



THE MISSION OF CHRIST CHURCH is to bring all persons to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through Word, Sacraments, and instruction, as taught through the Episcopal tradition, that all may know the joy and grace of faith, and to share that grace through outreach.

The Chronicler

September 2017

Spotsylvania, VA

Two Constants

Remember when you had to stand up and walk over to the TV to change the channel? Remember Windows 3.1? Remember when frozen dinners tasted like aluminum? See, some changes are good.

Change is one of those things about life that can be difficult. Even when things change for the better it can be annoying. Most of us are creatures of habit, and we can often tolerate an unpleasant situation easier than we can go through what it takes to change it. Since change is an integral part of life, how we deal with it can influence how happy we are. So why is change so hard?

There are different components to change that make it so difficult. There is the material change, the mental change, and the emotional change. The material change is probably the most straightforward. We have to change our habits, our practices, our routines. Sometimes this includes learning new skills, but mostly it is just getting used to things being different. The mental component can be tricky. I know that the older I get, the harder it is for me to learn new stuff. Mental change is hard because it takes effort. To me the hardest component of change is the emotional part. We have to mourn the loss of the old and at the same time adjust to the new. It is disorienting. It can be disheartening. Again, even in the case of positive change there is this dual phenomenon of mourning and adjusting.

Perhaps the overriding component is the spiritual aspect of change. Jesus told the rich young ruler that he lacked only one thing, that he should sell all his possessions, give the money to the poor and come follow him. The rich young ruler went away sad because he had many possessions. One way of reading that scripture is that Jesus wants to change everything in our lives. He wants to be the most important thing, to have nothing in our lives come before our relationship with him. If we take this episode as a Christian model for change, we can conclude that everything in our lives is temporary except for our relationship with God through Christ. Therefore as long as we recognize the overarching importance of God's presence with us we should be able to handle any change life throws at us, planned or unplanned.

As Christ Church faces a season of change, remember that God never leaves or abandons us. We may be distant from God, but God is never far from us. Another truth to cling to during times of change is that dependence on anything other than God can be a distraction from what is truly important in life. Put your faith where it belongs, in God and in no other thing, person, or force on earth. They are all temporary. They can all be taken away from you. It turns out that there are two constants in life: change and God's loving presence.

SEPTEMBER 2017 LAY MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Lector	Chalice Bearer	Acolytes	Ushers	Altar Guild	Nursery
<u>September 3</u>					
8:00 Joseph L. Ilk	Edd Houck		TBA	Williams Team	
10:30 Ann Woolford	Steve Clifford	Ethan Goldberg Colby Clifford Tate Mattive	TBA		Lindsey Bates
<u>September 10</u>					
8:00 Beth Goshin	Deacon Margaret		TBA	MaginTeam	
10:30 Mary Williams	Linda Rooney Tim Watts	Cade Mattive Rachel Stockli Chloe Stockli	TBA		Heidi Mills
<u>September 17</u>					
8:00 Dana Houck	Edd Houck		TBA	Wieland Team	
10:30 Anne Williams	Werner Wieland Joe Junod	Emma Ayers-Brown Alli Ayers-Brown Ian Gibson	TBA		Lindsey Bates
<u>September 24</u>					
8:00 Calib Garland	Deacon Margaret		TBA	Williams Team	
10:30 Sian Packard	Kristi Gross Penny Knepp	Aaron DiFilipo Jack DiFilippo Drew DiFilippo	TBA		TBA

You are responsible for finding your own replacement in the event that you cannot serve when scheduled. If you are serving as a Lector/Chalicer and unable to find one, please contact Penny Knepp at pnypitstop@aol.com or 891-6299 and she will assist you. Notify parish office

SEPTEMBER

2017

School Days



Choir Director

Denise Gregory
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Organist

Hannah Massey
hannah7019@gmail.com

Secretary

Ruth Feltner
Secretary@christchurchspotsy.com

Newsletter Coordinator

Ruth Feltner
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Rector

The Reverend Jeffrey A. Packard
Rector@christchurchspotsy.com

Deacon

The Rev. Margaret Haight
margarethaigh78@gmail.com

Vestry

Senior Warden

Linda Wieland

Jr. Warden

Bob McGann

Treasurer

Mary Williams

Asst Treasurer

Linda Smith

Register

Martha Clark

Members

Bill Butler

Martha Clark

David Fagiano

Gregory Hall

Joe Junod

Jim Kenkel

Bob McGann

Sue Roberts

Linda Wieland

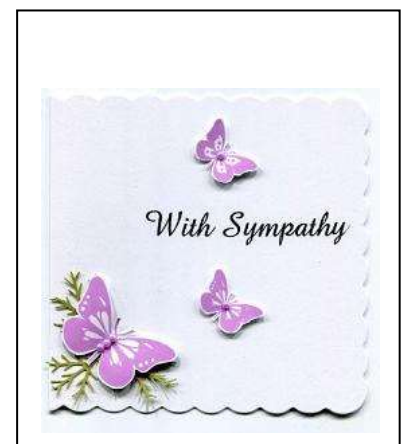


To the Castillo family who attended a service in June and since then, have joined our membership. Their son, Nathan Rian Castillo, was baptized into our church family on August 20.

We also welcome Charles, Shannon, and Parker Hildebrand of Fredericksburg, who attended a service in July and, as of August 13, are now officially members of our church family. We are so pleased that Pam and David Hinds, of Fredericksburg, attended the 10:30 service on July 16. We hope you'll visit us again soon.

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Summer 2017: Bob Eagle & family: Passing of Faye Eagle, Bob's Mother; Roy Smith & family: passing of great-nephew, Santi Smith; Gerald & Ellen Johnson: passing of Marilyn Masserant, Gerald's sister; Dennis Bickings, brother of Jeanette Stewart; Justine Gipson and Barbara Hewitt, two of our loyal Food Pantry clients; and Manley Lawrence Kersey, son of Barbara Canaday.



SEPTEMBER



09/02 Denise Gregory	09/10 Suzi Zafrano	09/21 Aaron Packard
09/08 Joseph Clarkin	09/11 Edd Houck	09/22 Cade Mattive
09/08 Francis Doerrbecker	09/13 Will Gibson	09/26 Lester Kidd
09/08 Rick Moore	09/14 Charles Linton	09/26 Kristi Gross
09/08 Linda Smith	09/19 Leslie Bates	09/26 Tricia Smelter
09/08 Dana Wallach	09/20 Meredith Lake	09/27 Diane Clarkin
09/08 William Werner	09/21 Martha Ayres	09/28 Cecil Jarman

From the Senior Warden...

Change is inevitable, albeit not always welcome. As we are all aware, Fr. Jeff and his family are heading to State College, PA where he will be the rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, the church in which he was raised. Several of us were fortunate to see this beautiful church while attending his father's funeral in March. While there I tried to imagine young, 15-year old Jeff Packard sitting in those same pews, when he first felt the call to the ministry. Now I try to imagine him celebrating the Eucharist and performing all of the many duties he's done so admirably over the past 17 years. We can all agree that St. Andrew's is blessed!

To celebrate his wonderful tenure with us, we will be having a celebration to honor him and his family. We will be having just one service, **Oct.1, 2017 at 10:00 AM** followed by a reception in the Great Hall of All Saints Hall. So mark your calendars and more information will follow.

So, what now? Your Vestry met with The Rev. Dr. Mary Thorpe, Director of Transitional Ministry for the Diocese on August 17, 2017. It was a most informative meeting and we all left feeling that this process of transition, on which we are embarking, has been well thought out and that we are in very capable hands as we move forward. I will be keeping you all informed of everything as we move ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. During this time, please keep your Vestry in your prayers.

"The world has changed and it's going to keep changing but God never changes, so we are safe when we cling to him." Charles R. Swindal

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHAIR, JILL BATES

Children's Sunday School will start September 10 at 10:15. We are changing the time in hopes of increasing attendance. Classes are available for 4-year old through middle school aged children. Children will come in to church in time for announcements. The Youth Group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday at the same time. As always, the nursery will be available during the 10:30 service. Interested in working with the youth of Christ Church? Please talk with Jill Bates. You may reach her on her e-mail: wenger1986@msn.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

A maximum of twelve children attended and had a good time at our Vacation Bible School July 31 through August 4. Each and every one learned how to spell J-E-S-U-S. Our outstanding coordinators were Penny Knepp, Kristi Gross, and Karen Watts. Special thanks to David Packard for his help in the kitchen preparing snacks for the children attending. A huge success!

Looking for some folks to volunteer as **VBS Coordinators** next Summer. The current coordinators will be able to provide you with some hints/tips on what you need to get started. If you're able and can assist in helping out, please contact Jill Bates. You may reach her on her e-mail: wenger1986@msn.com. Thank you.



BACKPACKS:

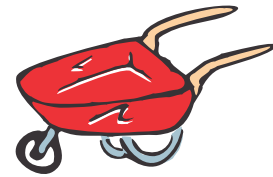
A huge and grateful thanks to all of those who either "adopted" a child or children or who donated funds to purchase backpacks/materials.

Seventy-six children signed up but at the time this issue went to press, not all of the backpacks had been distributed. An update will be published in the October Chronieler.



Onwards and Upwards

We have finished the first stage of construction for our new Christ Church Outreach Building. The site has been cleared and graded, footings have been poured and the concrete slab is in place. All of this has been paid for with funds from your generous purchase of building shares. Thirty-six of a possible 125 shares have been purchased.

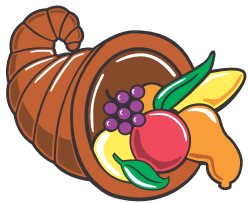


As soon as Phase I has been inspected and permits issued for Phase II, the enclosure will be set atop the foundation. This is the part where it starts to look like a building! Framing and siding should go fairly quickly once we start. Of course we will need to pay for the materials, tools and labor involved in this second stage. If you have not purchased a share in the building and would like to do so, contact Father Jeff or Roy Smith for details.

Thanks to everyone for helping to make this new building a reality!

Food Pantry Update

The Christ Church Food Pantry soldiers on! First we thank all those who volunteered over the summer while they were on break. We are blessed to have a faithful cadre of workers who fill in for one another over vacations and breaks. One young helper even said she would keep coming throughout the year - even if it meant (or perhaps because it meant) missing classes a couple of days a month.



Through August we have served an average of 75 families each time we hold a pantry, representing 264 individuals. Since January 56 new families have come through the pantry. Mark & Mary Svare have provided a steady stream of fresh produce from the pantry garden this summer. This is most welcome as not all of the produce we get from supermarkets by way of the Food Bank is still usable by the time a Tuesday pantry rolls around. Be sure to thank the Svares when you see them.

And so we turn to our busiest time as we prepare for our Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions. With vacation bible school and back pack distributions soon to be behind us, we are gearing up for the holidays - already! Our shoppers have been stockpiling non-perishable items and our holiday coordinators are laying plans. Your food pantry is a year-round enterprise which could not function without the time and treasure you all lavish upon it. Thank you to one and all.

Outdoor Service and Parish Picnic September 24 at 10:30

The late service will be outdoors (weather permitting) and followed by our annual parish picnic. The Episcopal Church Men will provide the usual hamburgers and hot dogs, buns, condiments, and drinks. Please bring a dish to share. Think of people whom you haven't seen in church lately, and reach out to them. We'd like to see everyone at the picnic.



St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals

At 3:00 the afternoon of Sunday, October 1, we will have the Blessing of the Animals in honor of St. Francis. This will be the final priestly act of Father Jeff before he goes to Pennsylvania. So if you have been waiting to get your pet blessed, now is the time. All animals must be under control—leash, kennel, that sort of thing. We will have snacks for the critters.

United Thank Offering (UTO)

If you have a UTO box at home, please continue to drop a coin in it each day to thank God for your many blessings. If you don't, boxes are available at the Communications Center and the back of the Church. These boxes will be collected at both services on October 29. Give with your heart.

INK: A Life in Letters ~ Joe Junod recently published this book. The book focuses on the people, experiences and ideas that Joe encountered during 40+ years in the newspaper business. ***INK*** is available, in print and Kindle, on Amazon. Among the brief reviews is one by Fr. Jeff.



Canoeing/Kayaking on the Rappahannock

Let's take a trip on the Rappahannock! We'll go canoeing/kayaking when the weather's a bit cooler and the fall colors are out. Kristi Gross will be coordinating with the Virginia Outdoor Center and as soon as details are finalized, we will publish them in the weekly Announcements. Signups for the trip will start in late September. Questions now? Email Kristi at kristigross@pobox.com.