

THE ANGELUS

Volume 66 Number 4

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

December 2015

Rector's Message

Sundays in Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Weekdays in Advent

7:30 am Morning Prayer
5:30 pm Evening Prayer
in the Pilgrim's Chapel

Thursday, December 24

4:30 pm Christmas Pageant &
Family Eucharist
10:30 pm Prelude of Carols &
Choir Anthems
11:00 pm Choral Eucharist

Friday, December 25

10:00 am Christmas Day Eucharist
followed by brunch

Sunday, December 27

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Christmas Lessons
& Carols

Thursday, December 31

First Night Winchester from
6:00 pm until midnight

Wednesday, January 6

7:00 pm Epiphany Service

Dear People of Christ Church,

On the Sunday following the tragic violence in Paris, someone asked me how it feels to preach after tragic events happen. As I reflected on that question, I began to realize and remember that I preached on the Sunday following the Columbine High School shooting. I preached after Timothy McVeigh attacked people, including children, at the Murrow Building in Oklahoma City. I preached on the Sunday after 9/11 and the Sunday following the United States invasions of Afghanistan, and then Iraq. It is exhausting to engage in the challenge of proclaiming good news when we see, again and again, not only how broken we are, but how ugly and violent we can be. Violence fueled by despair, anger, hopelessness, or revenge still results in the same things—death and destruction.

As I remember these difficult Sundays, I also remember hearing again and again through the years this important point: "The gospel is not about us; it is about God and God's love revealed in Jesus Christ." If the Gospel were about us, it would be much shorter and far more hopeless than we could imagine. Fortunately, the Gospel is about what God seeks to do to call us back into relationship with God and what that gift from God demands of us when our lives are transformed by the love of Christ.

I want you to remember that as we engage in the preparation for the Incarnation (Advent into Christmas) because this is the season when we see the abstract idea of God's love become concrete in this world. We talk about our despair, and then what God does to bring light into that darkness. We see in Matthew and Luke what the powers that be think their military and political might can accomplish only to see a human, beginning from birth, confound such pride and hubris by flipping the very notion of God's relationship through service, compassion, and grace.

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From the Rector

Christ Church, as a community, offers many ways for each of us to be witnesses about hope in God when we serve our Lord by serving one another, join in the grand music of the season, share the story of hope with the children, gather in fellowship and food, and prepare to house the homeless in the winter. I personally look forward to the December 27th AGO concert series in the downtown churches. Christ Church is participating so we can show off our wonderful music and wonderful worship space. There is so much for which we can be thankful.

At the same time, I know that we will face challenges and changes as we head into a new year. Over the past few years, we have had some of our best givers of time, talent and treasure go on to the next part of life in the Kingdom. Not only were these people leaders in the parish and strong financial supporters of the parish, but they were also dear friends who helped Christ Church do many things. We, the family of Christ Church, need to raise up new leadership and focus on financial stewardship to help our ministries serve and grow. Our care for our facilities, our organ, and the ministries all of you make happen reassure us that we can meet such challenges. We will continue to welcome the stranger and to be that community that has so many gifts to celebrate God's love in a world struggling to find hope amidst the violence.

This season, we should hear again, as the shepherds did so long ago, "Do not be afraid, God sends good tidings of great joy." God is always doing something new. "For the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, has come among you, and calls you to proclaim His love." People are transformed! Use music; use fellowship and food; use care and compassion; show grace and always seek to be the least, as servant of all.

For me, part of the good news is that I am not alone engaging the challenge of preaching in a broken world. By baptism, we are all called to face the challenge of preaching in a world of violence and rage. However, what you and I preach in our words, our actions, and our lives is not to proclaim us. That leads to failure. Instead, it is to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ and what God's light can offer in a world that fears the darkness. This challenge of discipleship is demanding. However, we also find this discipleship of Jesus to be most fulfilling and life-giving as we seek to overcome challenges.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:3-5 (NRSV)

Faithfully,



The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
rector@christchurchwinchester.org

From the Assistant Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

This time of year finds many of us travelling or receiving visitors in order to be with friends and family. We journey around town tending to lists at the grocery store and maybe even searching for a few gifts. More often than not, I hear people talk about heaving a sigh of relief when we “make it” to Christmas because their lives become hectic in the weeks leading up. There is a sense that if we are not careful, the season rushes by and we feel exhausted.

So, as we enter the season of the Nativity (Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany), I’m reminded that we are invited on a sacred, slow journey; a journey that leads us through some of the most treasured stories of our faith. A journey that begins in the distant past where we hear ancient prophecies given to bring God’s people hope in God’s faithfulness as they struggled with the difficulties of becoming God’s people in an often hostile world. It ventures into the future as our scriptures speak of things yet to come, of Jesus’ return. This sacred time begins with the season of Advent and winds its way toward the celebration of Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany in such a way that it beckons us to slow down, to hear the stories as if it was our first time, and to wait.

Waiting is not something we are often fond of; most of the time we don’t seek an opportunity to slow down and wait. We live in a fast-paced world and society that keeps us moving, with instant communication and news, long gone are the days of waiting for the morning newspaper or a letter to arrive from a dear friend. But that is what the stories of Advent invite us to; to slow down and to wait. In this call to slow down and wait, Advent invites us to look for God in the present, in the people we encounter, the places where we sit and wait, in the beauty of this holy season.

Along the way we will encounter many others waiting and journeying in their own day: prophets, shepherds, angels, Elizabeth and Zechariah, John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph, and the Magi. What they all have in common is that, in one way or another, they left, they traveled, they arrived, and they went back home. And they experienced something life-changing on their journey.

So wherever your travels take you, may this season be a blessing to you all and may your journeys be filled with holy moments of waiting and expectation.

Blessings,



The Rev. Bridget Coffey, Assistant Rector
bcoffey@christchurchwinchester.org



From the Vestry

What is a Vestry?

This is the time of year we, the Vestry, invite the congregation to discern and nominate parishioners to serve on the Christ Church Vestry. First though, what exactly is a vestry and what do vestry members do?

Vestry can be described in several ways. In language which sounds more corporate or business-like, the vestry is described as follows:

The vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. Vestry members are elected at the annual parish meeting. The presiding officer of the vestry is the rector. There are usually two wardens. The senior warden leads the parish between rectors and is a support person for the rector. The junior warden has responsibility for church property and buildings. A treasurer and a register are also appointed by the vestry. The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances.

This description makes it easy to think that the job of the Christ Church Vestry is to run everything for the parish. However, the church is not a business or corporation, and so there are other ways we need to understand the work of our Vestry.

A vestry is a group that gathers in prayer, seeks to empower others to service in ministries of the congregation. Our diocesan canons also emphasize our Christian concern and care for one another: "Each Vestry will cooperate with the Rector in promoting the spiritual welfare of the congregation... Each Vestry member shall support the programs of the Church through a commitment to service and biblically-based standard of proportional giving. Each vestry member shall also continuously encourage the members of the congregation to support the programs of the Church and to give generously towards the support of those programs; and each Vestry member shall extend personally a hearty welcome to newly baptized, confirmed, received, or transferred members of the congregation."

Perhaps one of the reasons we keep our old English term "vestry" instead of calling it a "board" is to help us remember our Vestry is full of disciples working together to follow our Lord. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone to serve on the Christ Church Vestry, please contact Tom Ellington, Conrad Koneczny, Doug Thomas, or Ann Wallinger. Our Annual Meeting and election of new members will be January 31, 2016.

Highlights from November Meeting

- The Stewardship fellowship dinner was a great success with more than 70 people in attendance. Pledge cards are due.
- The Rummage Sale in October made over \$14,000.
- The organ is back in place and the fundraising goal for the organ renovation project has been fulfilled!
- The Treasurer presented the findings and action items coming out of the Audit Report. He also presented the recommendations from the Finance Committee regarding the investment funds at Christ Church.
- The Vestry voted on several actions coming from the Finance committee to rename funds and move forward with their documentation and consolidation where needed.
- The Annual meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2016. Doug Thomas, Conrad Koneczny, Ann Wallinger, and Tom Ellington will rotate off the Vestry. They are charged with finding nominees.

Worship

Special Prayer Service for Caregivers

Those who provide care for others also need care for themselves. If you feel that you need spiritual support for yourself, or for those for whom you provide care, then this service for caregivers is for you. We hope that you will join us for a service of prayers, scripture readings, silent time, and hymns specially selected to help us experience God's love for the caregiver.

You may be caring for a parent, sibling, child, spouse, or friend that may be injured or ill, have special needs or just needs special care. This is not a presentation or discussion group; it is a service of spiritual renewal. Prayers will also be offered for those whom we help – asking for healing, relief from pain and fear, courage, and patience.

The service will be Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 pm in the Pilgrim's Chapel.

Acolyte Training

Webster and Bridget invite youth in 5th grade and up who would like to become acolytes to join in the December acolyte training. This month's training is required for all acolytes, old and new, so it is a good time for new acolytes to meet other acolytes and learn about this ministry.

All acolytes (all grade levels, 5th through 12th grades, old and new) will need to attend **ONE** of three trainings:

Sunday, December 6 - Noon to 1:00 pm

Or Sunday, December 13 - 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Or Sunday, December 20 - Noon to 1:00 pm

Each session will cover the same material so the acolytes only need to attend one. We will cover the basics of acolyting, vestments, and address recurring issues and questions about serving in worship. Please select a date and RSVP to Noelle (communications@christchurchwinchester.org or 540-662-5843). If none of those times works for you, please contact Webster directly so that we can find a time that will work. We also ask for a parent to be present at the training. We will cover the scheduling process, share some of the new training information the acolytes are receiving, and discuss where we need parents to help.



Christian Formation

Sunday School News

By the time Advent begins, every child in the United States knows that we are getting ready for a season involving gifts. Knowing that the patterns we learn in childhood remain with us and prepare us for who we will be, in Sunday School, we emphasize the **giving** aspect of gifts as we wait for the biggest gift of all, Emmanuel, God with us. What we do on Sunday mornings in Advent is emphasize our opportunities to give to others during the season—in contrast to the receiving aspect that comes to us so much more easily. We also talk about watching for gifts that may come to us from unexpected people or circumstances by God's grace and maybe different from the ones we thought we wanted.

On November 29, the **first Sunday of Advent**, the tone is set so that everyone is aware that our waiting for Christmas is a special time in the church year. Pre-school through grade 5 will begin with a brief gathering after the Cherub Choir rehearsal to light the **first candle on an Advent wreath** in the Commons. Each week, we will continue with lighting of an additional candle which reminds us that we are drawing closer to the Light of Christmas. The classrooms will have wreaths of their own and a classroom Advent calendar to measure the days. We also hold up traditional stories of famous figures associated with giving.



The **second Sunday**, St. Nicholas visits our classes with his gold-covered chocolate coins and, in the telling of his story, reminds us of anonymous giving, which upholds the dignity of the receiving person and equalizes the role of the giver and the recipient of the gift.

On the **third Sunday**, St. Lucia (St. Lucy) is another visiting figure to show us how, in the season of giving, we give in many ways to those around us. (If you are unfamiliar with the traditional stories of these last two, come join us in Sunday School any or all of these mornings!)

The **last Sunday of Advent**, each class will take a few moments to visit in the Commons to prepare a Nativity scene that reminds us of the gift of Christ into our lives. Of course, we remember each child with a small gift that recalls the Christmas story. Come join us!

On November 29, younger children will bring home small individual Advent calendars with stickers to add each day to complete a Nativity scene. If you aren't there on the 29th, please ask for one. There are plenty.

Holiday Calendar Reminders:

Rehearsals for the Christmas Eve pageant will be posted weekly on the bulletin board in the Commons and repeated in choir rehearsals, the Sunday bulletin, and the weekly email update.

Sunday School classes and Children's Chapel will **not** meet Sunday, December 27. We will resume the regular schedule on January 3.

Christian Formation

Adult Daytime Faith Study

Our Adult Daytime Faith Study in December continues our look at characters of church history using the Great Courses DVD, "The Lives of Great Christians." Professor William R. Cook has taught more than 35 years at the State University of New York at Geneseo. He is an expert in medieval history, the Renaissance and Reformation periods, and the Bible and Christian thought.

The study is led by Webster and meets in the Parlors on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month usually. In December, we will meet only once on December 10. Everyone is welcome to join us. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the Church Office (540-662-5843) or email Webster (rector@christchurchwinchester.org).

Adult Forum for December

In our Advent Adult Forum, *From Black Friday to Christmas Light: Exchanging Consumption for Compassion*, we're going to talk about micro-economics as we look at ways organizations around the world are making an impact as they strive for justice and respect the dignity of all human life. We will learn how we can use the joy of gift-giving to support those efforts.

On December 13, the Outreach and Christian Formation committees will be hosting an **Alternative Gift Market**. There will be coffee and chocolates to support the work of Episcopal Relief and Development, hand-made pottery coffee mugs that support clean water initiatives in the Central African Republic, and products from Thistle Farms in Nashville.



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Calendar and Upcoming Events

Church Services

Sunday

Holy Communion Rite I 8:00 am
Holy Communion Rite II 10:30 am

Wednesday

12:00 pm Pilgrim's Chapel
(Healing Service 3rd Wed)

Second Monday

6:30 pm Special Needs—Sanctuary

Weekdays

7:30 am Morning Prayer Pilgrim's Chapel

Committee & Group Meetings

Adult Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Alleluia Singers	Sun: 8:45 am
Daytime Faith Study	2nd/4th Thurs: 10:00 am
Knit Unto Others	1st Mon: 7:00 pm 3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
Liturgical Bible Study	Wed: 10:30 am
Community Fellowship	2nd Thurs: 7:00 pm
Men's Fellowship	2nd Sat: 7:30 am
Outreach Committee	4th Tues: 7:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
Treasure Box	Wed & Fri: 10 am-4 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Women's Bible Studies	Tues: 10:45 - Noon Thurs: 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm
Youth Group	Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm

December

- 2 Salvation Army Dinner at Ft. Collier Campus
- 6 Return Angel Tree gifts, Thermal Ministries Meeting at Noon
- 10 Community Fellowship at 7:00 pm
- 12 Men's Fellowship at 7:30 am
- 13 Alternative Gift Market, OWLS Gathering at 3:00 pm
- 20 Service for Caregivers at 4:00 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve (see p. 1 for service times), Church Office closes at 1:00 pm
- 25 Christmas Day (Church Office closed)
- 27 No Christian Formation, Christmas Houses of Worship (see p. 15)
- 31 New Year's Eve, Church Office closes at 1:00 pm, First Night Winchester

The Rector's day off is Friday.
The Assistant Rector's day off is Monday.

Children's Chapel

Join us on the 2nd floor of the Parish Hall from 10:30 am until the Peace. We welcome children ages 3-7. No registration is required. The service is child-sized and allows our young parishioners to explore the same Gospel we hear in the Sanctuary but with more opportunity to wiggle and talk! Our Children's Chapel leaders always welcome an extra pair of hands if you would like to join them!

Nursery

Our nursery, on the 2nd floor of the Parish Hall, is open from 10:15 am through the end of the 10:30 am service to serve infants and children up to age 3.

December Birthdays

- 1 Mary Margaret Applin
- 2 Kinsey Strosnider
- 4 Betty Futral
- 5 Bill Armstrong, Katheryne Lawson
- 6 Pam Friestad
- 7 Harry Poling, Carolyn Waymack
- 10 Catherine Pettit, Rob Ross, Gary Sheppard
- 12 Linda Gibson
- 13 Dana Shook
- 15 Marie Gibson
- 16 Brendan Howard
- 17 Desiree Hall, Terri Cluss
- 19 Eleanor Thomson
- 20 Betty Reed, Mary Armstrong,
Mary Braden
- 21 Bill Pifer, Amanda Pennypacker
- 22 Hannah Gutman
- 24 Bob Gray
- 25 Elizabeth Trefzger-Mueller, Evan Francis,
David Goodman
- 26 Christopher Turnbull
- 27 Charles Casey
- 28 Ashley Futral, Jr.
- 29 Rosalyn Wiedower, Carole Ann King
- 30 Sarah Roberson
- 31 Rob Boyd



Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Bill & Shawn Armstrong
- 4 James & Marsha Baden
- 5 Jeremy & Katy Schain
- 8 Stephen & Suzanne Pettit
- 18 Bill & Gail Walsh
- 21 Kevin & Pam Kennedy
- 29 Jud & Wendy Breslin



Please Note:

We will publish birthday and anniversary information only with explicit permission. Please contact the Church Office if you wish to be added to or deleted from these lists.

Please keep the Church Office informed of any changes to your address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Please let the office know the school addresses of our college students.



Look for Christ Episcopal Church Winchester and like us to stay up-to-date on the latest news!

From the Outreach Committee

Christ Church Thermal Ministries

This winter, Christ Church will again conduct the following two ministries to provide much needed thermal support to homeless adults in Winchester and Frederick and Clarke Counties:

- We will host the **Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS)** in our Parish Hall from Monday, January 25, 2016 to Monday, February 1, 2016.
- We will staff the **Sunday afternoon Warming Station** at the Congregational Community Action Project (CCAP) from 1:00 to 6:30 pm on Sunday afternoons during the winter (January 10 to March 6, 2016)



We will meet on **Sunday, December 6, 2015 from Noon to 1:00 pm** in the Commons area on the second floor of the Parish Hall to provide a short overview of these ministries, identify specific tasks, and begin our planning for the upcoming season.

Thanks to all who have supported these ministries in the past. Please consider helping again this season! If you have not participated, this is a good time to start. Please contact Chris Ferguson (CFerguson@zwickercpc.com/978-360-4501) or Pat Kofalt (patkofalt@gmail.com/540-722-0429) for additional details.

We look forward to continuing Christ Church's outstanding support of these critical ministries and to seeing you on December 6.

Angel Tree 2015



Thank you to the congregation for choosing angels from the 2015 Salvation Army Angel Trees! We are very excited that we can bring Christmas joy to 146 children this year!

All gifts need to be returned to the Tilford Room on Sunday, **December 6**, in the clear plastic bag that you were given when you chose your angel. Please be sure to attach the angel card and the donor card inside the bag so that it's visible. December 6 is also the date we need volunteers with pickup trucks and large vehicles to transport all the gifts to the Salvation Army warehouse off Pleasant Valley Road in Winchester. Please call Jim Taylor (703-403-5264) or Ann Taylor (703-622-7059) if you can help!

From the Stewardship Committee

Our 2016 Stewardship Campaign features parishioners from various generations talking about what stewardship means in their life.

Please visit the website for all of their stories:

www.ChristChurchWinchester.org/Programs/Stewardship



The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all those who attended the Stewardship Fellowship Dinner on October 29th. To have great fellowship you need great people, and over 70 of you attended! This is the best turnout in the three years the event has been held.

We would also like to remind you to please turn in your completed pledge card, if you haven't already done so. They can be sent to the church office, or dropped into the collection plate on Sunday. All pledges are confidential.

If you hadn't received a pledge card, and would like to pledge, or misplaced the one mailed to you, please contact the church office or pick one up at the rear of the church sanctuary on Sunday.

As Thomas Merton said, "The tighter you squeeze, the less you have."

From the Marie Cooper Fund Committee

The Marie Cooper Fund was established as a testamentary trust under the will of Nancy O. Cooper in 1967 in memory of her mother, Marie Cooper, a long-time active parishioner of Christ Church. The trust, which is administered by the trust department of BB&T Bank, generates approximately \$25,000 to \$35,000 per year which, by the terms of the trust, are to be spent equally for domestic and foreign missions. The trust specifically excludes the use of the funds for payment of debt.

The committee has interpreted these instructions to permit funding of endeavors which bring real benefit to the hungry or homeless, or which enable representatives of the church to train for or engage in such efforts. We try to adhere to the equal division of funds between foreign and domestic projects, although the balance may skew one way or another temporarily. Some of our recipients may be considered to act both domestically and internationally.

Our most significant awards in the past five years have been to the Laurel Center capital campaign (\$46,000), our mission trips to the Dominican Republic and Haiti (\$29,500), the WATTS program (\$11,000), and the Shrine Mont capital campaign (\$10,000). Our total disbursements for the years 2011-2015 (to date) total \$156,751. We have a current balance of \$23,444, which we expect to allocate and disburse before the end of 2015.

The current members of the committee are Greg Hutchinson, Tom Dame, Hunter Gaunt, Sandra Armstrong, Anne Drury, Joyce Casey, Allison Major. We welcome suggestions from the congregation for possible projects which meet our criteria.—*Tom Rockwood, Chairman*

From the Finance Committee

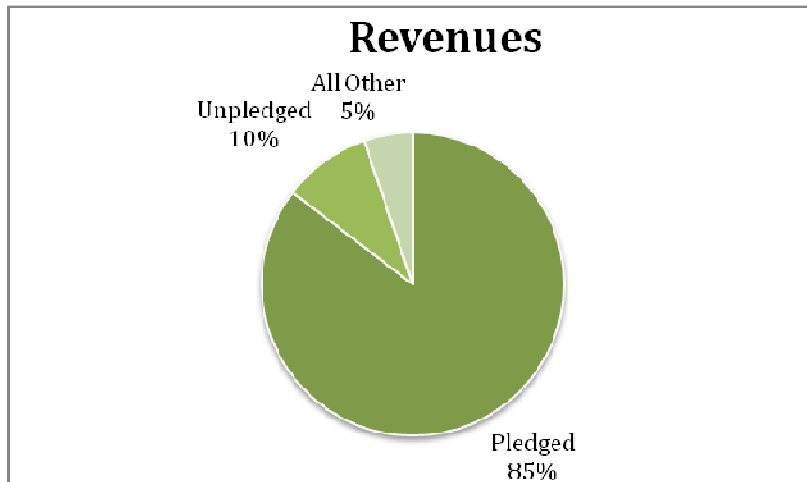
2015 YTD Budget Performance

We are back to being ahead of budget thanks to stronger revenue in October than planned in our budget. This stronger October made up for a weak revenue month in September. We are ahead of budget even when the brickwork is included! After we adjust for the \$10,905 of brickwork, we are almost at breakeven for the year!

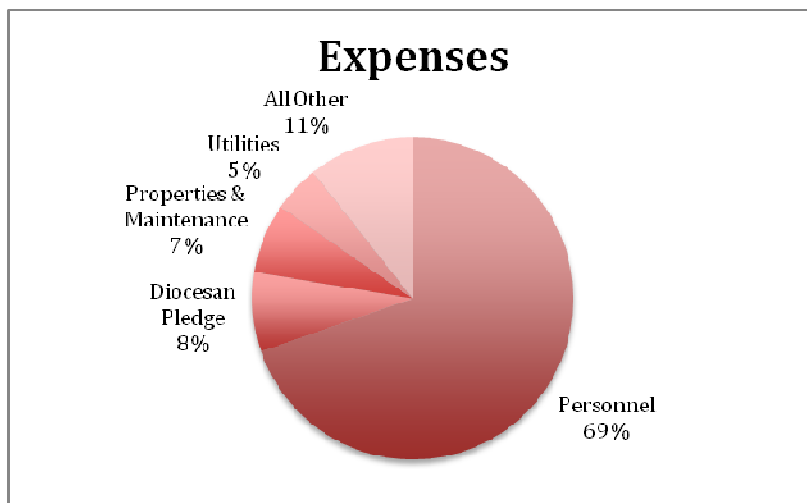
2015: Through October	Budget	Actual
Revenues	\$450,160	\$464,540
Expenses	\$471,602	\$479,550
Balance (with Brickwork included)	\$(21,442)	\$(15,010)
Balance (After Adjustment for Brickwork)	\$(21,442)	\$(4,105)

Budget Process for 2016

With the annual stewardship campaign underway, we have begun the budget process for 2016. **It is the goal to have a balanced budget each year.** Here are two pie charts that show the relative percentage sizes of key types of revenues and significant types of expenses:



We should first look at Revenues. For 2015, the Pledged Revenue represented about 85% of the total operating revenues and the Unpledged Revenue was about 10%. The remaining All Other at 5% are generated from several other sources (such as holiday donations, income from building use, and the income from the rummage sale, etc.).



Next, we can look at Expenses. For 2015, the largest expense categories were Personnel at 69%, Diocesan Pledge at 8%, Properties and Maintenance at 7%, and Utilities at about 5%. The remaining 11% represent a number of categories (such as Office and Communications expenses and many program costs – Music, Worship, Outreach, and Pastoral Care).

From the Finance Committee

Until Pledges are all in (85% of our revenue and a reasonably certain value) and Unpledged is reviewed and estimated (10% of revenue which is much less certain), it is difficult to make decisions about possible salary increases for staff, increases for program categories, and even consider reserves for non-annual periodic expenses (i.e., sabbatical and property reserves).

What does this mean as you read this in December?

It means that Pledged revenue, as the largest revenue component, is the key to developing a balanced budget. **Help us balance the budget for 2016! If you plan to pledge for 2016 and have not sent in your pledge, please do so as soon as you are able.**

Organ Renovation

A big THANK YOU to all who donated and pledged to the Organ Renovation Campaign. We have met and exceeded our goal of raising \$165,000.

Since this Renovation Campaign will continue to collect funds over several years, we have had to utilize money from two investment accounts to have the cash needed to pay for the actual renovation work completed this year. At the end of each month, as Organ Renovation pledged funds are collected, we will move that money back into the investment funds from which we borrowed.

In the future, we will periodically be reporting on the collection of funds now that the campaign has ended. **Again, thanks to all who donated and pledged!**

Reminders!

- Make your tax-deductible donations for 2015 before the end of the year. Checks must be dated December 31 or earlier and received in the church office by January 5 to be credited for 2015. Year-end contribution statements will be mailed no earlier than January 15.
- 2016 Pledge Envelopes are available for those who have requested them starting Sunday, December 13. They will be in the back of the church and labeled with your name.
- If you have questions, please submit them by e-mail to Theresa Seitz at tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org

Parish News

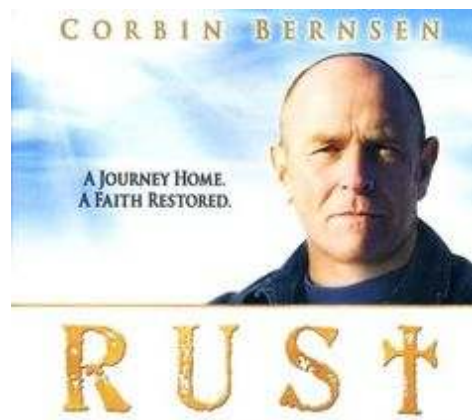


The Pastoral Care Committee invites all to share in a Christmas Day Potluck Brunch following the 10:00 am Christmas morning service, on Thursday, December 25. Please bring a favorite brunch dish (eggs, pastries, veggies, fruit, etc.) to share. Dishes may be dropped off in the Tilford Room kitchen before the service to be kept warm or to be baked. Celebrate Christmas with your church family!

Fellowship Groups Meet

The December **Community Fellowship** welcomes our own Dan Gloster. Dan will share insights about his many years in the radio business. Learn what it's like to call high school football games, to sell advertising for radio conglomerates, and all of the behind the scenes work that provides radio entertainment to our community. Our meeting is Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 pm, in the Tilford Room.

The **Men's Fellowship** meets Saturday, December 12, at 7:30 am in the **Tilford Room**, where we will watch the film, *Rust*, starring Corbin Bernsen. *Rust* is about a pastor who walks away from his calling and returns to his small hometown to discover that a mysterious fire tragically struck a local family. When he learns that his childhood friend is implicated in starting the fire, he sets out on a mission to find the truth. In the process, he rediscovers his faith. A brief follow up discussion will follow, with breakfast.



Volunteers Needed for First Night Winchester Celebration



Again, this year, Christ Church will participate in the First Night Winchester celebration by hosting entertainment in both the Tilford Room and in the Sanctuary throughout the evening of December 31. Parishioners are asked to volunteer to serve as ushers. During your two-hour shift, you will welcome guests, answer any questions (Where is the bathroom?), and check that everyone has a First Night button for admission.

In addition to seeing the awesome shows at Christ Church, each volunteer receives a FREE First Night button for access to all First Night festivities and performances for before or after your shift.

To volunteer to help, contact Noelle in the Church Office (540-662-5843) or email her at communications@christchurchwinchester.org.

Parish News

Christmas Open Houses of Worship

On the afternoon of Sunday, December 27, Christ Church will participate as the historic houses of worship in downtown Winchester open their doors to welcome the public for a celebration of Christmas and an opportunity to view outstanding holiday decorations. During the Christmas Open House, sites will offer short programs of music by local musicians highlighting traditional Christmas carols. Winchester is fortunate to have many fine organs, but concerts will also include piano, other instruments, choirs, and group carol-singing. The event will run from 2:00—5:00 pm. You may begin at any site and progress in whatever order you wish. Churches with performances on the hour (at 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 pm) include: Braddock Street UMC, Grace Lutheran, First Presbyterian, and Centenary UCC. Churches with performances on the half-hour (2:30, 3:30, 4:30 pm) are Christ Episcopal, Market Street UMC, First Baptist and First Methodist. Please contact Steven Cooksey (scooksey@su.edu) or Judy Connelly (judy@braddockstreetumc.org) for more information.

OWLS Meeting in December

The Christ Episcopal Church **OWLS** (older, wiser laity) invite you to a gathering at the church on Sunday, **December 13, 2015** from 3:00-5:00 pm. We will meet in the Parish Hall (132 W. Boscawen Street) for fellowship and refreshments, and then proceed to the Sanctuary where Dr. James Kriewald, Director of Music at Christ Church, will discuss our newly renovated organ and demonstrate its wonderful sound. Please join us! *Please RSVP to Joan Claybrook at 540-450-3245.*



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to order a poinsettia to adorn the altar for Christmas, please place \$11.50 in a flower envelope at the back of the church, beginning on Sunday, November 15. The last day to order is Sunday, December 13. On Christmas Day, you may take your poinsettia home with you. Many thanks from the Altar Guild!

THE ANGELUS

Christ Episcopal Church
114 West Boscawen St.
Winchester, VA 22601-4116

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Permit No. 216

The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.
For weekly updates, please see *The Sunday Announcements* in the bulletin.

Parish Nurse Musings

Gratitude needs to be expressed again. And congratulations also. Gratitude for the registered nurses who helped give flu shots this fall. Several helped on multiple Sundays. Thanks to: Chris Francis, Susan Francis, Mary Gage, Rosalie Lewis, Pam DeBergh, and Diondria Sanders. I want to thank Dr. Laura Dabinett for allowing me to order the flu shots from her and, thereby, being able to give them at a reduced cost.

And, congratulations to the sixteen nursing students who will graduate on December 18, 2015. You have been wonderful! They are Ruslana Armor, Michael Belaty, Sarah Brock, Brea Calhoun, Jean Cross, Esinu Debrah, Bailey Grove, Irene Herrera, Britanie Latimer, Kyung Lee, Nana Oduro, Debjani Pradhan, Crystal Printz, Steven Reingruber, Chelsea Stearns, and Joy Tindell. The students and I want to say thanks to the people who hosted them in their homes and taught them so much. They are: Marsha & James Baden, Helen Bird, Bill Davis, Bettie Johnston, Dee Johnston, Bill & Sue Jones, Polly & Elwood McIntire, Joy Nesselrodt, Don Netschke, and Ann & Jim Taylor. Thanks to everyone who made their community experience both educational and joyful.

See you next month! Your Parish Nurse, Helen

