



“The Harvest is Plentiful”

In Luke Chapter ten, Jesus chooses seventy of his followers to go out into the towns and villages ahead of him to proclaim the coming of God’s kingdom. This is the first time in the Gospel narrative that Jesus sends his disciples out on their own. There is no doubt that they were scared and likely intimidated by the scope of the mission that God had put before them. But it is for this purpose that they had been chosen.

But, before Jesus sent them out, he issued them a profound commission, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” With these words, Jesus wanted his followers to know that their mission would not be a fruitless one. The harvest that Jesus was speaking of was a harvest of souls; individuals who would hear the words of the disciples and come to place their faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus made it clear that their mission would not always be easy; in fact, he told them that they would be like

“sheep in the midst of wolves,” but Jesus promised them that if they remained faithful, their mission would be successful.

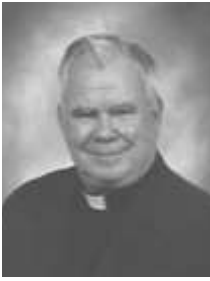
As we read on in Luke 10, we see that Jesus’ words are proven true. The seventy returned with great rejoicing. With God’s help they had been able to cure the sick, and even cast out demons. The message of Jesus spread throughout the region, and many came to believe and trust in the words of the disciples. There may have only been seventy of them, but they were able to bring the message of Christ to countless others.

But the work of these early followers of Jesus was far from over. Indeed, they had only begun to bring in the great harvest of believers that God had predestined for his kingdom. The mission to which Jesus had called these first disciples is an ongoing mission. It is a mission that continued for centuries after the time of Christ and continues even today. The participation in the harvest of Christ is one of the primary purposes of the church, and it is a purpose that has transformed the world over the past two millennia.

Unfortunately, in many areas of the world, Christianity seems to be in decline. Particularly in secular, developed countries (such as our own,) the evangelical zeal of the church seems to have waned. Many churches are rapidly dying and the number of people preaching and teaching the gospel is diminishing. The Coronavirus pandemic has further exacerbated the decline of western Christianity, as many churchgoers have fallen out of the habit of regular attendance and participation in mission and ministry. But as Jesus said to those first seventy disciples, “the harvest is plentiful.” Our world may be changing, but there is still a need for the church. The world needs the life-saving message of Jesus now more than ever! God is still raising up believers to do the important work of mission today. The fact that the church has been in decline for decades, is evidence that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are becoming fewer and fewer. It is time for Christians to get serious about “asking the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Luke 10:2)

As baptized Christians we are all the laborers of the harvest, and like the early disciples, we have been called to go out into the world proclaiming the kingdom of God. We have been assured in the scriptures that our efforts will indeed yield fruit, and if we but heed the call of Christ, we will be amazed at what God will do in and through us. There is hope for the world, there is hope for Christianity, and that hope is in Christ, that hope is in the great harvest that he has prepared for each of us to participate in.

In Christ,
Rev. Daniel



Fr. Jim McGee
Rector Emeritus

A JOYFUL FELLOWSHIP

Have you heard of "The Inklings," C.S. Lewis' group of Oxford professors, and others, who met twice each week for years? They met in Lewis' rooms at Magdalen College on Thursday evenings, and for lunch on Tuesday's at "The Eagle and Child," which was nicknamed "The Bird and the Baby." They had no specific agenda except for their comradeship. Typically, on

Thursdays several would share their current manuscripts in progress and receive honest criticism. Scores of wonderful books, including many by C.S. Lewis, came out of their fellowship, many of which would have never been attempted without this friendly encouragement. Some of the great authors of recent history were a part of that tavern communion but they used nicknames. Professor J. R. R. Tolkien was called "Tollers." Lewis' physician, Dr. R. E. Harvard, was called "The Useless Quack." Lewis' older brother Major Warren Hamilton Lewis, who also penned seven books on French history, was known as "Warnie." The leader of the pack was Clive Staples Lewis, known affectionately as "Jack." Although they held Christian faith in common, denominational lines seemed not to matter, except for the occasional pun. In fact, two of The Inklings who had been instrumental in leading Lewis to become a Christian believer at age 31, Prof. Tolkien and Hugo Dyson, were Roman Catholics and Lewis a confirmed Irish Anglican.

You may be saying that this is not that unique, except for the scholarly writing. Indeed, we have had small groups like this within the membership of churches such as Christ Church.

Over the years I have seen Bible study groups who have met for years, Sunday School Classes and small group gatherings, their Christmas parties and have felt the mutual love between them. I recall some guys that play basketball in the gym during the week, some at noon, others at night, who are bonded in sweat. One group goes out for brunch each week and it is a joy to watch them having fun like kids playing in new snow. This is all symptomatic of a healthy church, bonded together in a shared obedience to Christ. When I made visits I would often hear the expression, "I love my church!" Or, "She seems to be at home whenever she is in this special place!" Our mutual love is a great witness to our community, friends and families. Children growing up in a loving atmosphere like this will always feel that there is something genuine about church. The world will know we are Christians by our loving fellowship for each other and for the world. We can never reach them unless we first love each other.

The Church has to reach out beyond its walls. This may signal a difference in what we are about and what civic organizations and clubs are doing. When folks visit us we want them to sense that Christ Church's folks are friendly, that we care about them, and that we want them to come inside the ring with us.

As Christians, our joy is always linked to the Good News of Jesus taking hold of another precious human soul. Our

"product line" includes: recovery from lostness, forgiveness for past wrongs, freedom from enslavement to sin, and most of all, a new fellowship, and a new life in Christ.

We offer new "birds of a feather" who will rally around new folks and bring them into the fold. No Christian church or subgroup can ever get too many members. The ongoing essential ingredient is that people find people and come to find the wellspring of joyful new living for Christ. Adopt the Cursillo movement motto, "Make a friend, Be a friend and Lead that friend to Jesus."

Pax Vobiscum

Fr. Jim

Admin Report for Treasurer - July 2021

General Operating expenditures were higher than revenue:

Revenue=	\$19,160.40-Income
	<u>\$4,875.00-Capital Campaign</u>
	\$27,035.40

Operating Expenses = \$41,970.39

Robinson Charity Fund Balance - \$8,473.72

Rental Property Fund balance = \$4873.30

St. Philip's Fund balance = \$1282.30

Charles Schwab with Palladium balance = **\$1,396,372.11**

Cemetery Fund balance = \$2,389.12

PARISH CHOIR





A Bishop's Meanderings...

Over the years I have learned that the people at a funeral are paying much more attention to what is being said than at a wedding or baptism. It is difficult to engage in our usual denial of death when we are gathered around a coffin. Some eyes, even through their tears, seem to reflect an inner acceptance and peace, and even joy. Others seem to al-

The Rt. Rev.
Bishop Bane

most scream, "say something to take away my fear, that will help me deal with my days slipping away, one by one!" That dramatic contrast is determined by how each person views death.

Think what a difference it makes when we recognize that our days are limited, but also believed that the best is yet to come. Our lives on earth do not go on forever, and each day we live less than fully is still gone. If we are living with too many "what ifs".....and, "if only's" we are insuring that days will pass by virtually unnoticed and unlived. Of course, underlying it all is our wondering what is next.....if anything. Would it make a difference if we knew what is next?

I am a huge sports fan, and especially love college sports, particularly my beloved West Virginia Mountaineers. I remember a basketball game last season against a highly ranked opponent. All of us fans were nervous wrecks as the scoring was fast and furious and the lead changed numerous times. No doubt blood pressures were elevated, stomachs tight, and brows were furrowed. In this case, WVU pulled out an exciting last second victory and we celebrated. I found myself wondering what a difference it would have made if I was *cer-tain* that my team would win when it was all over. My anxiety, "what ifs", "if only's" and worries would have been replaced by enjoyment and relaxation. Even when our leading scorer fouled out, another was injured, and there were some terrible calls by the referees, I would have been able to enjoy every moment of the game no matter what because I knew we would win.

Now, of course that would remove a lot of the suspense and fun from a sporting event, but what if that were the case with our own lives? That is what you and I have going for us, my friends. God has not promised that we will not ever experience loss or suffering, nor that things will always go our way if we have enough faith. No, God has guaranteed only two things: that we are loved unconditionally just as we are, and that we win in the end. We do not know exactly how or when, or even what it will look like, just that God says that no matter what it looks like at times, we win. What if we chose to believe that death being the end is only a man-made illusion? What if we chose to believe when the funeral prayer says, "death is only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing but the limit of our sight?" Wouldn't that give us more freedom to live each day more fully, even with the transitions and losses and death we all face? That is the promise given through the life, death, and resurrection, of Jesus Christ. Grab onto

that promise with all of your heart, and live each day with a smile in the back of your mind. You are a winner.

*In Christ's love,
+David*

ECW

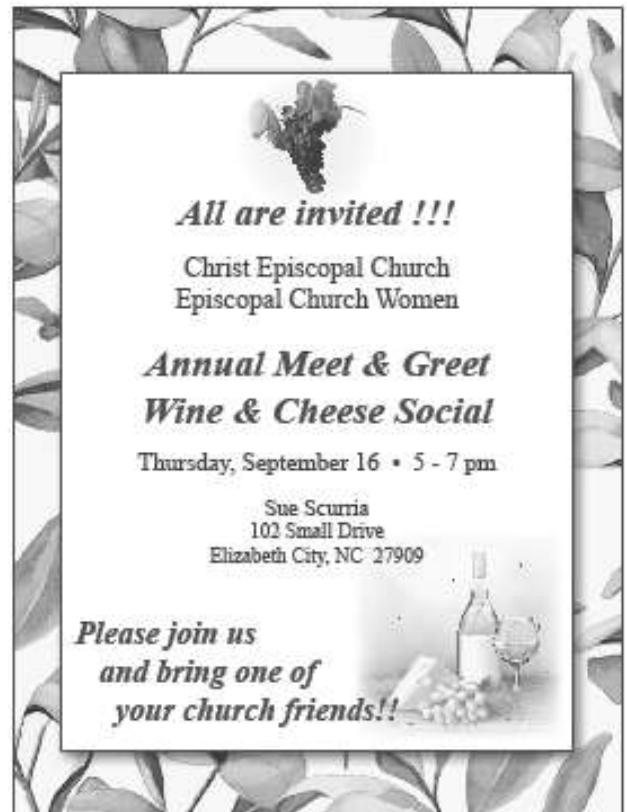
Summer is flying by and our fall activities are soon to be here.

Please join us for our annual ECW Wine and Cheese at the home of Sue Scurria on September 16th from 5:00-7:00pm. Sue's address 102 Small Drive. Her phone number is 330-4149. Please join us for a delightful afternoon.

Our Lobster Feast will be on October 22—please mark your calendars—hopefully, we will be able to make this the special event it has always been.

Your ECW pledge envelopes are enclosed in this newsletter. The women of Christ Church continue to do such an outstanding job of supporting our church needs, our church family, and our community. I hope each of you will continue to give your support with your pledge contributions. Thank you!

Jane Harris, ECW President



All are invited !!!

Christ Episcopal Church
Episcopal Church Women

**Annual Meet & Greet
Wine & Cheese Social**

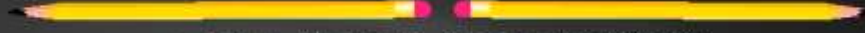
Thursday, September 16 • 5 - 7 pm

Sue Scurria
102 Small Drive
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

**Please join us
and bring one of
your church friends!!**



KICKOFF SUNDAY



WITH A BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 12 10:30AM**

JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF WORSHIP, FOOD, AND FUN!



BACKPACK
BLESSING

GAMES

MINISTRY
FAIR

FOOD

BOUNCE
HOUSE



Children's Corner



THE ARMOR OF GOD



Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Ephesians 6:10

After a fun-filled summer, we are excited to "kickoff" our school year learning about one of the most famous saints, St. Paul! We learned about God's transformative light as we journeyed to Damascus in July and August. Now, as we hear of Paul's travels, we are focusing on the story of the Ephesians and how we can put on the Armor of God in our daily lives. Looking ahead, we will transition to our unit on Jonah in October and study God's faithfulness and how we can become Fishers of Men.

A BIG thank you to those who assisted with VBS this summer and those who have agreed to assist with Children's Chapel! Our children LOVE seeing their friends and close family in those teaching roles!

SEPTEMBER 5
Soldier Dressing Games

SEPTEMBER 19
Jonah: Painted Fish

SEPTEMBER 12
Kickoff Sunday!

SEPTEMBER 26
Jonah: Fish Pizza

VIDEOS



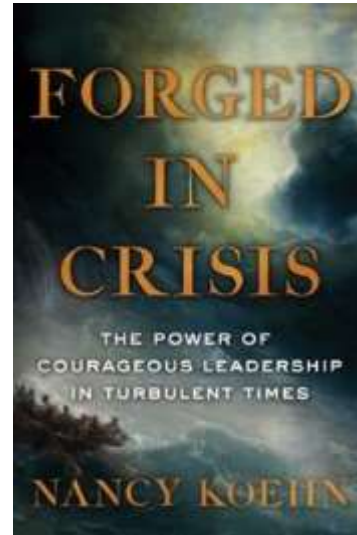
CHILDREN'S CHAPEL



SEPTEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Fall Church Kick Off following the 10:30 AM service on September 12th. Our street, McMorrine, in front of the church will be blocked off to traffic for the event. Bob Carson will be grilling hotdogs and hamburgers and the ladies of the church are providing side dishes, **beverages and desserts.** The Youth and Children's Commission has arranged for a Bouncy House. Many of our church committees will be setting up informational tables to share upcoming activities/events and allow for questions. Some committees may be looking for volunteers, so ask how can I get involved to support our church, community, mission work, and social activities. Tables may include the Worship Committee (Readers, Greeters, Ushers, Altar Guild and Acolytes), the choir and/or other music opportunities, Parish Life and Adult Education, Building and Grounds, Outreach, Youth and Children's Ministry, Young Adult and Family Ministry, Growth and Evangelism and Live Streaming. Please visit the tables to see how you can become involved in our different committees, ministries and education. Our Annual Stewardship Drive will take place on October 24, 2021. There will be a brunch served between the two Sunday morning services. More information will be shared as the date nears. Please mark your calendars to attend! Feel free to bring a friend or neighbor to our Kick Off Sunday Event on Sept 12. All are welcome. Bring lawn chairs, cameras, and dress comfortably. See you at Church!

PARISH LIBRARY



Book Review By Anne Sanders

FORGED IN CRISIS: THE POWER OF COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP IN TURBULENT TIMES

By Nancy Koehn

It was one of those hot days recently when I picked up this book and found myself in the Antarctic on an ice floe with Ernest Shackleton. His ship, ironically named ENDURANCE, lay on the bottom of the sea, and the captain and his crew were stranded. That was 1915.

I went on to read about President Abraham Lincoln, who not only had a nation to unite, but who lost two sons to illness. My lack of historical education on the Civil War gave me a jolt when I kept reading the numbers of fatalities in that conflict. I wondered how there were enough people left to maintain a nation. Then there was Frederick Douglass, who broke the law by learning to read and write, and then travelled throughout Europe making eloquent speeches.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer had an enviable life, an educated gentleman who chose to stay in Germany to resist Hitler. He was hanged three weeks before his enemy committed suicide.

Then, before Women's Lib, there was a tiny scientist named Rachel Carson, who died young and wealthy after living a life of hardship and poor health. Her work is dotted with beautiful and poignant poems and quotations along with her groundbreaking scientific dissertations, a fact I find delightful. Reading about her research on DDT brought back memories of my childhood when my mother would refuse to buy products that had "been sprayed."

But this book is not meant to be a collection of biographies. The author explains that many years of research went into its production. The summaries at the end of each segment and at the end of the book explain its purpose. "The very way that each lived was an act of leadership unto itself, whose impact resonates – and calls to us – in the early twenty-first century."

August Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP Wright Rm 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist at SP	2 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	3 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	4 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
5 8:00 am Holy Eucharist at SP 9:00 am Breakfast in the Parish Hall 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	6 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	7 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	8 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP Wright Rm 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist at SP 6:00 pm Young Adult Bowling Night	9 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 5:30 pm SOULS feeding 5:30 pm Handbell Wine & Cheese 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	10 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	11 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
12 Kickoff Sunday 8:00 am Holy Eucharist at SP 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	13 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	14 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	15 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP Wright Rm 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist at SP	16 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 5:00 pm-7:00 pm ECW Wine & Cheese 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	17 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 6:00 pm EYC 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	18 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
19 8:00 am Holy Eucharist at SP 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Confirmation Class 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	20 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	21 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP Newsletter Deadline 6:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	22 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP Wright Rm 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist at SP	23 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	24 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	25 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 5:00 pm Stevenson Wedding
26 8:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Confirmation Class 10:30 am Morning Prayer 5:00 pm EYC 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	27 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	28 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	29 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP Wright Rm 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist at SP	30 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous		

Sr Warden Report



Phil Hornthal
Sr. Warden

This has been a particularly tough year for our new minister and our Vestry. COVID hit our community and church unexpectedly within a few months of Daniel, Jessica and their family arriving to Elizabeth City. Despite this unforeseen and unprecedented pandemic, your minister and Vestry soldiered on, and with help from the Parish and the Diocese, kept the church doors open, programs running, and services available, whether we met in a graveyard, virtually, or socially distanced in the church. Further, Daniel heeded the call of the Search Committee that brought him to us, and the goal and question of the Vestry set at our last two retreats: how do we increase the church membership, particularly, attracting younger members? **One of the most visible acts has been Jessica's tireless effort in growing Christ Church's youth ministry.** Attendance by young families in church, and their children in Sunday school has increased, even in the summer, when our new Rector was told by many in our congregation that youth ministry in the summer time did not work, because folks were on vacation, and it had never worked before. **Thankfully, Jessica tried something new, and didn't do things "the way we always had."** Similarly, Daniel and the Vestry entered into conversations with the Classical

Covenant School, hoping to possibly create another vehicle to attract young families. Unfortunately, this was a divisive issue, but at the direction of *our Rector*, the Vestry moved away from these conversation, with the hope of healing in the larger church.

However, we as a Vestry wanted to make it clear to the entire congregation that we support the Cenci's ministry. As such, with the keen hand of Judge Grafton Beaman, two resolutions were drafted and adopted *unanimously* at our last Vestry meeting, and I include them in their entirety below. I encourage each of you to also support Daniel and Jessica in your own way, whether it's asking them to dinner, stopping by for a chat, or sending an email with your ideas for how we can grow our church together.

Yours in Christ,
Phil Hornthal

Resolve that, in response to disharmony and alleged negative comments made by a few members of our Parish pertaining to the Classical Christian Education School application, the Vestry goes on record to state that it has the full and total support, trust, appreciation and confidence in the Reverend Daniel Cenci for his ministry, dedication and spiritual leadership as Rector of Christ Episcopal Church. Adopted by the Vestry this the 17th day of August, 2021.

Resolve that, because of her dedication, leadership, love, inspiration, talent, devotion and energy, that Jessica Cenci devotes to the Children's Ministry and other known and unknown activities undertaken by her at Christ Episcopal Church, The Vestry goes on record to show our love and appreciation for her dedicated services to our children, youth and other Parish programs. Adopted by the Vestry this the 17th day of August, 2021.

September Birthday

1 Roy Golden	
2 Bill Stevens	30 Doreen Davis
5 Bettie Gard Lowe	
Marion Gutman	
6 Sharon Bunn	
Speight Bunn	
8 Anne Sanders	
12 Tapp Robinson	
14 Kathy Donahue	
Paul Wheeler	
17 Devon Morrison	
18 Chris Pullet	
19 Helen Caldwell	
20 Ron Turlington, Jr.	
21 Grafton Beaman	
Holly Pureza	
Carolyn Peel	
28 Sharon Lupo	

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

September Anniversaries

3 Meredith and Craig Umphlett
8 Bea and Al Southworth
22 Kim and Gary Cooper
27 Jessica and Alex Rich

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
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/Families Speight Bunn & Devon Morrison
Growth/Evangelism Mary Gillam Stewardship Joe Peel Children/Youth Anna Smith

The Monthly Newsletter of
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In Elizabeth City, North Carolina
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