



Christ Episcopal Church

Chronicle for Feb. & Mar. 2024

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I sat down to write this letter thinking I would be talking about the quickly approaching Lenten season, but as usual God had other plans. Following the Annual Meeting, I found myself finishing up a few tasks at church and picking up the last of the items sitting around when a man appeared at the side door.

I opened the door and asked how I could help him. He responded with a need for food to hold him and his daughter over another day until he could get assistance. I immediately thought of the food that was prepared the day before. I told him we could help him and gave him a quart of soup and a container of the chicken cheese spaghetti. He was very grateful and gave me a hug.

It is in the moments like this that I am reminded of God's call for us to minister to those in need and spread His love. Christ Church is a small church, but we can continue to impact not only each other, but our community. I hope we will be able to continue extending our hand to those people and organizations that need our help and make a difference. Our outreach has been able to increase over the last few years.

Christ Church is not just the building. I have to remind myself of that sometimes as I walk in and it feels like home. That's where I connect with God and my church family. Christ Church is the people in it who worship and fellowship together. In this coming year, I hope that we will continue in that weekly reminder to "go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

During Lent, as we prepare our hearts for Easter through reflection and repentance I hope we can all remember God's calling to minister to each

other and bring each other closer to Jesus. Please look for the upcoming events throughout the Lenten season that you can attend for worship, study, fellowship and outreach.

Faithfully in His Service,
Kristi Ross, Senior Warden



The Christ Church Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 21st following the Holy Eucharist service. There were 33 members in attendance at the meeting this year. Thank you to all who were able to be present and brought food to share. The Annual Meeting was recorded and has been posted to the YouTube website for those who were unable to be with us.

2023 was a good year for Christ Church and we were able to celebrate the positives and look ahead to the future and direction of the church. We thanked Janis Chenery for 6 years of service to the Vestry and Tom Sadler, Kristi Ross and Angie Daniel were elected to serve for another 3 years.

Following the annual meeting your Vestry elected:

- Kristi Ross, Senior Warden
- Tom Sadler, Junior Warden
- Marge Fifield, Clerk of the Vestry
- John Ross, Treasurer

Please don't hesitate to speak to any member of the Vestry with questions or concerns.

Lenten Fasting by helping those who are forced to fast by poverty

During Lent we will concentrate on specific food items every 2 weeks to donate to God's Storehouse.



Feb. 18th & 25th - Starches, such as Pasta, Rice, & Potatoes

Mar. 3rd & 10th - Proteins: Canned Meat (Tuna, Chicken, Salmon, etc.), Peanut Butter & Powdered Milk

Mar. 17th & 24th - Soups, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruits, Jellies & Cereals.

Any non-perishable food donation is appreciated.



The ECW held their first meeting of the New Year on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024. We discussed the coming year. Our long range plan is to have our Popular Bingo Night Fundraiser in August. We will continue to donate money to Gideons, God's Pit Crew and Mount Hermon Fire Department. We will be looking into some other Fundraisers and Outreach Projects over the next couple of months.

A few years ago the ECW had a Birthday Cake for the Month's Birthdays. We will continue that this year. Our first Birthday Cake will be for those whose birthdays are in January and February.

Sarah Oakes was elected to be ECW Treasurer for this year. I want to thank Kristi Ross for her many years of keeping track of our money.

Our next ECW meeting will be February 18th, after the Sunday service. All women of Christ Church are members of the ECW. We would like to see some "new faces" at our meetings.

Lu Sullivan, ECW President

ECW Prayer

Almighty God, we pray that you will bless our work in our mission and ministry in the world. Help us to pray fervently, labor diligently, and give liberally to make known the power of your love given through your son, Jesus. Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world. -Amen



Tuesday, February 13th, 5 - 7 p.m.

\$8 / adult and \$4 / Under 12

This is the main fundraiser for the church and we are excited to be able to open it for the public again this year.

There are tickets available to sell on the credenza and we encourage everyone to share and promote this wonderful event.

We will be looking for volunteers to help with the setup, cooking, serving and cleanup. There will be a signup sheet available on the credenza for this on Sunday, January 28th. Thank you to those who have volunteered to donate food items for the pancake supper.



Lent will kick off on February 14 with our Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00 p.m.

We are planning to have a Sunday morning Lenten Study led by the laity every Sunday during Lent. We are also looking at planning a Seder Supper or Agape Meal for Maundy Thursday along with a service. We will be doing the Gethsemane Watch beginning after the Maundy Thursday service and extending through to Good Friday. On Good Friday evening we will plan to have a Stations of the Cross service at 6 p.m.

The conclusion of Lent and Holy Week will be our glorious Easter Celebration on the morning of March 31st.



During the January 7th meeting of the Vestry they voted to change the Communion process for intincture back to having our parishioners dip their wafers into the wine on

their own. Hopefully, returning to this process eliminates one more set of hands touching communion.

Please be mindful that you are not dipping your fingers into the wine and should your wafer fall into the wine the Eucharistic Minister will ask the Priest to give you another wafer so that there is no "fishing" for wafers.

If you have any further questions please speak to a member of the Vestry.



We ended 2023 with a surplus of \$12,029.11 that was transferred into the McCollum fund. As of December 31st there was a total of \$301,361.68 in all of the church accounts. The latest full treasurer's report is posted on the front hall bulletin board.

Below is a summary of the 2023 results. A more detailed report was included in the 2023 Annual Report.

John Ross, Treasurer

	2023 Budget	Actual 2023
Total Operating Revenue	\$57,250.00	\$66,280.25
Clergy Compensation	\$22,908.00	\$21,422.22
Building Expenses	\$13,448.00	\$12,251.50
Utilities Expenses	\$7,196.00	\$7,099.52
Program Expenses	\$8,100.00	\$8,322.03
Office Expenses	\$765.00	\$482.62
Other Expenses	\$4,833.00	\$4,673.25
Total Operating Expenses	\$57,250.00	\$54,251.14
Net Income	\$0.00	\$12,029.11



Again this Lent we will have the opportunity to make a special contribution through the discipline of daily remembrance using Lenten Coin Cards.

This year the Vestry has decided to support God's Storehouse to complement our lenten food drive.

If you do not choose to use the coin cards but would still like to contribute to this Lenten Offering, please place a donation in the Sunday offertory plate with "Lenten Offering" on the envelope or in the memo line of a check.

Coin cards will be available for pick up at the Sunday services starting February 4th.



"Altar Guilds today are groups of men and women who are called to serve God by preparing and tending the places where his people worship him."
- The Altar Guild Book.

We have 8 members, those who set up the Altar for Sunday Services and those who help when they can. On special services, such as Christmas, everyone, including children, gives a helping hand. I want to thank ALL Altar Guild Members and others who help keep Christ Church a beautiful place to worship in.

Lu Sullivan, Altar Guild Director





The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues with their knitting and crocheting of Shawls. Over the years we have made over 400+ shawls, and right now we have over 20 shawls waiting for a home!

Our Craft Fellowship Group continues to meet every other Saturday. There are about 8 of us who are knitting/crocheting or working on some other type of craft. We are planning on having a Prayer Shawl Sunday when the shawls will be displayed during the service.

I want to thank all those who have donated money for yarn, giving your support for this wonderful Ministry - A Place to Share God's Love and Prayers.

Lu Sullivan, Prayer Shawl Coordinator



We had 45 people in attendance on Christmas Eve. The church looked beautiful with the flowers, candles, lighted Christmas trees, the music and the Nativity waiting for the Christ child.

In keeping with tradition Silent Night was sung by candle light after communion. Following the service many stayed for the finger food reception and enjoyed some Christmas fellowship.



The 2023 Angel Tree sponsored the Children's Bible Camp. Many of our youth members have attended the camp through the years. Our angel tree this year collected \$265 in gift cards to Walmart, Sam's Club & Food Lion; cleaning supplies; scissors and craft supplies; 3 Bibles and stuffed animals and toys for prizes.

Thank you once again for allowing a few to help and affect so many in a big way.



Vickie Lynn Smith

October 30, 1950 - November 30, 2023



Vickie Lynn Smith, of Blairs, Virginia, passed peacefully on November 30, 2023. She was greeted by the arms of her own mother, Marcella Ritter who preceded her in death in 2021. She was also preceded by her father, Eldridge Ritter in

1960. Raised on a farm in Stephens City, Virginia, she grew up with many stories to tell about her childhood that include her siblings Greg, Katie, and Jamie, who survive.

She was known as "Vic" to her husband, Chris, of 51 years. Through marriage and adoption, she was given the name "Mama" by her children Janel Nichole (John) and Samuel Jordan (Brittany). Her greatest title was given to her in 2008 when her sweet, vivacious, and witty grandson, Christopher Jordan, entered this world. To our small family that she considered larger than life, she was always known as "Nana".

Vickie served her community as a pre-school teacher in various settings for over 20 years. She was the foundation of early childhood education for many children who attended Danville Regional Medical Center's child care center, Just Kids, and Beckie's Kiddee Kollege. Her devotion to her "kids" created her legacy as "Miss Vickie". It was through her career that she formed an unbreakable bond with her special friends Lea, Terri, and Michelle.

While Vickie Lynn has many names, all who met and knew her were always greeted with grace, kindness, and quick-witted one-liners. She loved to cook for her family, no matter the occasion as well as walk the shore and collect the seashells of Carolina Beach. Her passion for the Christmas holiday was infectious. She was an avid dog lover, especially to her own Penny. You could also hear her loud cheers for the Dallas Cowboys and the UNC Tar Heels. She found comfort in singing church hymns and listening to the live tunes of Dave Matthews Band. She loved golf, hummingbirds, lipstick, and Eeyore.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to her team at Sovah Health in Danville, Virginia, who were gracious, urgent, and compassionate in her battle against lung cancer. The family also expresses many thanks to Dr. Harpole at Duke University Hospital. In addition, the family extends their love and appreciation to Christ Episcopal Church in Danville, Virginia, of which Vickie was a long-time member.

A Celebration of Life service was held at Christ Church on Saturday, December 30 at 1:30 with Vickie's ashes placed in the Holy Spirit prayer garden.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



February

Shane Hall	2
Zach Haney	4
Mollie Huemoeller	4
Melissa Brummett	10
Autumn Hall	10
Cheyenne Hall	10
Jake Howard	11
David & Bonnie Hill – Anniversary	17
Robert Sutter	17
Bonnie Hill	19
William Barksdale	23
Phil Huecker	24
Shane & Mikelle Hall – Anniversary	24
Kyle Pruitt	26

March

Angie Daniel	16
Cathy Hyler	23
Selena Fifield	23
Sam Smith	25
Jim Hall	26
Kathleen Hoffman	26
Jennifer Cuff	27
Brittany Barnett	29
Andy & Sharon Sands - Anniversary	30
Tom & Laura Sadler - Anniversary	31



At the end of November, a group of church members met to make a pot of Vegetable Soup and Baked Spaghetti. In January, another group of members met to make a different Vegetable Soup and Chicken Cheese Spaghetti.

These meals are being stored in our freezer in order to pull them out and give to members who are sick or in need of assistance. These meals can also be used for people who come by the church in need of assistance or anyone our members know who may be in need of meals. The money for this ministry is coming from the discretionary fund and donations to this cause are welcome.

We can also use volunteers to help cook and/or deliver meals. We are looking at this ministry taking place either once a month or once every two months depending on the need and current stock.

A big thank you to Marge Fifield who has done the grocery shopping for both meals. Please speak to Kristi Ross for any further questions.



On Wednesday, December 6th, four youth members and 6 adult members went Christmas caroling.

The first stop was Mary Biddlestone's home where we were able to see her and sing multiple songs to her from outside an opened window. The second stop was a neighbors of Marge's who were very happy to have us and sang along with us.

The last stop was at Roman Eagle where we made the rounds through the halls. The group delivered candy cane bookmarks, cards and door hangers that were made by the youth. The residents were very happy to see us and sing along with us as well. It was a great evening to spread Christmas cheer and bring a smile to so many faces.



ECW
CHRISTMAS PARTY



On Friday, December 2nd the ECW held their annual Christmas Party. The meat was provided by the ECW from Mount Herman Meat Market and the ladies brought dishes to share. They fellowshiped during the meal and enjoyed a secret gift exchange with the "left right game" this year. It was a great chance to get together and celebrate a wonderful year at Christ Church.



The youth met on Thursday, December 21, 2023 for the pageant practice and Christmas party. The pageant

practice went quickly and only needed one run through to prepare for this year's Christmas pageant. That left extra time for pizza dinner, fun and fellowship. While waiting for the pizza to arrive we played a fun round of Reindeer Ring toss with Marge and Kristi as the reindeer! The youth also did a gift exchange to close out the party. It was a great evening of fun and laughter.

The Christmas Pageant was held on Sunday, December 24th after the youth led Morning Prayer service. For this year's pageant the narrator did all the talking and the youth entered with pieces of the Nativity set. The children still put their spin on things with our always entertaining Innkeeper and the older members donning the robes of the wisemen and recreating the pose of their particular nativity piece. They all did a wonderful job from the start of the Morning Prayer service to the conclusion with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas."


Due to scheduling conflicts we will not be having youth led Evening prayer in the months of February and March. We do hope to plan some fun events in February and March for our youth as well as more outreach opportunities this year. Please continue to pray for our youth members and thank you for your love and support.

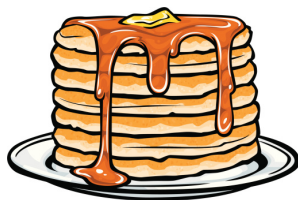


February/March 2024 Service Assignments

Date	Reader	Chalice	Elements	Servers	Ushers	Altar	Hostess
February 4 10:00 am HE	Marge Fifiel	Shaun Anderson & Pat Irwin	Jerry & Sarah Oakes	Abigail Ross	John Benz	Marge Fifiel	Nancy Sands & Pat Irwin
February 11 10:00 am HE	Sherry Gott	John Ross & Mary Ross	Shaun & Dinah Anderson	Brantley Boyd	Shaun Anderson	Pat Irwin	Dinah Anderson
February 14 Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm / HE	Jason Hall	Bob & Janis Chenery	Cathy & Michael Hyler	Mary Ross	David Hill	Sarah Oakes	
February 18 10:00 am HE	Pat Irwin	Sarah Oakes & Marge Fifiel	Bob & Janis Chenery	Catherine Daniel	Jake Howard	Lu Sullivan	Cathy Hyler
February 25 10:00 am HE	Kathy Hoffman	Shaun Anderson & Pat Irwin	David & Bonnie Hill	Abigail Ross	John Ross	Marge Fifiel	Janis Chenery
March 3 10:00 am HE	Nancy Sands	John Ross & Mary Ross	Marge Fifiel & Pat Irwin	Brantley Boyd	Jerry Oakes	Pat Irwin	Marge Fifiel
March 10 10:00 am HE	Lu Sullivan	Bob & Janis Chenery	Jerry & Sarah Oakes	Catherine Daniel	Shaun Anderson	Sarah Oakes	Bonnie Hill
March 17 10:00 am HE	Shaun Anderson	Sarah Oakes & Marge Fifiel	Shaun & Dinah Anderson	Abigail Ross	John Benz	Lu Sullivan	Kristi Ross
March 24 Palm Sunday 10:00 am / HE	Bob Chenery	Shaun Anderson & Pat Irwin	Cathy & Michael Hyler	Mary Ross	David Hill	Marge Fifiel	Nancy Sands & Pat Irwin
March 28 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm / HE	Janis Chenery	John Ross & Mary Ross	Bob & Janis Chenery	Brantley Boyd	Jake Howard	Pat Irwin	Supper
March 29 Good Friday 6:00 pm							
March 31 Easter 10:00 am / HE	Marge Fifiel	Bob & Janis Chenery	Marge Fifiel & Pat Irwin	Catherine Daniel	Jerry Oakes	Sarah Oakes	Reception

Christ Episcopal Church - February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 13th 5:00-7:00 p.m. \$8.00/ Adult \$4/Under 12				1	2	3 Crafting Fellowship 10:00 a.m.
4 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Dr. Alicia Alexis Coffee Hour following	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Grayce Rowe Coffee Hour following Vestry Meeting	12	13 <small>Lunch Bunch Santana's 12:00 p.m.</small> Pancake Supper 5 - 7 p.m.	14  ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 p.m.	15	16	17 Crafting Fellowship 10:00 a.m.
18 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Gene Anderson Coffee Hour following ECW Meeting	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Gene Anderson Coffee Hour following	26	27	28	29		



Christ Episcopal Church - March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Crafting Fellowship 10:00 a.m.
3 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Dr. Alicia Alexis Coffee Hour following	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Grayce Rowe Coffee Hour following Vestry Meeting	11	12 Tuesday Fellowship Lunch Bunch Checkered Pig 12:00 p.m.	13	14	15	16 Crafting Fellowship 10:00 a.m.
17 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Gene Anderson Coffee Hour following ECW Meeting	18	19	20	21	22	23 Spring Cleaning Day 10:00 a.m.
24 Palm Sunday 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Gene Anderson Coffee Hour following	25	26	27	28 Sedar Supper 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m.	29 Good Friday Stations of the Cross 6:00 p.m	30 Crafting Fellowship 10:00 a.m.
				Vigil Thu. 8:00 p.m.-Midnight Fri. 6:00 a.m.- Noon		
31 EASTER 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Dr. Alicia Alexis Egg Hunt and Reception following						