

November 2021

Parish News



News & Events at Christ Church



Rev. Daniel Cenci
Rector

The Creed of St. Athanasius

Since the 16th century English Reformation, Anglicanism has maintained its identity as a “creedal” church. This means that our core doctrines and beliefs can be found in the traditional creeds of Christianity. The creeds are summaries of scripture and are basic statements of faith; (credo means, “I believe”). The creeds are designed to define Christian orthodoxy (right belief) as opposed to heresy (false teaching). In the early church, there were lots of different understandings of Christian theology, and it became necessary for Christians to come together and determine which teachings were consistent with scripture, and which teachings should be discouraged. Over the centuries, the creeds of the church would become the foundational statements of our faith, and they continue to be important parts of our doctrine and worship today.

For Anglicans there are three ancient creeds of the church that we strive to uphold. The first two, you are probably familiar with: the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed. The Apostles’ Creed is typically used in our services of Morning and Evening Prayer and in the burial and baptismal liturgies. The Nicene Creed is our Eucharistic creed and is typically recited in services in which Holy Communion is administered. But there is a third creed in the Anglican tradition, and that is the Creed of St. Athanasius. The current Book of Common Prayer includes the Athanasius

Creed on pg. 864 under the “Historical Documents of the Church.” But the Prayer Book does not specifically prescribe it for use in any liturgical settings. Earlier English prayer books did however prescribe the use of the Athanasius Creed during Morning Prayer on various holy days such as Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension Day and Trinity Sunday. In many Anglican/Episcopal churches it is still the practice to recite the Athanasius Creed during Morning Prayer on Trinity Sunday.

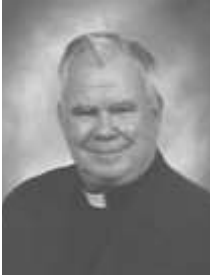
The reason that the Athanasius Creed is often associated with Trinity Sunday is because the creed primarily deals with the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Both the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed also address the doctrine of the Trinity, but the Creed of St. Athanasius is by far the most detailed explanation of this important Christian doctrine. The Athanasius Creed is named for Saint Athanasius of Alexandria and has been traditionally attributed to his authorship. However, most Church historians date it to after the death of St. Athanasius but consider it to be a summary of his teachings written down in the form of a creed.

St. Athanasius was one of the key figures in the formation of the Nicene Creed during the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. Athanasius taught that Jesus Christ was the second person of the trinity (the Son) and that he was co-eternal and co-equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Athanasius also taught that Jesus was fully human and fully God, and that all three persons of the Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) are of the same substance (they are one God). These teachings are specifically addressed in the Nicene Creed. But the later Athanasius Creed offers greater detail. The Athanasius Creed is divided into two sections, the first dealing primarily with the nature of the Holy Trinity. The creed defines the persons of the Trinity as one, co-eternal, incomprehensible, uncreated, Almighty and co-equal. The Trinity is three persons but only one God.

The second section of the creed deals specifically with the person of the Son (Jesus). This section specifies that Jesus in the Son of God and that he is fully God and fully man. The creed states that Jesus was not created by the Father, but rather that he is “eternally begotten of the Father.” The term “begotten” is meant to infer an eternal relationship that exists between the God the Father and God the Son. Much like the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed, the Athanasius Creed summarizes the life and redemptive work of Christ: “Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, he sitteth on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.” But unlike the other two creeds (in their current form) the Athanasius Creed anathematizes (curses) those who do not hold to the traditional teachings of the church: “...without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.” The anathemas in the creed make it clear that orthodox Christianity is not a universalist tradition, but rather that holding a correct belief in God is of salvific importance.

The Athanasius Creed may be longer than the other two creeds, and much more difficult to recite in church, but it is historically and theologically quite significant. It is an important part of not only our Anglican, but our Christian heritage, and if you are unfamiliar with it, I encourage you to check it out the next time that you are flipping through The Book of Common Prayer!

In Christ,
Rev. Daniel



Fr. Jim McGee
Rector Emeritus

AN ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST

What, in your opinion, is the one central thing our Christian churches need today?? Some of you might say more dedication on the part of Christians themselves. Others might say more practicing of the holy habits of prayer, Bible study, and stewardship. Still others might say becoming educated in the faith so that everyone knows what Christian belief is all about.

In the Gospel message of Jesus' Transfiguration Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a high mountain where Christ was transfigured before them. Mark writes: *"and he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white.."*

Peter and the others were profoundly moved. They felt deeply stirred within. They felt awe. They felt a kind of spiritual electricity surge within themselves. They began to feel ecstasy, inspiration, and joy. It was such a memorable occasion that Peter said, *"Lord, it is good for us to be here;"* And he offered to build some booths, or shelters, so they could stay on the mountaintop.

When one thinks about the Transfiguration of Jesus and what a great impression the spiritual experience had upon the apostles, one is prompted to wish that every Christian might at some time have a truly moving encounter with the living Christ - hopefully, more than one.

Actually, having a spiritual experience is a real possibility for each of us. Certainly God desires it for us. God wants us to know divine love in a very personal and meaningful way. Therefore God offers us revelations if we are but spiritually alert enough to observe them. Spiritually alert - tuned in.

Having a spiritual experience is basically a matter of looking for and expecting it to happen. As Peter and the others found, it can happen anywhere. They saw the shining light of God in the face of Christ on a mountain in Galilee. Moses became aware of God as he observed a bush that seemed to *burn continually*. St. Francis sensed God in birds, animals, and the events of nature. Brother Lawrence felt the presence of God in his kitchen. John Wesley found his heart strangely warmed in a quiet Sunday Evening Prayer service. The Swedish botanist, Linnaeus, was startled by God when he saw a blossom unfolding. He said, *"I saw God in his glory passing near me, and bowed my head in worship."*

The point is that anyone who is looking for it will surely have some sort of spiritual encounter with the living God. If not a breath-taking experience with God in nature's beauty, then in the mystery of a soul-tugging worship service; if not in the midst of the mysterious union of God and man during Holy

Eucharist, then in the wonder-filled birth of a child; if not when reading an inspirational poem or devotional book, or the Bible, then maybe in those special times when one good fortune after another seem to bring to us everything *"good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over."*

Certainly when we come to the altar celebrating Holy Eucharist we experience the living Christ reaching out to us. Our greatest assurance of the covenant relationship with God is Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist. John says, *"he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."* (John 6:64). What more can we say? Surely it is in the Eucharist that we will always encounter the Risen Lord.

It is all a matter of looking for God, expecting to see God. Our Lord says, *"Having eyes, do you not see??"* Expecting to see, we see!!

What about you? Do you ever have experiences with the living Christ? Do you feel His presence? Do you ever have an inner assurance that Christ is right there with you? If not, is that your desire? Would you like to have that assurance? It is by practicing the presence of Christ, by trying to walk our daily walk with Christ nearby, that we will know his presence to be real. Those who walk with Christ often find his warm and shining presence nearby - that unique spiritual experience which is too marvelous to describe.

Pax Vobiscum,
Jim+

Admin Report for Treasurer- September 2021

General Operating expenditures were higher than revenue:

Revenue= \$25,191.91-Income
\$ 1,618.00-Capital Campaign
\$26,809.91

Operating Expenses = \$36,145.52

Robinson Charity Fund Balance - \$10,302.07

Rental Property Fund balance = \$4767.85

St. Philip's Fund balance = \$168.98

Charles Schwab with Palladium balance =1,341,431.02

Cemetery Fund balance = \$2,389.12

A BISHOP'S MEANDERINGS...



I can't prove it, but I believe that God cries. I believe that God loves you and me so much, so deeply, so completely, that he cries when we cry. I believe that each of us matters so much to God that our pain is God's pain. I believe that God's deepest sadness is over a wasted human life. Since God knows that after this life we will discover a wonderful eternal life more marvelous than anything we can ask for or imagine, I don't think God is as sad about endings as we are. I do think God grieves when any of us squanders the gift of the one life we have been given on this earth.

The way we squander our gift is by trying to control life instead of recognizing and honoring the reality of the cycle of birth, life, death, new life. That cycle repeats itself throughout our lives in often very small ways, and when we refuse to respect the integrity of each stage, we miss much of the richness of life. Jesus demonstrated that he could not be raised to new life until he had died to the old one. There is a law of creation that demands death if there is to be new life. We can try to live as if that were not the case, and many do, but it is reality. Both through intuition and our own experience we know this to be true. Remember that time you were so mad you could hardly sleep? Finally, you realized this this was getting you nowhere, and you let go of the anger and let it die, and you slept again? How about the grief when a love one died? It hurt so much for a time, but the day came when the grief itself died, and you could once again hear a bird sing, or notice a beautiful sunrise. Then there are always those regrets about mistakes and failures and unfair treatment in the past. For a long time the resentment consumes us and affects our relationships with others and our ability to enjoy life. Finally, the hurt died, and we were able to move on in our lives. Sadly, there are those who have held onto the anger, resentment, regret, and grief, and never allowed them to die. God weeps for us at those times because we have chosen to waste that portion of our lives. The burden is heavy and we need to lay it down.

In order for us to fully live each day, we must leave the past where it belongs, in the past. We must learn how to let go, to lay down, to put aside, anything that is preventing us from moving into the next chapter God has prepared for us. Most of us carry around way too much "stuff" that needs to die in order to allow new life to begin, often in very small ways. It is like that high-flying trapeze artist who cannot grab the new swing until he has let go of the one he is hanging onto. Letting go can be scary for us, but it is a skill we all need to practice. When we do learn to accept and freely participate in the on-going God-given cycle of birth, life, death, and new life, we discover a freedom we did not even know was possible. Every time one of us does so, God's tears turn to joy.

*In Christ's love,
+ David*

Refresh Your Spirit

(original article in *Parish News Sept 2012*, reprinted/ revised a bit with permission from David Wright, 13 Oct 2021, in celebration of nearly 20 years longevity!)

Many of you may know that I have had the pleasure of participating in the 7:30 Wednesday morning Bible Study that meets at the Parish House for the last ten-plus years. I have often shared with others what a great experience this has been and how helpful it has been to me in my personal spiritual journey. First of all, this is not a 'normal' Bible Study but a formatted 'dive' into the Gospel lesson for the coming week.

For those who may not know, the Wednesday small group of varying size meets weekly for no more than one hour to read and reflect on the Sunday lesson. We follow the *Lambeth Bible Study method that is incredibly easy and straightforward, slightly amended for the CEC group. For me, the beauty of the program is that it allows for a much deeper understanding of the gospel reading and how it affects my life today. There is no weekly preparation (no homework), no attendance requirement (it is not a problem if you miss a session because each is unique), and no speaking requirement (participants often "pass"). One simply may come, listen, and learn. Best of all for me, the Lambeth format requires no predetermined level of Bible skills to participate.

Why am I telling you this? We want to share this opportunity with others and, though open to all, we realize that Wednesday morning at 7:30 is not everyone's 'cup of tea.' It is in this spirit that we invite anyone who might be interested in forming another group to talk to someone who attends the Bible Study, as we may be able to help facilitate. In the meantime, if you desire additional information or have questions, we will be glad to share more of our experience and the power of the Lambeth Study. I promise that if you do choose to participate, it indeed will "Refresh Your Spirit."

Submitted by Sharon G.

NOTE: The 7:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study group currently meets in The Wright Room at St. Philip's Chapel. The first meeting by the CEC group happened on February 20, 2002 (*Parish News March 2002*)!

*This Bible Study method was introduced by the African Delegation to the Lambeth Conference in 1998. It is known by both names: "Lambeth" and "African." It is rooted in the ancient method of praying the scriptures, known as *Lectio Divina*, or "Holy Reading." (St. George's Episcopal Church, Belleville, IL, May 2013)

ECW Angel Tree

Our angel tree gifts this year will be used to provide Christmas gifts for two families. The tree will be located in the Narthex of the church beginning December 1st. Please pick an angel from the tree and return the gift item, wrapped and marked for the individual, to the church volunteer office. Your generosity will help a family have a much happier Christmas this year.

Blessings,

Jane Harris, ECW President

STAFF AND OFFICE VOLUNTEERS HIGH TEA



OUTREACH



Christ Episcopal Church Represented in the YMCA Annual Golf Tournament

Despite the most unfavorable golf weather, rain, wind, cloudy sky and wet golf course on Friday, October 29, the YMCA annual golf tournament was a GIANT success and big fun. The shot gun start was not until 12 noon. Our Lord and Savior stopped the rain and showed a sunny sky.

This golf fund raiser is held annually to benefit the All Kids Swim Initiative in Pasquotank County. The proceeds provide free swim lessons to all K-2nd graders in the county public school system. Our priest, the Rev. Daniel Censi, serves on the YMCA board of directors. In support of this worthy event for the children of our community, the Christ Church Outreach Committee provided \$500 to sponsor a golf team and a hole sponsor in the tournament. The inclement weather did not stop the sponsorship of twenty-one 4-member golf teams from businesses, churches, and individuals. We must give a hearty thanks to each of the golfers who represented Christ Church. They were namely David Cianciulli, William (Bill) Lauten, William (Bill) Blake, all from Elizabeth City. Kenneth Wilkins, who came from Greenville, replaced golf members of Christ Church who either suffered an injury, had a conflict, or were already committed to another team.

Bettie Lyons, Outreach Chair

Veteran's Day Service

November 14 will be our yearly Veteran's Day Service. The 10:30 service volunteers will be filled by veterans that Sunday, and veterans will be wearing pins as our way of recognizing their service. Please invite your military friends and family (active, veteran, retired) to come. All veterans are asked to get together on the steps after the 10:30 service for a group photo.



Ecuador Mission Trip Info

Dear Parishioners,

I wanted to update y'all on the summer mission to Ecuador. The mission will be June 20-27. We will be hosting a vacation Bible school program and participating in some sort of work/building project. This will be a youth and Adult mission. Youth ages 12-13 (with a parent) and anyone 14 and older (without a parent) are welcome to participate. The total cost of the mission will be approximately \$1600-\$2000 (depending on flight cost) \$1000 of which will be covered by Christ Church. We are limited to 15-20 participants. A deposit of \$120 per participant is due by November 15th. Once we have received your deposit in the church office, your spot on the team will be reserved. There will be several fundraisers throughout the coming months which all missionaries will be asked to participate in. I am looking forward to this wonderful opportunity to share the love of Christ with those who are less fortunate than us. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to be a part of the Christ Church mission team!

Faithfully in Christ,
Rev. Daniel

EYC



UPCOMING EYC DATES:

November 11—5pm—Help with SOULs feeding
November 24—EYC Parents Night Out

ALL HALLOWS EVE



A NOTE FROM THE VESTRY

At our Vestry retreat on Saturday, October 16 we were informed that our by-laws may not be in conformity with the Episcopal Church and Diocese Canons and Constitution even though they were updated in 2014 under the leadership of our Interim priest in charge at that time. A committee of the Vestry will be working on revising by-laws and to have them ready to present at the April 2022 Vestry retreat.

In as much as there is insufficient amount of time to research, draft and adopt new by-laws by the time of our annual parish meeting on December 5, the Vestry voted to maintain the status quo as to our by-laws regarding "membership" status and eligibility to nominate, vote and serve on the Vestry.

In consultation with a diocesan representative the Vestry also voted to suspend the requirements to nominate 8 candidates to serve on the Vestry due to the ongoing concerns of Covid-19 restrictions and best practices within the Episcopal Church. There will be four parishioners nominated by the Vestry.

Nominations are always invited from the floor as to members of the parish who are "communicants in good standing" and have agreed in advance to serve if elected.

The present by-laws of Christ Church are available to read in the Church office.

Submitted this the 16th Day of October 2021 by Grafton Beaman and Mickey Golden at the request of the Vestry.

November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 12:30 pm Rotary Mtg in Parish Hall	2 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	3 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP Wright Rm 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist at SP	4 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	5 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	6 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
7 All Saints Sunday 8:00 am Holy Eucharist at SP 9:00 am Breakfast in the Parish Hall 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Confirmation Class 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	8 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 12:30 pm Rotary Mtg in Parish Hall	9 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:00 pm Outreach Comm Mtg 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	10 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP Wright Rm 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist at SP	11 Veterans Day 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 5:30 pm SOULS Feeding 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	12 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 9:00 am NEEAT Students visit CEC 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	13 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
14 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	15 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 12:30 pm Rotary Mtg in Parish Hall	16 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	17 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP Wright Rm 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist at SP	18 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	19 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	20 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
21 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	22 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 12:30 pm Rotary Mtg in Parish Hall Newsletter Dead-line	23 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	24 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study at SP Wright Rm 12:00 noon Thanksgiving Service pm EYC Parents' Night Out	25 Thanksgiving Day 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP Office Closed 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	26 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP Office Closed 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	27 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
28 8:00 am Holy Eucharist at SP 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Confirmation Class 10:30 am Morning Prayer 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	29 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 12:30 pm Rotary Mtg in Parish Hall	30 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS: 12/1—Advent wreath making and potluck supper 12/5—Annual Meeting 12/11—CEC Christmas Party 12/12—Advent Lessons and Carols 12/19—Christmas Pageant 12/19—Gingerbread House Decorating 12/22—Blue Christmas Service at Noon			

SR. WARDEN REPORT



Phil Hornthal
Sr. Warden

With the annual meeting approaching in December, we also will elect four new members to Vestry for three year terms. As with other volunteer service, finding folks willing to give their time to serve on our Vestry has become increasingly difficult. When Kristy and I moved home in 1999, outgoing Vestries had spirited debates about which 8 people would be asked to serve on Vestry. Last year, we had difficulty convincing 4 folks who were willing to stand for Vestry election. While I certainly understand the effect the pandemic had on those efforts, if our Church is going to survive and thrive into the 21st century, we are going to need folks willing to stand for Vestry in the future, starting with this Fall election. Also, each congregant needs to be aware of the minimal requirements one must **meet in order to serve on Vestry, such as being a “member in good standing,” and being confirmed in the Episcopal Church**, the latter which has been an obstacle to Vestry service for some of our most diligent, generous and dedicated members. So, with a little over 2 months left to serve as your Senior Warden, I encourage as many of you who feel moved to do so, to let Daniel or someone on Vestry know you are willing to stand for Vestry. For those of you who are loyal members of Christ Church,

but aren't yet confirmed, see Daniel about joining the next confirmation class. Even if you don't feel the Lord asking you to serve on Vestry, take the class and get confirmed. When we moved home, Kristy signed up for the class as she grew up in the Baptist Church, and I took the course with her to be a good husband! However, as I completed my re-affirmation of my faith and commitment to the Episcopal Church, I was surprised at how much of our rich traditions I had forgotten since Mr. Hutchinson confirmed me 41 years ago!

You have your marching orders!

Yours in Christ

Phil Hornthal

Senior Warden

phornthal@hrem.com

Upcoming November Events

11/7—Breakfast at 9

11/11—Souls at 5pm

11/12—NEAAT School visits CEC

11/24—Thanksgiving Service at Noon

11/24—EYC Parents Night Out

Did you know?

St. Philip's Chapel has been welcoming everyone for 7:00 a.m. Daily Morning Prayer since 1 November 2004! (*Parish News October 2004*). Peace to all who enter here.

November Birthdays

1-Ann Dixon

2-Nancy Ferebee

Peggy McPherson

3-Nancy Harmon

4-Wood Foreman

5-Josephine Greer Rich

Kim Willis

7-Chris Sanders

Robert Gillam IV (Bert)

9-Cynthia Mastro

10-Grin Wojnowski

11-Alex Rich

12-Reinga Hammond

15-Peyton Paris

26-Jane Umphlett

30-Bev McGee

Emma Giannakopoulos

November Anniversaries

1-Blair and George Jackson

8-Janie and John King

11-Gail and Larry Payne

20-Nancy and Pat Harmon

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

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