



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Announcements for the Month of November

**Those celebrating birthdays this month:** Frank Stewart 11/1, Cynthia Kahler 11/3, Cliff Knepp 11/7, Jan Massey 11/8, Beth Goshin 11/9, Kevin McCandlish 11/11, Calib Garland 11/13, Jeri Phillips 11/13, Robert Baker 11/14, Ethel Ellis 11/14, Phil Midland 11/16, Julie Rivera 11/16, Devon Snodgrass 11/17, Fran Moreland 11/25, Moggie Klipp 11/25, Kyla Houck 11/29, Jennifer Stockli 11/30.

**Those celebrating anniversaries this month:** Bob McGann & Judi O'Neill 11/5, Dennis & Toni Berry 11/15, Tom & Fran Moreland 11/23, Buddy & Cynthia Kahler 11/29.

Is your birthday or anniversary missing from this list? Please email Denise at [secretary@christchurchspotsy.com](mailto:secretary@christchurchspotsy.com).

**The Daily Office (Morning Prayer, 8:30 a.m., and Evening Prayer, 5:00 p.m.)** will continue Tuesdays through Fridays.

**Fr. Daniel is offering Confession Wednesdays at 11:30 in the church.** The Rite can be found on [page 447 of the Book of Common Prayer](#). You can also make an appointment for any other time during the week by emailing him at [rector@christchurchspotsy.com](mailto:rector@christchurchspotsy.com).

Our **Celtic Eucharist** is each Wednesday at 12 Noon.

**Our Bible Study of the Book of Revelation continues Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.** We are studying the history, genre, symbolism, and meaning behind this enigmatic text that has inspired the imaginations of those both inside and outside the church for two millennia. If you would like to join us, please use the Zoom link in the weekly blast.

**Our Sunday Spirituality Discussions** will continue our study on two of the most foundational mystical texts in Eastern and Western Christian spirituality. The *Mystical Theology* and *Divine Names* of [Pseudo-Dionysius](#). You can get a copy of the books we will use at <https://www.amazon.com/Pseudo-Dionysius-Complete-Classics-Spirituality-Paperback/dp/0809128381/>.

**Sunday School.** Children in kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to join us downstairs in ASH at 10:15 AM on Sunday mornings. **Preschoolers** will participate in an age-appropriate Bible lesson and craft during their time in the Nursery. If parents of preschoolers would like to have their children come up for Communion, they will be brought into the service along with the Sunday School class.

**Youth Group** meets every other Sunday. Our November meetings will be November 10 and 24.

**All Saints'/All Souls' Sunday is November 3.** Because of the day's association with the remembrance for the dead, we will pray for our faithful departed on their behalf. Such prayers are appropriate, as the Catechism reminds us, "because we still hold [our departed] in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is" (BCP, 862).

**Stewardship packets are available** in the back of the church and in the Communications Center. Spend time in prayer about your financial commitment to Christ Church. Take a packet, then please sign your name on the sheet provided so we know not to mail you one. Packets will be mailed out next week to those who didn't take one.

### **Pantry Holiday Information and Request**

As most of you already know, each year the Christ Church Food Pantry provides special distributions at Thanksgiving and Christmas to those who visit our pantry during the year because of food insecurity. Over the last three years the average cost above and beyond normal pantry expenses has been \$2400. The vast majority of this extra holiday cost has been covered by the generosity of parishioners who make special contributions to support the holiday meals.

Some of you may be aware that for several months now there has been a regional and even national shortage of food donations to area food banks like the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank from which we get most of our shelf stable food as well as baked goods, meat and produce. For the last several pantries we have turned to other sources to purchase canned and packaged groceries to distribute to clients at our regular pantries. We anticipate that this will double the cost of our holiday offerings for 2024.

So, we come to you, empty grocery bag in hand, to ask that you do your best to help us fund the Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions this year. We are profoundly grateful for all this parish has done to support this major part of the Christ Church Outreach mission. There are envelopes for your donations in the pews. We thank you in advance for whatever support you can offer in this time of unusual need.

~ *Roy Smith*, Pantry Coordinator

**It is time to prepare for the Thanksgiving Baskets.** Packing of the food will be on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 7:00 PM, and distribution of the food will take place on Saturday, November 23, 2024, from 9:30 AM until 12:00 NOON. Volunteers should arrive no later than 9:00 AM on Saturday for the distribution. Signup sheets for volunteers are in the Communication Center. Envelopes for your donations can be found in the pews.

**Election Night Virtual Prayers** - Join others on Election Night for a time of silence and prayer led by The Episcopal Church. Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe will kick off the evening with a reflection at 8 p.m. ET, followed by prayers for our nation and all people. Register for Zoom here: [iam.ec/envp](https://iam.ec/envp) or watch on Facebook Live: [fb.com/TheEPPN](https://fb.com/TheEPPN)

**The 230<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, "Love Jesus. Embody justice. Be disciples" is November 7-9.** Fr. Daniel and our delegate, Connie Hockaday, will be attending.

**The ECM will meet in ASH at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 16th** for food, fellowship, Holy Eucharist and Bible study.....all in one hour!! Come join us and find out how we help our Church community and have fun doing it.

**ECW.** The November meeting & birthday luncheon will be Tuesday, November 19th, at Pi's Cucina, 10412 Courthouse Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22553

## **PANTRY GARDEN 2024**

Some years are better than others and we never know what the season will bring. While 2023 was truly bountiful with a yield of 438 pounds, this year our Pantry Garden yield was just a little over 300 pounds. That's just the way it goes with gardening.

Why did we fall short this year? It largely had to do with our tomato garden. Back in June the temperatures were very hot: 90 plus degrees. At those temperatures, the plants will not produce flowers. Without the flowers there will not be any tomatoes. Call it climate change or global warming or simply Mother Nature's whim.

Although the Pantry Garden did not do as well, there is much to be thankful for. As Roy Smith said: it is 300 pounds of veggies that our Food Pantry would not have otherwise had. All the vegetables we grow are donated to our Food Pantry and distributed to our clients. Our Food Pantry is one of the few, if not the only one in our area, that provides freshly grown vegetables to clients.

None of this would happen without our dedicated volunteer garden workers: each knows what needs to be done, and so, they get it done! Things like setting up electric fences, rotor tilling, weeding, planting, picking vegetables, and weighing and packing green beans in one-quart bags (no easy task!).

I would like to thank all of our volunteer gardeners who have gotten their hands dirty: Doug Jones, Cliff Knepp, Julie Rivera, and Steve and Jan Smith. Also, a special thanks to Charles Linton for all the horse manure, Mark DePollo for the new gate at back of the garden, Jan Massey for the tomato plants, and Spotsylvania Government for all the garden mix.

Finally, I would like to thank Fr. Daniel and our congregation for their support. I ask for your prayers for next year's garden, that our yield will be high so we can continue to provide fresh veggies for our Food Pantry clients.

*Mark Svare*  
Garden Proprietor

## **It will soon be time to elect members to serve on the Christ Church Vestry**

What is the Vestry? The Vestry works closely with Fr. Daniel in promoting the spiritual welfare of the parish, but its first responsibility is to act as the constituted agents of the congregation in transacting all the church's temporal matters in a businesslike manner. The Vestry works to articulate the mission of Christ Church to the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and protect the financial integrity of Christ Church.

The Vestry is chosen by you, the members of Christ Church. Serving on the Vestry is both an honor and a great responsibility. Vestry members are servant-trustees, entrusted with the mission of the congregation, called to offer gifts for ministry to the sacred task of fulfilling God's call.

Some of the specific responsibilities of Vestry members include the following:

- Approve all contracts for erecting, furnishing, preserving, and insuring the church edifice and other property
- Regulate the use of the cemetery
- Personally, extend a hearty welcome to visitors and newly confirmed or transferred members of the congregation
- Encourage the members of the congregation to assume their individual responsibilities, including their stewardship responsibilities
- Serve individually as liaison between a commission and the Vestry
- Provide guidance, support, and such decisions as may be appropriate to the commissions in their tasks of developing, implementing, and coordinating programs to meet the needs of the parish
- Formulate policies and budgets governing the receipt and disbursement of funds
- Represent members of the congregation in communicating their needs, desires, and suggestions to the Rector, the Region, and the Diocese
- Keep the congregation informed regarding the activities and decisions of the Vestry

Serving on the Vestry is extremely rewarding:

- It is a great opportunity to use your gifts and talents
- There is personal satisfaction in serving the church in this critically important role
- You grow and enjoy the fellowship with other vestry members
- You increase your knowledge of church governance, and you grow in your faith

Vestry members serve a term of 3 years, and we will be electing 4 new members at the Christ Church Annual Meeting in February 2025; three members to serve 3-year terms and one member to serve a 2-year term. If you are interested in serving on the Vestry, please reach out to one of our outgoing Vestry members: [Susan Midland](#), [Tim Watts](#) or [Mark DePollo](#). You can also consult with Sr. Warden [Bob McGann](#) for additional information on how you can be a part of the vision of Christ Church.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2024

### December 1, **First Sunday of Advent**

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:15 AM Sunday Spirituality Discussion
- 10:15 AM Nursery / Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### December 8, **Second Sunday of Advent**

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:15 AM Sunday Spirituality Discussion
- 10:15 AM Nursery / Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 11:45 PM Youth Group

### December 15, **Third Sunday of Advent**

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:15 AM Sunday Spirituality Discussion
- 10:15 AM Nursery / Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### December 21, **Saturday**

- 10:00 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM **Christmas Greening Workshop (ASH)**

### December 22, **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:15 AM Sunday Spirituality Discussion
- 10:15 AM Nursery / Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 11:45 PM Youth Group
- 12:00 PM **Greening of the Church (after the services)**
- 7:00 PM **Blue Christmas Service**

### December 24, **Christmas Eve, Tuesday**

- 4:00 PM Family Eucharist w/Christmas Pageant
- 10:15 PM Christmas Music & Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### December 25, **Christmas Day, Wednesday**

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I (no music)

### December 29, **The First Sunday after Christmas Day**

- 10:30 AM Christmas Lessons & Carols, Morning Prayer Rite II

### January 3, **The Feast of the Epiphany**

- 5:00 PM Epiphany Service & Bonfire

### January 5, **The Second Sunday after Christmas**

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:15 AM Sunday Spirituality Discussion
- 10:15 AM Nursery / Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II