serving on the altar guild provides the opportunity to be in touch with both the spiritual and practical aspects of the church.

(*Contacts: Christine Parker and Judy Kirwan*)

Children's Chapel: Children's Chapel happens each Sunday during the program year (Sept. - May) for children 3 - 6 years old from 10:25 -11:15 a.m. The children participate in worship activities similar to adult worship. Leaders teach Bible stories, songs, and activities to encourage a knowledge of God's love and church practices. The children are brought to the church in time to join their families for communion. All little ones are welcome in Children's Chapel. (*Contacts: Margaret Sharp and Susan Sheridan Smith*)

Daughters of the King: The Saint Elizabeth Chapter of the Daughters of the King was formed at Christ Church in 1997. Our chapter is open to any women interested in sharing the unique bonds of Christian commitment through prayer, service, and fellowship. (*Contact: Laurie Shepherd*)

Delegates to the New River Convocation and the Diocesan Convention: Individuals must be 16 years of age or older members of the parish and communicants in good standing (i.e. members faithful in attending worship and giving financially to the church) in order to be elected to serve as delegates to the New River Convocation and the Annual Diocesan Convention, held each year in late January in Roanoke. Delegates, along with the clergy, represent Christ Church within these bodies. (*Contact: Scott West+*)

Hospitality: Providing coffee, tea, and other refreshments after Sunday services in an important ministry that many often don't realize though often enjoy. Thanks to many who volunteer in providing this welcoming piece to our Sunday morning life, and of course, we are always looking for more people who might be interested in helping. (*Contact: Helen McCarty*)

Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors: LEMs and LEVs help in the distribution of Holy Communion, whether in the context of the Holy Eucharist on Sundays (as in the case of LEMs) or to those ill or unable to attend services (as in the case of LEVs). Each can be easily ascertained; LEMs participate in the Sunday liturgy as vested members of the altar party, whereas LEVs come to the altar after the post-communion prayer to be sent forth with Holy Communion. Both Lay Eucharist Ministers and Lay Eucharistic Visitors are licensed by the bishop for a three-year period of service. **Lectors:** Lectors read aloud the Old Testament and Epistle lessons appointed for any given Sunday and may lead the Prayers of the People. Training is available for those interested. (*Contacts: Mike Marcolini or Scott West+ for LEMs and Lectors*)
Debbie Burchard or Scott West+ for LEVs)

Offering Counters: This small group of parishioners, divided into teams of two, count and record Sunday's offering on Monday morning and make the bank deposit. (*Contact: Karen Iannaccone*)

Parish Nursing: Christ Church is blessed to have two professional parish nurses who assist in pastoral care, health monitoring, and checking on many of our older parishioners who live alone. Our parish nurses coordinate home communion visits with the lay eucharistic visitors and clergy. (*Contact: Debbie Burchard*)

Receptions: At Christ Church, we use “reception” for a specific purpose, to denote festive gatherings after special services and Evensongs as well as a light repast following a funeral. Dozens of parishioners help in providing food, beverages, serving, setting up, and cleaning afterward. (*Contacts: Carol Fox and Lisa Hammett*)

St. Bede Guild: The purpose of this new guild is to digitize, transcribe and catalog the church's historical records so that they are accessible to all. Christ Church's history is closely intertwined with that of Blacksburg; thus, our efforts will support historical scholarship as well as genealogy. If you have an interest in history and can offer chunks of time (small or large), you can help. Computer and reading cursive skills are helpful, but not necessary. (*Contact: Jody Daniels*)

St. Gabriel Guild: St. Gabriel the Archangel is the patron saint of communication, and thus this guild's focus is on the parish's communications: our web presence, live-streamed liturgies, our parish YouTube channel, newsletters, and other means to communicating the mission and ministries of Christ Church. Some help operate the camera through which our live-streamed Sunday service is viewed. Anyone with an eye and ear for communication or has a technology interest is invited to participate. (*Contact: Joseph Butler+*)

St. Joseph Guild: Named for Joseph, our Lord's earthly father, this guild is comprised of individuals who help around the church with various building and maintenance projects, as a help to the Junior Warden. (*Contact: Tony Martin*)

Stewardship Committee: The Stewardship Committee plans the annual stewardship campaign for Christ Church as well as a variety of events that keep stewardship in the forefront of our minds as well as communicate that stewardship is not simply about money. How we care for our surroundings, one another, and using God's blessings wisely is the heart of stewardship. (*Contact: Jody Daniels*)

United Thank Offering: Women of the Episcopal Church initiated the United Thank Offering in the 1880s, to help support mission work both domestically and in foreign fields. Today the UTO grants funds to a variety of ministries world-wide that focus primarily on the needs of women and children. The United Thank Offering is collected semi-annually at Christ Church. (*Contact: Susan Donckers*)

Ushers: Ushers serve as initial greeters to those coming to Christ Church, distributing Sunday bulletins and welcoming people. Ushers count the attendance, collect the morning's offering, and ask for two individuals to carry the bread and wine forward to the altar as part of the offertory. Being an usher is open to all from teenagers through our seniors. Ushers are scheduled to serve at both 8:30 and 10:30 services. (*Contact: Andrew Walker*)

Vestry: The Vestry's canonical charge is to tend to the temporal business of the parish. Twelve members of the parish, who are considered "communicants in good standing," serve a three-year term. The officers of the Vestry are: the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Clerk. The Treasurer and Clerk may be members ex-officio. For the remainder of 2021, the Senior Warden is Elizabeth Wiley, and the Junior Warden is Tony Martin. Margaret Sharp serves as the Clerk of the Vestry, and Mimi Boone serves as Treasurer. Four Vestry members are elected each year at the Annual Parish Meeting to serve a term of three years. (*Contacts: Elizabeth Wiley and Scott West+*)

Yard Sale: The Yard Sales produce a generous income all of which is distributed for ministries that help people beyond our walls. Parishioners and friends of Christ Church contribute material goods as well as time and talent in preparing for the yard sale. (*Contacts: Carol Fox and Jody Daniels*)

Youth Group & Public Theology: Youth Group for middle/high schoolers is held on the fourth Sunday each month, usually from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. and on special occasions. The Youth Group enjoys social time, service projects, and variety of activities. Public Theology is a focused time of reflection and education for the youth and meets on the second Sunday of each month. (*Youth Group Contacts: Ed Champion & Tom Hammett; Public Theology Contacts: Susan Sheridan Smith and Greg Galford*)

Gardens at Christ Church

The Memorial Garden is the place of repose for cremated remains of parishioners, either within niches under the pavers or scattered among the trees, shrubs, and flowers. Names and dates are inscribed into the memorial stones, as well as a more complete record of the individual's life in the Book of Remembrance. This book is housed in the parish library and is opened for display. Niches and ground space are available to parishioners.

(Contact: Richard Shepherd)

The Labyrinth Garden was built by parishioners during Lent 2008 as our response to the tragic shootings on the Virginia Tech campus on April 16,

2007. The classic

Chartres Cathedral design consists of

five circuits built with two-tone pavers; perennials, shrubs, and trees along with three benches compliment the labyrinth.



The “Lay Weeder’s” or Gardeners’ Guild maintains the gardens that surround the church buildings. Planting, weeding, watering, and mulch spreading are all tasks which the faithful gardeners accomplish. Help is always wanted and appreciated.

(Contact: Marcia Murphy)

“I am the
resurrection and
the life, saith
the Lord; he that
believeth in me,
though he were
dead, yet shall
he live; and
whosoever liveth
and believeth in
me shall never
die.”

Campus Ministry: Canterbury Fellowship

Ministry to the students, faculty, and staff of Virginia Tech have been an integral part of Christ Church's mission and ministry since the 1870s, and that ministry continues today. Canterbury Fellowship, our student group, meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. during the times Virginia Tech is in session. Parishioners participate in the Campus Ministry Committee, forge intentional relationships with students, and many cook supper for our gathering on Wednesdays. We usually celebrate Holy Eucharist in the church at 5:30 p.m. when we meet, followed by dinner in the parish hall. Occasional other activities are scheduled, and the Canterbury Fellowship rents the church parking lot during Virginia Tech home football games, the proceeds of which go toward our campus ministry programming. Any and all are invited to be part of campus ministry as we welcome and include students, faculty, and staff into the life of Christ Church.

(Contacts: Joseph Butler+ and Scott West+)

Parish Administration

The day-to-day running of a parish church is often a vague concept to many. Christ Church's staff is comprised of three full-time and three part-time personnel and many volunteers. The Sexton, Wardie Lovern; the Associate Rector, the Rev. Joseph Butler; and the Rector, Scott West are full-time members of the parish staff, whereas the parish office manager/secretary (position to be filled); the Christian Education Director, Ed Champion; the bookkeeper (position to be filled); and organist/choirmaster, Pamela Trent are part-time staff members. Other ministries of the parish are staffed by volunteers, including but not limited to our parish nurse, Debbie Burchard; parish treasurers, Mimi Boone and Karen Iannaccone; youth leaders, Susan Smith, Greg Galford, and Tom Hammett; Sunday school teachers, altar guild members, gardeners, choirs, and ushers. The vestry also plays a role in the day-to-day operations of the church, approving the budget from which we work, authorizing capital expenditures, providing for the care of our buildings, all the while being mindful of national and diocesan canons. The rector and curate tend to the canonically required administrative reports and paperwork for both the diocesan office and the national church office. Two things are certain; no two days are ever alike, and it takes many, many parishioners to carry out our ministries, mission, and purpose.



Planned Giving: “Be a Cornerstone”

Leaving a legacy is something that many people plan on doing, and following the encouragement of the Book of Common Prayer on page 445, we are to make wills, arrange for the disposal of one’s temporal goods, and not neglecting to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses. The Cornerstone Society of Christ Church was created in 2015 by the vestry to acknowledge and thank those who make plans to help support, through legacy gifts, the ongoing life of our “stone church on the corner.” The Society’s goal is to encourage, support, and celebrate gifts to God that ensure our church remains vibrant and vital for generations who come after us. If you would like to discuss a potential gift from your estate, either an unrestricted gift or a gift for a specific purpose, the rector and/or wardens are happy to meet with you.

(Contact: Scott West+)

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Outreach

Christ Church parishioners have a heart for helping those in need in a variety of ways. Foremost, parishioners volunteer their time at a number of the local organizations in the New River Valley which aide others. Also with proceeds from the church yard sales and individual contributions, grants are given on a yearly basis to local, regional, diocesan, and international organizations to minister to numerous needs. Below is the list of organizations which Christ Church has supported in the past with generous grants and volunteers:

Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry
Boys Home of Virginia
Guatemala Sister Parish
Intellectual Disabilities Agency of the New River Valley
Micah's Backpack
Montgomery County Christmas Store
Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program
To Our House Thermal Shelter
Valley Interfaith Child Care Center
Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley

“Believe Out Loud”

Christ Church is committed to be an inclusive community for all people. Again this coming year (since we were interrupted by the pandemic), we will engage the process in becoming a “Believe Out Loud” congregation, an official designation within the Episcopal Church recognizing that our LGBTQ brothers and sisters are welcome here.