

April 2021

# Parish News



News & Events at Christ Church

## Spotlight on the Choir – 1 Year After COVID-19

*Abby Bright* has been singing in the choir since 2018. She enjoys working with Douglas and bonding with the other choristers. She will be leaving in the late summer to attend UNC – Greensboro in the fall. She will be studying Music Education. She is excited to begin her new journey but sad to be leaving the CEC Choir. She is very thankful for the opportunity she has had to gain knowledge and grow as a musician under Douglas. She is hopeful that the COVID restriction will be reduced so that the full choir can begin singing again soon. She said she misses singing with the full group and can't wait until they can be together again for services.

*Kendra Sawyer* is a local girl, has lived in Elizabeth City since 1999 and has been singing in the choir since approximately 1 year before Kenny retired as Director of Music. She enjoys her time with the choir and bonding with the other members. During COVID, she has gained tips and techniques from Douglas while adapting to singing/breathing with the mask in place. She is also looking forward to the day when the COVID regulations are lifted so that the full choir can be singing together again! Kendra said CEC has been so welcoming and she loves the opportunity she has been given to meet new people. Kendra gets to spread her love of music each day to Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Sheep Harney Elementary School, where she is employed as the Music Teacher.

*Bo Setliff* has been singing with the choir for almost two years. He loves to sing and wanted to be able to share a gift with other parishioners. He too is looking forward to the day when the COVID restriction are removed and the choir can resume singing with all members. COVID restrictions have definitely given the choir a challenge, but he is glad that he has been able to continue providing songs of praise during the services. He says he is ready to lose the mask, hopefully in the near future.

*Douglas Blackwood*, Director of Music/organist has been with CEC since Fall of 2018. He also serves as the Director of Music, Vocal Coach and Accompanist for the Center Players of the Arts of the Albemarle. He holds the Master of Sacred Music degree from East Carolina University and an undergraduate degree from University of North Carolina – Greensboro. Douglas has seamlessly adapted the music for our church services according to the COVID restrictions and all of the changes that have occurred since March 2020. Douglas can't wait to have the full choir back in place.

We want to extend a very sincere THANK YOU to our COVID Choir. We appreciate them for keeping the music alive in our services during the pandemic.

*Michelle Flach*,  
Communications Chair

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## Get to know the Rector

Just a few weeks after arriving at Christ Church, the Covid-19 pandemic struck and even though I have been here over a year, I feel like I still don't know many of you as well as I would like to. Now that the pandemic seems to be getting more under control I would love to meet with anyone who is comfortable having a visitor. I would be glad to visit your home, take you to lunch, or meet at a local coffee shop to chat. If you would like to get to know me better, please send me an email at [danielmarkcenci@gmail.com](mailto:danielmarkcenci@gmail.com) or call the church office at 252-338-1686 x4.

## Christ Church Q&A

There has been a lot of change at Christ Church over the past year, and now that it is safer for us to gather in a group, I want to provide the congregation the opportunity to ask any questions that you might have. It can be questions about anything; ongoing projects, building and grounds, liturgy, music, Covid-19 policies, youth and children's ministry, etc. We are all part of the body of Christ and I want everyone to not only be informed about what is going on at Christ Church, but also to be excited about how you can participate in the important work of ministry in this place! We will have two Q&A sessions. The first will be on March 21st and the second will be on April 11th. Both will be immediately following the 10:30am service in the Parish Hall.

# VESTRY

## March Vestry Minutes:

Attending: Rev. Daniel Cenci  
Phil Hornthal, Sr. Warden  
Wes Lupo, Jr. Warden  
Speight Bunn  
Bettie Lyons  
Sue Scurria  
Mickey Golden (taking notes for absent Todd White, Clerk)

Absent: Mary Gillam  
Michelle Flach  
Devon Morrison  
Anna Smith  
Grafton Beaman  
Joe Peel

The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer by Rev. Cenci at 6:00pm. He noted that Todd was not present because of illness, and that Rob Gillam also was ill, keeping Mary from being present.

A motion was made by Phil Hornthal, seconded by Grafton Beaman, to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2021, meeting, and was approved by unanimous vote of those Vestry Members present.

Jane Harris, representing the ECW, explained that the ECW want to honor all the good work for Christ Church and, thus, the reasoning behind renaming the 'Clubroom' as the 'Flora Robinson Room' but not the 'Flora Robinson Clubroom'. The hope going forward is that it would not be known, in shorthand, as the 'Clubroom' as it has been known for many years, but rather the 'Flora Robinson Room', or the 'Robinson Room'. Phil Hornthal moved, and Grafton Beaman seconded the motion, that the Clubroom should be renamed the Flora Robinson Room, to honor her memory. The motion was approved by vote of those Vestry Members present.

Senior Warden's Report: Phil emphasized the major points of his written report, which is attached hereto. Phil stressed that we, the Vestry, need to be present to the Congregation in any ways we can since the Covid pandemic has diminished ways to interact with one another.

Junior Warden's Report: Wes explained the high points and reasons for actions needed per his written report, especially trimming the magnolia tree so it would not present an 'attractive nuisance' – such as children wanting to climb the tree. A copy of his report is attached hereto.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Cooper presented his written report, attached, and will give a more detailed report at the next Vestry Meeting. Upon motion of Joe Peel, seconded by Sue Scurria, the Treasurer's Report was approved by voted of those Vestry Members present.

Robinson Charity Fund Report: Gary will start putting in the Parish Newsletter a copy of his written report, a copy attached hereto. Upon motion of Grafton Beaman, seconded by Joe Peel, the report of the Robinson Charity Fund was approved by vote of those Vestry Members present.

Parish Life Report: Sue reported that she has finished lining up teams, trying to add male members to the same team as a spouse for such things as special receptions and other such

Parish activities. She is aiming to have a rebirth of our coffee hours at Easter, in the playground area where the Easter egg hunt will be held.

Worship Committee Report: Grafton reported on the scheduling of services through Easter and who were needed as participants – acolytes, lectors, ushers, and Daniel offered that he is trying to persuade folks to move to the earlier service on Easter. It might be possible to move from 8:00am to 9:00am for the early service, but that is to be seen. Can we do music at both services? Also need to pay attention to the spacing of people 'serving on the altar' – with three or four acolytes and two lectors plus a priest, we need to be spaced properly. Might we have the service streamed to the auditorium and overflow there?

Communications Report: Michelle has a team of 4 for the first training session to learn how to operate all the equipment necessary successfully to stream the service, and is seeking more for further training.

Outreach Report: Bettie explained that a formational meeting called for this coming Sunday after church had to be rescheduled because of individuals' conflicts, and that will be done. There are only seven 'snack' bags for those hungry folks who stop by the church to pick them up. She envisions filling those bags on an approximately monthly basis. Thereafter, Bettie moved that the Outreach Committee be given \$250.00 from the Robinson Charity Trust Fund to pay for the items which go into the snack bags. After a second by Phil Hornthal, the motion was approved by vote of those Vestry Members present.

Youth and Children's Ministry: Anna reported that interactive programs with the children were being developed; that it was planned that the Youth will do a service activity at least once each quarter and will help with the Easter egg hunt (hide eggs, etc.).

Young Adult and Family Ministry: Devon and Speight reported that Kim had given them a copy of the Church Directory and a Young Adult Directory so they might better reach out to the younger folks in our Parish.

Rector's Report: His written report is in Church Library.

Old Business: Wall Mural – Joe Peel reported several options had been discussed and discarded, and the proposal now would be a collage of nine postcards (postcards of 'Welcome to Elizabeth City' and other particular parts of the City) which would be 'wraps', 4" x 6', outlined or framed so as to look like paintings all laid out on a 15' x 30' background (neutral paint) and with wording so that anyone on a walk could stop to look and read. The display likely would not be one someone driving by could enjoy, but this is the likeliest way to cover that wall of Todd's. Prices/costs will follow.

Carpet Committee: Phil reported that prices are in hand but the committee is still waiting for samples to look at.

Regarding the property behind our parking lot next to St. Phillip's, Todd offered and had rejected an offer, testing the waters with the owner. To be revisited later, perhaps.

**New Business:** The statue of Jesus in the Memorial Garden is rather a mess, parts having been lost to wear. It was given originally by Betty Ingram who has offered to pay for a new one, in marble rather than cement. It would be similar to, not the same, but should last longer. Phil moved to have Betty move forward with the replacement statue, Sue seconded the motion, and it was carried by vote of the Vestry Members present.

Jessica Cenci has been active in the Sunday School, working with the children for a year, and should she stay as a teacher, it is appropriate for her to be hired as staff, an employed position. Grafton moved and Sue seconded his motion that she be hired and be employed staff as a Sunday School teacher. The Vestry Members present voted for the motion.

Rev. Cenci closed the meeting with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10am

Respectfully submitted,  
Mickey Golden, for Todd White



The Rt. Rev.  
Bishop Bane

## A Bishop's Meanderings...

When you boil it all down, human demands of God are really pretty simple – we just want the pain to go away. We want the hurt to stop. We want the suffering to end. We tend to believe that it is God's job to take care of this, to make our lives as easy and comfortable as possible. Life is supposed to be good and all of that bad

stuff does not belong. I personally believe that many of the psychological, emotional, and spiritual problems among many adults is due to being raised by well-meaning parents who always tried to protect them from the pain in life. Those same adults will often reject a God who does not pick up where their parents left off.

Remember how Jesus tried to teach the disciples about the suffering that he was to endure? They would have none of it! There is something in us that rejects any connection between God and suffering. This is despite the crosses many of us wear, the very symbol of God's own suffering in his encounter with humanity. The Gospel tells us that God does not take away the suffering in this world, but rather that he enters our pain with us as no human being ever can. The truth is that suffering and pain and loss are not aberrations, but part of life for everyone. We do not like this reality and we ask "why," but that does not change a thing.

Suffering is certainly not "good" in that it hurts people, but there is good in it as it has the potential to lead to life that could never have been experienced without it. As long as we see suffering and loss as things to be avoided, or at least dealt with in a hurry, we will not experience the fullness of life

God intends. Pain is a doorway to a deeper experience of life and a more intimate relationship with God. I don't know of any poll on the subject, but I suspect that people are more likely to find God in times of pain or loss or emptiness than when everything is fine. That doesn't mean we should go out seeking suffering and rejoice when the bad times come, but it does mean that we have cause for hope. There are people who never move beyond the pain, see it as unfair, and try to handle it alone. Others invite God to share their suffering, and find their lives renewed, deepened, more authentic, and discover a whole new understanding of the meaning of life. We may wish it were not the case, but life is fully lived only when we experience both pain and joy, loss and gain, disappointment and success.

Is there opportunity lying in the midst of the suffering if we take the time to look for it? We forget about the three days between the suffering and death of Jesus and his Resurrection and appearance to the disciples. Why didn't it happen immediately? Is it possible that those three days of waiting were there to teach us something? Could it have been a time for the disciples to ponder his life, teaching, and promises? Might that not that have kept their faith and hope alive even in the darkest of times? Easter faith reminds us that, in the end, all will be well. In the waiting time between now and then, we will experience the fulness of life God has given us, in all of its pain and joy, only when we live each moment in partnership with the God who knows suffering and will not allow it to have the last word.

*In Christ's love,  
+ David*

## Admin Report for Treasurer- February 2021

General Operating expenditures were higher than revenue:  
Revenue= \$25,219.44-Income  
\$3193-Capital Campaign  
\$28,412.44

Operating Expenses = \$31,924.84

Robinson Charity Fund Balance - \$12,143.08

Rental Property Fund balance = \$3,886.74

St. Philip's Fund balance = \$334.49

Charles Schwab with Palladium balance = \$1,267,363.04

Cemetery Fund balance = \$2,389.12

# CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### THE EMPTY TOMB

"He is not here. He is risen!"

Luke 24:6

Through the month of April we will journey with the resurrected Christ as we study the empty tomb. Beginning in May we will learn about Emmaus, how it pertains to us, and how we might enhance our own walks with Christ.

## CALENDAR

APRIL 4TH  
Salvation Bracelets

APRIL 11TH  
Resurrection Rolls

APRIL 18TH  
Easter Bingo

APRIL 25TH  
Emmaus Art

### VIDEOS



### CRAFTS



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF FUN AND ADVENTURE AS WE TAKE A QUEST FOR GOD'S GREAT LIGHT!

SPACE IS LIMITED. SCAN CODE TO REGISTER OR VOLUNTEER  
[WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCITY.ORG](http://WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCITY.ORG)



June  
21-25  
9am-12pm

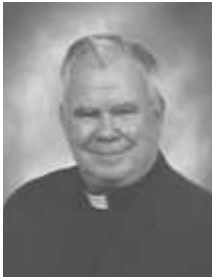


Children's Chapel fun!



## EASTER MESSAGE

**“...so help me God, cross my heart, and hope to die...”**



Fr. Jim McGee  
Rector Emeritus

The gospel accounts of the empty tomb are all strangely and maybe purposely unconvincing. What difference will an empty tomb make in anyone's life? All the initial witnesses left being terrified, amazed, and afraid. What is later proclaimed with startling boldness, however, was the conviction that a new presence of Jesus now lived among them. Jesus was experienced by the disciples after the resurrection in a radically new way. Mysteriously this risen Jesus could go through walls, he could appear and disappear without a trace, he invited persons sometimes to touch him and at other times asked that he not be touched. Most significantly, this new risen Jesus was described as a transforming presence. The most powerful testimony to this new risen Jesus was its transforming influence on the disciples and many others. They became ten times the men and women they had been. They became new creations of extraordinary strength and love. They became miraculously alive with boldness, openness, and love of divine proportions.

What is clear is that the resurrection of Jesus unleashed a power of eternal love and strength for all people. This resurrection - this new Easter reality - was and is God's class action suit against the powers of sin and death. It is a declaration of independence and freedom from the bondage to evil and death. It is made possible by the ever available sustaining living Christ and God's love.

Faith response, you see, is to live with openness to God and with a vulnerability to all the pain inherent in being fully alive. In our faithful openness to God, we will get hurt. In our faithful openness to God we will feel pain. In our faithful openness to God, we will die. But the hurt and the pain and the deaths we experience will not be the final reality. Pain and suffering are part of loving. But they are not the final realities of our lives. God's love and God's power are the ultimate final realities of our lives.

My dear friends on this glorious Easter, 2021, that same divine love holds us all. But we have to open our lives to receive the power of the Risen Christ. Live with open arms to receive the power of God's sustenance... trusting that Christ's Presence is more powerful than all the powers of evil and death. You may find yourself pierced with the pain... Like Christ on a cross, but God's power will lift you to new life.

Being 92 years old, as I prepare for Easter, the thought goes through my mind whether this will be my last, or will God grant me another. But either way, I don't want to lose this opportunity to profess to you my own faith in the risen Christ.

I believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead! I believe it so surely I have staked my life on it! Certainly, the storms of life still howl, and sometimes they can seem to almost sweep and blow you away. However, the resurrection of Christ means that the last chapter of the book of our life has already been written! Right now we are filling out and living out the in-between time - the middle chapters. And no matter how strong and fierce those storms may be, I want you to know, to paraphrase an old cliché, "they are the storms before the calm." My Lord and Savior has unlocked the gates of death and hell, and by His resurrection, folks, He has unlocked them from the inside!! If I didn't believe that with every nerve and fiber in my body and soul, There is no way you could drag me to church on Easter Sunday or any Sunday - not you or a team of Satan's legions could do it.

But, I am here by my own free will because I know that all who believe will rise again, that all who accept Christ as Lord of their lives will know everlasting life with our risen Lord. We are risen with Christ. We know that the Redeemer lives. It really doesn't matter whether it's this life or the next, because I believe in the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come, so help me God, cross my heart, and hope to die.

Pax Vobiscum

- Jim



Egg hunt  
and Easter  
morning  
acolyte  
crew!



# March Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer SP 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>2</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 11:00 am Stations of the Cross 12:00 pm Good Friday Service 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>3</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 8:00 pm Easter Vigil
<b>4 EASTER</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Egg Hunt 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>5 Office Closed</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	<b>6</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>7</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House	<b>8</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>9</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>10</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
<b>11</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Holy Eucharist O&A after church 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>12</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	<b>13</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30pm Staff Mtg 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>14</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12:00 pm Holy Eucharist	<b>15</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>16</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>17</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
<b>18</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>19</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	<b>20</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>21</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12:00 Holy Eucharist	<b>22</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 5:30 pm SOULS feeding 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>23</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>24</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
<b>25</b> 8:00 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Morning Prayer 5:00pm Evensong 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>26</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	<b>27</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>28</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12:00 pm Holy Eucharist	<b>29</b> 7:00am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>30</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	

# AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dear friends in Christ,

Easter 2021

Lately, it seems, I've heard a lot of people say things like "This is not who we are!" I've heard it from those trying to make sense of the violent January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol, from those wrestling with the racist words and actions that have been a part of life at the University of the South in recent weeks, from those reacting to mass shootings in Atlanta and Boulder, and from others attempting to make sense of their own personal realities. Sadly, events such as these DO reveal something of who we are.

On the Fourth Sunday in Lent the gospel reading that we proclaimed was a segment of the third chapter of John's gospel, in which there is an encounter between Jesus and a religious leader named Nicodemus. Nicodemus approached Jesus at night with some tough questions. As their conversation came towards its end, Jesus offered these words to Nicodemus: "And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil." (John 3: 19 - NRSV) At Christmas, we are reminded that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5 - NRSV) The apostle Paul calls us to "live as children of light." (Ephesians 5:8 - NRSV)

While it may be the aspirational hope of our faith to "lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:1 - NRSV) too many times we are drawn into the darkness. The good news of the Easter gospel makes clear that even as Jesus lived his life in full obedience to God's will, his path led him to a horrible death. And yet God raised Jesus from the grave and, in so doing, transformed the lives of those like Mary Magdalene who witnessed this act of love and power and then proclaimed this news to others.

The light of God's love is more powerful than any of the darkness of our present age. We who follow Jesus are called to be faithful to the vows of our Baptismal Covenant and to trust that God's power working in us "is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20 - NRSV) As poet Amanda Gorman offered, at the Inauguration of President Joe Biden, "For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.

If only we're brave enough to be it." May the light of God's love that raised Jesus from the grave be the light that brings us life when darkness threatens to overwhelm us. May God's Holy Spirit empower us to be that light for others around us.

Yours in the name of our risen Lord Jesus,

Rob

## April Birthdays

- 3 Mackenly Pureza
- 5 Lennie Hughes, Sr.
- 10 Cole Pullet
- 11 L.P. Hornthal
- 13 Bruce Biggs
- 14 Morgan Ray
- 18 Barrett Rich
- 20 Blair Jackson  
Phil Donahue  
Sharon Roth  
Turner Morrison
- 25 Mary Gillam
- 29 James Jones  
Camilla Pullet

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact the church office. Thank you!

## April Anniversaries

- 2 Peggy and Alvin McPherson
- 19 Eve and Ron Turlington

## Parishioners in Assisted Living

- Brookdale of EC, 401 Hastings Lane: EC 27909  
Juanita Mullen Helen Gibson
- Elizabeth City Health & Rehabilitation, 1075 US 17 S: EC 27909  
Jim Hathaway

## At Home

- Ann Hughes, 1514 Crescent Dr., EC 27909
- Betty Ingram, 2121 Rivershore Road, EC 27909
- Nancy Ferebee, 337 North 343, Camden NC 27921

200 South McMorrine Street  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909-4831  
252-338-1686  
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# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*To be a Loving Family in Which Christ is Known and Proclaimed As Lord and Savior.*

## STAFF

Presiding Bishop The Most Rev. Michael Curry    Bishop The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving  
Rector The Rev. Daniel Cenci    Retired Bishop The Rt. Rev. David Bane  
Rector Emeritus The Rev. Jim McGee    Music Director/Organist Douglas Blackwood  
Parish Administrator Kim Willis    Co-Directors of Youth Ministry Whitney and Chris Paullet  
**Directors of Children's Ministry** Jessica Cenci  
Nursery Coordinators Reinga Hammond and Lauren Flach  
Librarian/Historian Anne Sanders    Treasurer Gary Cooper  
Chancellor Lisa Harman-Wakefield

## VESTRY (2021)

Senior Warden Phil Hornthal    Junior Warden Wes Lupo    Communication Michelle Flach  
Clerk Todd White    Parish Life Sue Scurria    Worship Mickey Golden & Grafton Beaman  
Treasurer Gary Cooper    Outreach Bettie Lyons    Young Adults/Famililes Speight Bunn & Devon Morrison  
Growth/Evangelism Mary Gillam    Stewardship Joe Peel    Children/Youth Anna Smith

The Monthly Newsletter of  
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