

# THE ANGELUS

Volume 67 Number 4

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

December 2016

## Rector's Message

### Sundays in Advent

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

### Weekdays in Advent

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

### Saturday, December 24

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

### Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II  
followed by brunch

### Saturday, December 31

First Night Winchester from  
6:00 pm until midnight

### Sunday, January 1

#### The Feast of the Holy Name

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

Dear People of Christ Church,

Once again, we see ourselves as an expectant people. Our expectancy is not for holiday sales or even for the manger scene; instead, it is for the return of our Lord. In celebrating our Lord's birthday, we are reminding ourselves of one of our great hopes in Jesus as the Messiah, that he will return. We say it in the Eucharistic Prayer about the mystery of our faith: "Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again." It is that last phrase that makes us a people full of anticipation.

I am not naïve of the fact that we see this time of year become a season of the "bee" – the busy-bee, the shopping-bee, the travel-bee, and other words to which you can attach "bee." Ours is a very distracted culture, presenting so many options and activities that the notion of hopeful anticipation is easily pushed aside. I, too, have to deal with my "bee-hive," as I seek to keep my focus on our Lord.

This year Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. We are going to have our 8:00 am and 10:30 am services as we normally do. Even this can be seen as different as we have the Lord's resurrection feast bump into his birthday. With pageants and services the day before, I have been asked, "Why do you want to have two services on Christmas Day?" I agree that it is a lot of church, but it is also a lot to celebrate!

If we stop and think about it, Christians often separate the significance of Christmas Eve and Christmas, which celebrate the birth of Jesus, from the significance of Sunday, which celebrates the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. However, you do not get to the resurrection without the incarnation, and you do not understand the significance of the resurrection without the life lived by our incarnate Lord. It is all connected. There is so much energy in the season of giving and getting, and on one of our saints, Nicholas of Myra, that we can too easily forget. We forget what we are about every Sunday, and who we are to be about as disciples of our loving Lord whose encounter in human vulnerability ultimately transforms our lives through His resurrection. It is this incarnate, resurrected Lord in whom we place our hope now and in the days to come.

*Continued, p. 2*



DECEMBER 2016

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## Rector's Message

These collisions of life-changing events do not happen often; so we can take advantage of such moments and do more church. Again, it is a change of habit.

A wonderful tradition of Christ Church which we began a few years ago is a short, potluck Christmas brunch following the Christmas morning (10:30 am this year) service. It gives us the chance to celebrate Jesus's birthday by gathering in fellowship. Some people double-up a breakfast casserole, and some bring goodies. It is whatever is convenient. The main thing is to come and share fellowship on this rare day when birth and resurrection meet. When we leave the service and the brunch, I find that I am thoroughly fed in all parts of my spiritual being, from my stomach to my soul. Then, you go out and continue the Christmas celebrations with family and friends as the rest of your Christmas unfolds. With the anticipation of our Lord's return, I enjoy the reminder that our hope and expectation is found among the gathering in fellowship, not just as a habit or tradition, but also as a witness to our hope in God's love revealed in the human condition (incarnation) so that our whole world is changed.

From all of the staff of Christ Church to you: "Have a wonderful and most blessed Christmas!"

Faithfully,



The Very Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector  
[rector@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:rector@christchurchwinchester.org)



## From the Assistant Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

“And the Word became flesh and made his home among us...full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

We enter the season of the Nativity (Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany) with anticipation and wonder. We anticipate the joy the season will bring and we wonder again at God’s love for this world expressed through Christ, the Word made flesh. Our journey through this season begins as 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.

We wait and wonder as we rehear the stories of our faith, of God’s creative power at work, of God’s deep and abiding love that time and again sought to gather God’s people as one. We know author Parker Palmer speaks of this season as a reminder that God risked showing up in the person of Jesus Christ. He refers to this as the risk of the Incarnation. That God in God’s infinite wisdom and love risked the life of Jesus by sending him to become one of us in the hope of reconciliation with all of creation. It is this risky move that we celebrate as we gather around the crèche as we remember that our hope began with a vulnerable baby. God risked showing up in a volatile world in the person of Jesus in order to draw us to Godself. To teach us, to feed us, to prepare us to not be risk adverse.

You see, God’s example of risky behavior, the risk of the Incarnation, asks us to consider how are we called to live in this world as risk takers. It is counterintuitive to all we tend to learn in this world. From the time we are young, we are taught how to weigh risks, how to avoid hurt and pain at all costs, to protect ourselves. We are in a way programmed to be risk adverse. Now don’t get me wrong, in the vast majority of life this is a good thing. However, it could be said that this way of living has bled into our lives of faith making us timid of proclaiming the Good News, of risking the status quo by not speaking truth in love about God’s never-failing, deep love in and for this world.

Parker Palmer writes, “Christmas is a reminder that I’m invited to be born again and again in the shape of my God-given self, born in all the vulnerability of the Christmas story.” Palmer looks at God’s risk of the Incarnation, of God taking on human form in the person of Jesus as teaching us to then embody our deepest values and most authentic selves as we risk living out our beliefs. In a world that often does not align itself with the message of God’s love and call to us to love our neighbors fiercely, we are called to take the risk of sharing that Good News.

So, my friends, how will we be born again this season? Take time on this slow journey to rehear the stories of the prophets calling us to live lives that reflect God’s love and mercy. Ponder the mystery of the Incarnation and God’s risk in sending Christ to be among us as one of us. Look for ways to be risky for the sake of the Gospel message that, “...the Word became flesh and made his home among us...full of grace and truth.” And share that message of grace and truth with love to those around you.

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 Kathi Adams, Chris Ferguson, Bryan Gray, or Wilborn Roberson. Our Annual Meeting and election of new members will be January 29, 2017.

### **Highlights from the November Vestry Meeting**

- The Vestry approved a donation of \$250 from the Outreach Committee to First Presbyterian Church for their Community Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Neile Grady Martin spoke to the Vestry about new labor laws which may impact staff at Christ Church.
- The Vestry thanked Sylvia Petrie for serving as the coordinator of funeral receptions. The Parish Life Committee is looking for someone to fill this role.
- Webster noted it is time for vestry nominations. Four new members will be elected at the annual meeting on January 29, 2017. He also made the Vestry aware that the regions of the diocese are being reorganized.
- Bridget reported that the new curriculum for Sunday School has been well received and that there are several new families with small children coming to Sunday School.
- The Downtown Clergy Group meets in November with a captain from the police department to talk about security issues for churches.

## Christian Formation

### Sunday School News

**Schedule:** With both Christmas and New Year's falling on Sundays this year, we will take a break in our Sunday School classes on both December 25 and January 1. We will resume our regular schedule on January 8.

**Advent:** November 27, 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. Preschool 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 birth of Jesus, the Light of the world. The classrooms will have wreaths of their own and a classroom Advent chain to measure the days. We also hear 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 balances the role of the giver and the recipient of the gift. On the **third Sunday**, St. Lucia (St. Lucy) visits 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, which 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!

*Please watch for details upcoming on signups for the Christmas Eve pageant and rehearsal times!*

### Adult Daytime Faith Study

We continue to explore the Old Testament using the Great Courses DVD, "The Old Testament." The lectures in this program this month take us to a people getting a king, as we study the books of Samuel through Kings. The study meets in the Commons (all the way upstairs in the Parish Hall) at 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. For December, we will meet both Thursdays, December 8 and 22. All are welcome to join us! Questions? Please call the Church Office (540-662-5843).

### Adult Forum in December

Adult Forum meets on Sunday mornings through the program year in the Tilford Room at 9:30 am. Please note that the Alternative Gift Market will take place during Adult Forum on Sunday, December 4. On December 11 and 18, we will explore how alternative gift-giving makes a difference in the world. Please join us on Sunday mornings!

# **Worship**

## **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 18, at 4:00 pm in the Pilgrim's Chapel.

## **Evening Prayer during Advent**

Some of you may remember not so long ago when we had a small and wonderfully dedicated group leading daily Morning Prayer, with Evening Prayer added during Lent and Advent. They gave us the reminder of the call to pray throughout the day, and we knew there was always someone praying for the church and the world each day. Advent this year will have Evening Prayer at 5:30 pm Monday through Friday in the Pilgrim's Chapel. It will be led by Tom and Deanna Stouffer.

The use of daily prayer throughout the day is an ancient Christian practice which goes back to our Jewish ancestry. The importance of having prayer throughout the day is also found in other religion such as Islam. It makes sense when you consider that we need to remind ourselves to always remember God present in all parts of our lives, and both our reliance and our call to serve our Lord. The Daily Office also gives the discipline in our lives to be people of prayer.

If you are one who does Evening Prayer, please join us in the Pilgrim's Chapel during Advent as part of your daily prayers. If you have not used the Daily Office before, give it a try! Even once, maybe twice, a week may be the change of habit in prayer you have been looking for. It is not long, no more than 20 or 30 minutes. It is structured so you can easily follow along. It is also so well-written through centuries of use that it helps to deepen one's awareness of how and why we can pray to God daily.

Please join us during Advent.

# Stewardship



Also thank you to the Russells, the Taylors, and the Fergusons for sharing their written messages on what Christ Church means to them.

A thank you to all the eighty folks who made the Oktoberfest dinner so festive by their attendance.

For those of you who still need to make a pledge, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible, to enable an accurate 2017 budget to be put together. The pledge card is on the website under Stewardship.

## Blessings,

## *What does Christ Church mean to us?*

*Ann and I moved to Winchester 4 ½ years ago and began a search for a new church we could call home. We decided on Christ Episcopal Church.*

*We discovered quickly what a great community we had joined at Christ Church. It is a community filled with love for one another, as the sermons each Sunday implore us to live our lives. Christ Church is also a community of disciples wishing to share a message of love with any and all. The many ministries we have discovered allow us the opportunity to “get involved.” Through these ministries, we have found so many ways to feel the love and share the love of the power of so many loving disciples. Being members of the Outreach Committee allows us to stretch ourselves to help find ways to serve the community of Winchester (Panda Pantry, WATTS, CCAP, Salvation Army, and the annual rummage sale), as well as serving people around the nation in need of funding or services (from flooding or other weather catastrophes), and even helping internationally (Stop Hunger Now, mission trip to the Dominican Republic, and supporting the youth of the church to learn from pilgrimage travels abroad).*

*We are thankful for the warmth and friendliness of our church family and humbled to be a small part of the church home we call Christ Episcopal Church. It is such a wonderful place to share our time, talent and treasures! ~ Ann and Jim Taylor*



## 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

### December

- 4     Alternative Gift Market
- 7     Salvation Army Dinner
- 11   Photos for Parish Directory,  
       Youth Group Advent Party
- 18   Photos for Parish Directory,  
       Service for Caregivers
- 26   Christmas Open Houses
- 31   First Night Winchester

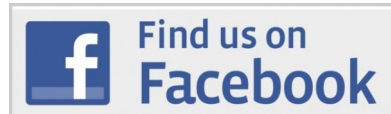


### Committee & Group Meetings

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	3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
Lectionary Bible Study	Wed: 10:30 am
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	2nd/4th Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm

#### *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!



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

**The Rector's day off is Friday.  
The Assistant Rector's day off is Monday.  
Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843**



## December Birthdays

- 1 Jamie Eppes, Mary Margaret Applin
- 4 Betty Futral
- 5 Bill Armstrong, Katheryne Lawson
- 6 Pam Friestad
- 7 Harry Poling
- 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
- 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

celebrate!

Photos for the  
**2017 Parish Directory**  
will be taken on Sunday,  
December 11 and Sunday,  
December 18 in between  
services and during Coffee Hour  
in the Parlors.  
Please plan to  
have your family  
photo updated for  
the directory!



### 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.

## Outreach

### Advent Calendar



**STOP HUNGER NOW®**

April 22, 2016

Make ending hunger a family holiday tradition with Stop Hunger Now's annual "Gift of Life" Advent Calendar. Each day offers a new quote, fact or action step to make a difference.

<http://www.stophungernow.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/AdventCalendar2016.pdf>

### Planning for WATTS

This winter, Christ Church will again host the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS) in our Parish Hall from Monday, February 6, 2017 to Monday, February 13, 2017. This ministry provides much needed thermal support to homeless adults in Winchester, Frederick and Clarke Counties.



We will meet on **Sunday, January 8, 2017 from Noon to 1:00 pm in the Commons (upstairs in the Parish Hall)** to provide a short WATTS overview, identify specific tasks, and begin planning for the upcoming season.

Thanks to all who supported WATTS in the past. Please consider helping again this season. If you have not participated before, this is a good time to start! Please contact Chris Ferguson (CFerguson@zwickercpc.com/978-360-4501), Marty Tabaka (Martin\_Tabaka@hotmail.com/540-771-0187) or Pat Kofalt (patkofalt@gmail.com/540-722-0429) for additional details. We look forward to continuing Christ Church's outstanding WATTS support and to seeing you on January 8.

### Properties News

Reading Landscapes has recently completed some work in our courtyard. The two large boxwoods behind the tomb of Lord Fairfax were replaced with smaller varieties, as were those along the wrought iron fence to the right of the tomb. New planters have been placed in front of the columbarium, as well. Removing the large shrubs was important from a security standpoint, improving visibility into and around the courtyard. Improved lighting is also on the to-do list.



## Outreach

### Angel Tree 2016

Thank you to all who have taken an angel tag from the Angel Tree this season! What a merry Christmas you will be furnishing to the children in need in our local area! The final collection day of the gifts is Sunday, December 11, with gifts being checked in at the Tilford Room in plastic bags. The number of the "angel" should be prominently displayed inside or on the bag which you return to the Tilford Room. Please do not wrap the gifts, but you may include rolls of wrapping paper to help the Salvation Army.

With the cash gifts offered, we will be able to purchase several much-needed winter coats for these children. We are so grateful for the many Christ Church parishioners who have participated in the Angel Tree event—from those who are so lovingly purchasing gifts to those who assisted us in distributing the angel cards and all who will work with us to check in all 145 bags of Christmas cheer! The success of the Angel Tree is due to everyone's help! Thank you so merry much! We have all had great fun helping Santa Claus, and it simply feels so good to be making Christmas joyful for so many in our community!

~ Jim and Ann Taylor and the Outreach Committee



### Alternative Gift Market

Organizations around the world are making an impact as they strive for justice and respect the dignity of all human life. This advent, use the joy of gift-giving to support those efforts! On Sunday, December 4, the Outreach Committee will be hosting an Alternative Gift Market in the Tilford Room. There will be coffee and chocolates to support the work of Episcopal Relief and Development, hand-made pottery coffee mugs and bracelets that support clean water initiatives in the Central African Republic, and products from Thistle Farms in Nashville. Please join us!



[Thistlefarms.org](http://Thistlefarms.org)



EVERY PRODUCT YOU PURCHASE PROVIDES  
**1 WEEK OF CLEAN WATER**  
TO SOMEONE IN NEED.

[Mudlove.com](http://Mudlove.com)

DECEMBER 2016

## Finance Committee

### 2016 Budget vs. Actual

Revenues: Unpledged revenue is still down, but total revenues are almost \$28,000 above budget due to pledges being ahead and a great rummage sale in October!

Expenses: In total, we were about \$7,500 above budget through October. \$5,100 of the overage is due to the purchase of new computers and needed repairs to the server.

Balance: Consequently, even though actual expenses exceed budget, we are currently about \$20,400 better than budget due to being ahead on revenues!

The table below has details by account:

YTD Through October 2016	Actuals	Budget	Difference
<b>Revenues</b>			
Pledged	\$399,935.49	\$369,300.00	\$30,635.49
Unpledged	\$34,093.54	\$45,900.00	\$(11,806.46)
All Other	\$31,777.39	\$22,720.00	\$9,057.39
Total	\$465,806.42	\$437,920.00	\$27,886.42
<b>Expenses</b>			
Personnel	\$340,399.13	\$341,009.03	\$(609.90)
Utilities	\$23,178.59	\$23,105.00	\$73.59
Property/Maintenance	\$34,068.18	\$34,415.00	\$(346.82)
Office	\$23,518.65	\$18,424.00	\$5,094.65
Christian Education	\$7,951.88	\$9,122.00	\$(1,170.12)
Music	\$6,396.65	\$4,980.00	\$1,416.65
Worship	\$513.54	\$905.00	\$(391.46)
Stewardship	\$848.47	\$300.00	\$548.47
Outreach	\$43,805.57	\$40,895.00	\$2,910.57
Pastoral Care	\$531.59	\$630.00	\$(98.41)
Parish Life	\$1,442.93	\$1,680.00	\$(237.07)
Communications	\$3,175.08	\$2,910.00	\$265.08
Total	\$485,830.26	\$478,375.03	\$7,455.23
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$(20,023.84)</b>	<b>\$(40,455.03)</b>	<b>\$20,431.19</b>

## Finance Committee

### Budget Challenge Update

Over the past month we have received gifts that have specifically been designated for the “Budget Challenge”  
**- THANK YOU!**

**Question:** Do gifts for the “Budget Challenge” have to be marked specifically for this intent?

**Answer:** If you are giving an extra gift that you would like to be applied to the budget challenge, it certainly helps bookkeeping if you write “Budget Challenge” on the note line of your check.

However, any individual amounts we receive above stated pledged amounts for 2016, as well as the amount of unpledged received at year-end that exceeds the budgeted unpledged total, will be applied to the budget challenge at year-end.

In short, the 2016 budget only balanced if we received a total of \$7,200 MORE than what was budgeted in all other revenue categories. **The CHALLENGE is for all of us to give just a little more (1.2% is what we need) in 2016 to help balance the budget.**

#### 2016 – Will it be OK, GOOD, or GREAT?

October revenue was strong and the fourth quarter, which has a lot of year-end donations, is again expected to be strong. If we do not quite meet our “Budget Challenge,” 2016 will still be an **okay** year. We have some revenues saved from previous bountiful years that we have in reserve to help in lean years when revenues fall short of expenses.

If we *just* meet the “Budget Challenge,” then 2016 will have been a **good** year!

But what would make 2016 be a **great** year? We did have some unexpected expenses in 2016 (for example, some new office equipment) that may mean our total expenses at year-end will exceed budget. We would like to pay for these out of 2016 operational revenues.

For 2016 to be a **GREAT** year, our actual total revenues must equal or exceed our actual total expenses!

**With a little help from everyone we can make 2016 a GREAT year!**

### Notes from the Bookkeeper

- For those that requested a set of 2017 Pledge Envelopes, they will be available for pick-up in the back of the church starting Sunday, December 4.
- If your envelopes are not picked up by Sunday, December 18, they will be available for pick-up in the Church Office at the reception desk during normal business hours.
- Should you want a set of envelopes, but did not request them when you turned in your pledge card, please contact Theresa Seitz at 540-662-5843, Ext 104, or email TSeitz@christchurchwinchester.org
- 2016 Year-End Contribution Statements will be mailed the week of January 9, 2017. To be eligible for a 2016 tax deduction, any year-end check must be dated 12/31/2016 or earlier, postmarked 12/31/16 or earlier, and received at the Church Office no later than 1/5/2017.
- Please remember that we need separate checks for contributions to separate accounts. Please do not put your stewardship pledge and your contribution to another campaign, such as capital campaign or organ renovation, in the same check.

## Parish News

### Volunteers Needed for First Night Winchester Celebration



Again, this year, Christ Church will participate in the First Night Winchester ([firstnightwinchester.com](http://firstnightwinchester.com)) 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](mailto:communications@christchurchwinchester.org).

### 5th Annual Christmas Day Brunch

Celebrate on Christmas morning with your parish family!  
Join us for a potluck brunch following the 10:30 am service.  
Please bring a favorite brunch dish (eggs, fruit, pastries, veggies, etc.)  
- homemade or store-bought. Items can be left in the Tilford Room kitchen during the service. See you there!



### 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. The last day to order is Sunday, December 11. On Christmas Day, you may take your poinsettia home with you. Many thanks from the Altar Guild!

## Parish News

### Men's Fellowship Meets

The Men's Fellowship will meet at our normal time and place—7:30 am, Saturday, December 10, in the Baden Center, where we will discuss the Christian themes gleaned from watching the movie, *Faith of our Fathers*. Breakfast will be served and all men of the parish are welcome!

### Christmas Open Houses of Worship

On the afternoon of Monday, December 26, Christ Church will participate as the historic churches of 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 recitals 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 4:00—8:00 pm. Proceeds from donations will benefit WATTS. Please contact Steven Cooksey ([scooksey@su.edu](mailto:scooksey@su.edu)) for more information.

### CCAP Collection for December

In December, we will collect **PASTA**—all varieties and canned products with pull rings—for our homeless friends. CCAP (Congregational Community Action Project) is a ministry of 46 worshipping communities in Winchester and Frederick County that have come together to support our neighbors in need with financial, material, and other assistance. There is a bookshelf in the foyer of the Parish Hall marked CCAP. Please leave items there and thank you for your generosity!



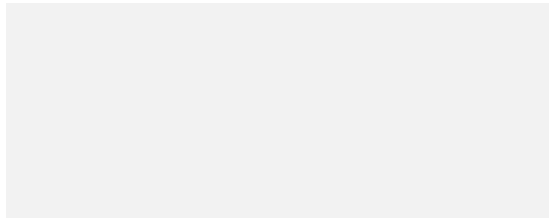
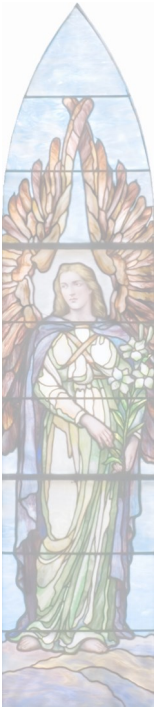
The Treasure Box Christmas Shop is now well stocked with decorations, trims, and ornaments of all kinds. We also have a good selection of decorative sweaters-- affectionately known as "ugly sweaters"-- that many people enjoy for club parties, luncheons, even contests. We also have an excellent selection of jewelry, silver serving pieces, and men's outerwear. We could really use more donations of stylish purses, fashion scarves, and ladies casual jackets. Please think of the Treasure Box after the holidays if you have some of these items you'd like to purge from your closets. Also, please pass along suggestions to friends and neighbors to shop at the Treasure Box during the holidays. We are working hard to meet our giving goal for 2016, and every dollar in sales helps! Hours continue to be 10-4 on Wednesdays and Fridays, and 10-1 on most Saturdays. Saturday openings are also announced each week on the "Community Bulletin Board" section of the *Winchester Star*.

The Treasure Box is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am—4 pm at 114 W. Boscawen St.



**THE ANGELUS**  
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114 West Boscawen St.  
Winchester, VA 22601-4116

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## **Parish Nurse Musings**

It's that time of year again when gratitude needs to be expressed from the Parish Nurse. We need to say thank you to the families who allowed my students to visit with them this semester and also to say congratulations and blessings to the students who will graduate December 9. We wish them well as they begin to take care of all of God's children. Thanks to: Bill Davis, Ellie, Barbara and Jim Laidlaw, Helen Bird, Marsha and James Baden, Elwood McIntire, Dee Johnston, Lynda Bugge, Michael Cipiti, Joy Nesselrodt, Joyce and Jerry Casey, Jim and Ann Taylor, Fenton Babcock, Bettie Johnston, and Mona Pressley. The students learned so much about life from visiting with you! Congratulations to: Ashley Alexander, Caroline Boateng, Emily Boero, Brianne Casey, Elizabeth Geary, Peyton Massad, Sarah Merritt, Lucy Mesfin, Eden Schumbolo, Morgan Duvall, Jillian Dziewisz, Kayleen Galvan, Amy Kearnes, Wendy Littrell, Kadie Madison, Jasmine Mennsah, Lauren Rayburn, and Kathryn Stewart. We wish you God's blessings as you become nurses in all parts of the world. I want to thank Webster and Bridget for assisting me with my work with the students. See you next month!

Your Parish Nurse, Helen

