

August 2021

Parish News



News & Events at Christ Church



Is The End Near?

We are living in uncertain times. After a year and a half of pandemic, the state of the world seems to be getting more and more unstable. My wife and I recently had a conversation about what the world will be like when our children are adults, and we are genuinely concerned about what the future will hold. Global inflation, food shortages, civil unrest, increased violent crime; these are all very real possibilities, and indeed are already becoming a reality. The world is feeling increasingly apocalyptic every day. One cannot help but wonder if the end is near? Yet, despite all this, the scriptures remind us that no one knows the day or the hour. (Matthew 24:36) The end of time is known only to God, but the Bible does promise us that there will be signs that the return of Christ is imminent. In Mark 13 Jesus speaks of famines, false prophets and wars and rumors of wars.

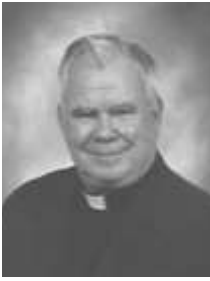
All these signs will be the “beginning of the birth pangs.” Yet, “the end is still to come.”

If we were to look back at history, we would discover that this is not the only period in which the signs of the apocalypse have been present. Plague, pestilence, war, famine, and instability are nothing new. Over the course of Christian history there have been countless false teachers who have led the faithful astray. For millennia people have felt as if they are living in the last days, yet life has gone on. So, how are we to understand the events that are taking place in our own day? Are these indeed signs of the end? Or is this just par for the course? My personal understanding is that we are living in the end times. But I also believe that we have been living in the end times since **Christ’s ascension into heaven. All the terrible things that are going on in the world, and all the terrible things that have been going on in the world for the past two millennia, are signs of the end. They are signs that the world is broken, that sin and death are a reality, and that God’s plan has not yet fully been brought to fruition.**

Evil is real and it will continue to have a grasp on this earth until Jesus returns to destroy it. Through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, death and hell have been defeated and the fate of all believers has been sealed. Because Christ is alive, we too have life in us, and there is no force of evil that can ever take that from us. But until Christ returns to judge the living and the dead, a remnant of evil will remain. Satan is defeated and his fate is sealed, but he is doing all in his power to convince us that he is in charge. **All the violence, hatred, sickness and death that we see are the Devil’s attempt to convince us that God is not in control. But in reality, these are the very signs that ensure us that the day is coming when God will make all things right.**

No one knows the day or the hour, but the end is coming. The signs are all around us, the signs have been all around us. Yet as Christians, we know how things are going to end. Satan and his Angels will be cast into the lake of fire, earth and heaven will be fully restored, and we will be granted the gift of life everlasting. It is this assurance that gives me hope for the future. It is this assurance that gives me hope for my children and for my children’s children. **Christ may return tomorrow, or he may return in a thousand years, but regardless of when that great and glorious day will take place, the signs we see today are but a fleeting shadow of a sinful reality that will one day be wiped away. God is sovereign, and because Christ is alive, we shall fear no evil.**

In Christ,
Rev. Daniel



Fr. Jim McGee
Rector Emeritus

HOW FIRM IS YOUR FOUNDATION

As a conservative person, I have strong feelings about duty, honor, responsibility and those sorts of things. I get a little concerned at time-honored institutions such as schools, government and church that don't teach and respect the foundational tenets on which our church and society have been built. We seem to have opted out for artificiality, glitz and various political trends of the day.

It bothers me that often our children are being short-changed by parents and institutional leadership in many fields and levels by not causing these children to learn about the basics on which their society is derived. I believe this is especially true with today's churches. The fact is that though we do not live in foundations, we too often forget that we live on them, and only when the foundations begin to crack do we begin to realize how important a good foundation is. The tendency has been to let the foundation go - and concentrate on building something bright, attractive and "breezy." So "breezy," indeed, that when the storm comes it is badly shaken, or destroyed by the blast. Our forefathers may have erected on firm foundations rather dull buildings, but it is largely due to them that we have any foundations left today. Who knows what is in the Catechism, can repeat the Ten Commandments, or the great Psalms and hymns of the Church? I remember well as a boy schooled by a devout Mother, in a military family attending close to a dozen Episcopal Churches in the 30's and 40's, memorizing and being able to talk about the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer and more. Learning there is something bigger in life than I. This is the foundation on which daily life was to be based and on which later I was to build my personal relationship with Christ. Now, having said all that, I must tell you that these thoughts were recently triggered by a little book I paid a dollar for off a cart of surplus donated books at a seminary library years ago, and every once in a while pick it up to read again. Entitled "Asking them Questions," it was published in England by Oxford University Press in 1950. In the preface there is a footnote about another book, "written to expose the fact that nearly half of the young men now leaving our public and secondary schools are almost pagan, that only a small minority have any knowledge of the evidence of the truth of Christianity and that many of them do not realize that any evidence exists." It goes on to quote Field Marshall the Viscount Montgomery of Alamain in The Times of January 9, 1947, that of young men aged 18 and 19 entering the Royal Navy, only 23% could repeat the Lord's Prayer ..., only 70% knew who Christ was, ... and only 45% knew about Easter. I would give it as my opinion that any nation which neglects the spiritual approach in its training of youth will achieve no lasting success. We must see to it that our young people grow up with a proper sense of religious truth."

As we know, England did not heed the words of this illustrious wartime leader and has paid a dear price in the years since. I wonder how we in this country, in this community, would do with the same questions? Take some time to ponder these things and what it is that we, as small and insignificant as we may think we are, might do. What contribution can we make? What about our home, is it a spiritual haven for those who live there? Are Christian truths taught to the children? Do we actively engage our schools to assure that truth is taught and that a wholesome environment is maintained? Do we insist on the best from our government at every level? And what about our church, do we each play an active part to make it truly an instrument of Christ's love and work in our lives and our community? How firm is our foundation?

Pax Vobiscum
Fr. Jim

Admin Report for Treasurer - June 2021

General Operating expenditures were higher than revenue:
Revenue= \$27,825.90-Income
\$623-Capital Campaign
\$28,448.90

Operating Expenses = \$28,813.92

Robinson Charity Fund Balance - \$13,757.54

Rental Property Fund balance = \$4,828.44

St. Philip's Fund balance = \$687.17

Charles Schwab with Palladium balance = **\$1,384,957.42**

Cemetery Fund balance = \$2,389.12





The Rt. Rev.
Bishop Bane

A Bishop's Meanderings...

“Amazing Grace” is certainly a hymn we have all heard many times, and probably sung as well. Exactly what is “amazing” about grace, anyway? This is not a word we use much in everyday life unless it is a blessing over a meal. The truth is that it is at the very heart of the Christian faith. It has more to do with how God sees us than how we see ourselves. Years ago, when Apollo 11

landed on the moon, some of the most incredible and remarkable pictures of the earth were shared with the world. I don't think we expected what a difference that perspective would make in how we saw the earth. From that point forward, we saw it as staggeringly beautiful. In one sense, it opened our eyes to perceive our world with new insight, new respect, and awe. We were given the privilege of standing, in a way, in the shoes of God after the Creation and being able to echo those words of complete affirmation when in Genesis, “God saw what he had created and behold, it was good.”

This, to me, is a wonderful image of grace. Grace shows us what, under normal circumstances, from our limited human point of view, we cannot see. That is that you and I are also God's creation. Therefore, we are beautiful, we are lovely, and that in God's eyes, we are very good. Not good as a moral attribute, but as an inherent quality that forever belongs to us by right of our being intentionally molded by the hands of the Creator. The pervasive and subtle power of sin tempts us to see the very worst in other people and in ourselves. It causes us to focus on all of the bad things in the world and to expect the worst. Grace invites us to take a deep breath, step back, and to look for the good and the beautiful in the world and in the world's people. This is not an easy thing to do as we have been conditioned to focus on the obvious and to believe that is reality. Grace encourages us to develop new vision able to see beneath the surface and recognize that God's goodness is woven throughout all of his Creation.

The problem of grace, then, is not primarily one of whether or not we have it, because we cannot be without it. It is the problem of our seeing that we have it and entering into its transforming power. The grace of God is truly amazing in that it is a gift which gives us a new perspective on the realities of life. It transforms us from people who are blind to the God-given beauty of every person into those who not only see it in others, but what is more difficult, even in themselves. God's grace is like the loving parent teaching a child to walk or to ride a bike or to play a sport. As the child stumbles along, making one mistake after the other, the parent says over and over again, “very good.....that is very good.....” So it is with God's grace whispering in our ears as we do our sinful and imperfect best to be the people we are called to be. As you and I often blunder our way through life, if we listen carefully we will hear a quiet and consistent voice say, “very good.....that is very good.....”

The hymn goes on to say, “I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.....”

*In Christ's love,
+David*

ECW

Ladies, our annual Wine and Cheese Social will be at the home of Sue Scurria on Thursday, September 16 from 5-7pm. I hope to see you after our long confinement and being apart. You do not have to RSVP, just come and enjoy the fellowship.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, October 22 for the return of our annual Lobster Feast. It is our largest fundraiser that provides for benefits for many of our community organizations. We have a fun day as volunteers working together to provide for the sale of the lobsters and preparing for a wonderful dinner Friday evening. Invite family, friends and neighbors to join us for the dinner in the Parish Hall or to pick up and enjoy the lobsters themselves at home. Please sell your tickets this year as soon as possible and make our event a huge success!!

Jane Harris
ECW President

HANDBELLS

Wine
AND
CHEESE
Handbell
Choir Party

If you are interested in ringing, please join us at
Kim Cooper's Home
1114 Riverside Avenue
Elizabeth City, NC 27809
Thursday September 9th
5:30pm

Please RSVP by Tuesday, September 7th
hdblackwoodjr@gmail.com or (252) 414-4061

PARISH CHOIR



Parish
Choir
Party

BACKYARD BBQ

Hosted by
Bo Setliff, Katie King &
Douggie B.

SUNDAY
August
22nd AT 5PM

We are always looking for new members so if you are interested in singing, come join the fun. We would love to have you participate.

2305 MAIN STREET EXT.

Please RSVP by Friday, August 20th
hdblackwoodjr@gmail.com or (252) 414-4061

OUTREACH



Thanks for your plastic bag donations. Several mats for the homeless have been completed. The ladies would love for you to join them on Tuesdays at Muddy's at 11 to continue making more bags. No skills are needed!! To the right is a rolled up mat with handle.



CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

A Recap of Vacation Bible School June 2021

The parish halls were once again filled with the energy of children during our VBS week. It was a great week on Adventure Island! Beacon, Adventure Island's bird, was loved by all. Each day started with a whole group opening assembly where the children watched a short video, sang along with a song, and learned of a lantern that Father Daniel, AKA Captain Dan was searching for. The children became Explorers daily and discovered how God's light shines on us and how we can reflect that light in our daily lives. Each day after the morning opening, the groups rotated through four discovery stations, rejoined each other for a delicious and creatively prepared snack, participated in a group reflection activity and then ended the day with a closing assembly. The students expanded their learning from the opening assembly and understanding in each station. At the Craft Station the children made art projects, during Bible Story Station they acted out God's word, in the Recreation Station they played games, and in the Mission Station they learned about and supported different outreach missions.

VBS was supported by many parishioners through material donations and the contributions of volunteer time and talent. Each day approximately 12-15 volunteers worked to ensure the children enjoyed their experience while on the quest for God's great light. Many thanks go out to all of the individuals who helped set up for VBS, those who volunteered during week, and those who helped clean up afterwards. We must not forget that a huge THANKS goes to Jessica Cenci for planning this amazing week for the children in our community.

Please invite others you know to join us on Sundays each week. Children's Chapel is offered at the 10:30 am service where our children will continue to learn about God's word while creating wonderful memories and art projects. Please consider volunteering your time in Children's Chapel starting in August. More information on Children's Chapel volunteer opportunities will be communicated.

Enjoy our VBS pictures throughout the newsletter. We can't wait for Vacation Bible School to happen again next summer!

Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the LORD's glory has shone upon you. Isaiah 60:1

Michelle Flach, Vestry Communications Chair



August Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 am Holy Eucharist at SP 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	2 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	3 7:00am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	4 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP 12:00 Noon HE at SP	5 7:00 am Morning Prayer SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	6 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	7 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
8 8:00 am Holy Eucharist at SP 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	9 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP EYC Trip to the Waterpark	10 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	11 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP 12:00 Noon HE at SP	12 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	13 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	14 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
15 8:00 am Holy Eucharist at SP 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	16 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	17 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30pm Staff Mtg 6:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	18 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP 12:00 Noon HE at SP	19 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	20 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	21 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
22 8:00 am Holy Eucharist at SP 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	23 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	24 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	25 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP 12:00 Noon HE at SP	26 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	27 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	28 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
29 8:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 10:30 am Morning Prayer 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	30 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	31 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous		<p><u>Upcoming Events:</u> Sept. 5—Breakfast at 9am Sept 8—Young Adults Bowling Sept. 12—Kickoff Sunday/Blessing of the Backpacks/Block Party Sept 16—ECW Wine and Cheese Sept. 26—Choral Evensong at 5pm</p>		

Sr Warden Report



Phil Hornthal
Sr. Warden

As most of you are aware, the Vestry has been discussing a possible lease of the classroom space in our Parish Hall with Covenant Christian School (“CCS”). CCS was interested in starting a K-2 elementary school. As many of you may not be aware, at its past two retreats, our Vestry has expressed to Daniel its interest in starting an Episcopal School. Many of our young parents, both within and outside of Christ Church, are looking for educational options for their children, and several churches within our Diocese have had success starting Episcopal schools, including St. Andrews by-the-Sea at Nags Head. At our July meeting, the Vestry voted unanimously to form a committee to explore housing a possible Episcopal School at Christ Church in lieu of a lease with CCS. **Although the committee won’t be formed until**

later in the summer or early fall, the general feeling is that we consider initially starting with an Episcopal kindergarten. We hope that members of the congregation, especially those with educational backgrounds will consider serving on this committee. In addition to creating options for parents, we are hopeful that a potential kindergarten would also expose new, young families to Christ Church and help grow our Membership. Please contact any of us on the Vestry or the Church Office if you are interested in serving.

Yours in Christ,
Phil Hornthal

Upcoming September Events

- 9/5—Breakfast at 9
- 9/8—Young Adult Bowling Outing
- 9/12—Kickoff Sunday (Backpack Blessing, Block Party after church and Ministry Fair)
- 9/16—ECW Wine and Cheese
- 9/19—Confirmation/Newcomers Class with Rev. Daniel
- 9/26—Choral Evensong at 5pm with Reception

August Birthday

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Hunter Foreman Michael | 27 Susan Hartley |
| 3 Rachel Gragson | 29 Whitney Paullet |
| Janie King | |
| Sue Hayhurst | |
| 4 Sue Thomson | |
| 5 Richard Bunn, Jr. (Todie) | |
| 10 Frances Gillam | |
| Joyce Wheeler | |
| 11 Sue Scurria | |
| 13 Mike Sanders | |
| 15 George Jackson | |
| Peter Thomson | |
| 17 Benjamin Hughes | |
| 20 Shelby Hughes | |
| 21 John Peel | |
| 22 Stuart Morrison | |
| 25 Tricia Jones | |
| 26 Helen Gibson | |
- If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact the church office. Thank you!

August Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 Grace and Allen Wood | 16 Marion and Lee Gutman |
| 13 Suzy and Don MacMorris | |
| 15 Jane and David Harris | |
| 17 Harriett and Tony Hornthal | |

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

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

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