

Christ Church

Good News and Notes

*** Please note that all new items for this edition are in red**

Enough and More: Christ Church's Annual Meeting

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. ~Melody Beattie

This Sunday is our Annual Meeting. Another year has passed through time's gate and once again many important things have happened, many things remain unchanged and untouched, and yet other aspects of our life together are calling out for transformation.

The word joy is one I hear often on people's lips lately and that is more and more who we are. People who take joy in very wet Renewals of our Baptismal Covenant, joy in worship, joy in community, and joy in partnering with great groups like the Food Closet, Alleghany Cares, and volunteering for Meals on Wheels and Prison Ministry. And more joy even still in preparing meals for one another when we need an extra boost and joy in service and just doing what needs to be done to help Christ Church go.

And, of course, we continue to say goodbye to many whom we love. We wished Lillis and Joe Ward Godspeed on their new adventure and said a final goodbye to those who have moved on to the nearer presence of God. And naturally, though difficult, we also experience the sometimes silent, sometimes noisy, retreat of people who leave unhappy for a variety of reasons, which has always been a hard, but normal part of church life. We keep all of it in our prayers and move forward with confidence in the Spirit's power to heal.

To my great joy and delight, we have an amazing and strong core of all of you who have given your love and labor to this congregation for years and willing new hearts on deck. Those for whom the call to roll up our sleeves, face down adversity, and be generous and positive no matter the challenge before us, well you are the very bedrock of our community of faith.

Along with all of you and others who bring us newness, I am thankful for our upcoming Vestry Retreat. This will be a three-day gathering at Valle Crucis Conference Center and this Retreat marks an intentional decision for the new Vestry to commit to learning new skills in Church Leadership. My hope

is to create a deep leadership team who will work with me to guide us through some visioning work in the coming year.

Christ Church has a lot of ideas and energy and if we can harness all of that into ONE common purpose with definable goals for this coming year, we will mark a new age of claiming our maturity as a faith community. In terms of how long we've existed, we are poised to leave our "teen years" and begin to lay the foundation for moving beyond ideas of simple institutional survival into a solid, thriving church that has a sense of purpose and action that is clearly defined. This is a natural rite of passage that I believe Christ Church is eager to make.

Excellent leaders are those who are willing to risk new things, be fearless in the face of sweeping change in the Church universal and confront the challenges that come our way with hopeful expectation, imagination, experience, and most importantly, gratitude for our life together as a community of faith. Gratitude, as the quote above says, changes everything. It truly *does* unlock the fullness of life and turns what we have into enough and more.

This kind of generous, unflagging gratitude in the face of challenge is the key to our future. Things are changing for us to be sure. We are at a place where we can define the shape of our future by paying close attention to the shape of our hearts. We want hearts vibrant and pulsing with God's hope; hope in things yet unseen. Maintaining God-shaped hearts that pour out gratitude and generosity will allow us to find our way forward and focus on the riches we truly have in this community.

"Growth" is a word that is often said and parishes can spend fruitless energy in this amorphous pursuit. Membership numbers and budgets are important, but do not provide the primary measure of vitality and growth. We *are* poised to be a small, but mighty force for love in the world.

There are significant ways we *can* grow. Growing in discipleship (hands-on ministry from more members), growing our generosity financially and spiritually, growing new ways to worship that reflect the broad expanse of our Anglican world heritage in worship and music. We are called to grow our creativity and find ways to leave our church walls and get out into the streets and live our faith with actions of hope and mercy!

Yes, we have challenges ahead, but 2018 is absolutely spilling over with God's invitation to give thanks in all things, be a people of gratitude and courage and go forth unafraid to try new things and try again if those things fail. Resurrection is an eternal promise and we can nourish the future by nurturing the God-shaped hearts among us. We do have enough and more of what we need. Rejoice!

Grace and Peace, Stephanie+

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Scheduling CORRECTION

In last week's GN&N, we reported Bishop José was visiting us on Palm Sunday, March 18th. He will be visiting us on Sunday, March 18 but Palm Sunday is the following Sunday, March 25th. Please excuse the error. We'll share a full schedule of our Holy Week services in the near future.

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Nominations of the Vestry 2018

The nominating committee of Christ Church is pleased to announce that we have two members who have volunteered to be considered for Vestry. The nominees are Jann Boggs and Frank Hazard. Please review the candidates' biographies shared below. Consider each one prayerfully and thoughtfully. And thank them for having the courage and dedication to run for election.

The election will be held during our Annual Meeting this Sunday, January 21, following the morning service and luncheon.

Jann Boggs

Jann and her late husband, Jack, discovered Alleghany County and Christ Church in 2009 when they did some work-camping in their RV at a Piney Creek campground. Even after Jack died in 2011, Jann came back to the area every summer for 4 years. After meeting and marrying Vilder in October, 2015, and buying a townhome in Sparta, their goal was to live here full time. As of November, 2017, their dream has come to fruition.

Originally from Topeka, KS, and a "cradle" Episcopalian, Jann has attended church most of her life and considers the church community at Christ Church her new "family". She has served on numerous commissions and committees in churches in Clearwater/Dunedin, and Dade City, Florida, including; Vestry, Search TEAMS, Stewardship, Incorporation, Evangelism, Fine Arts, Usher, Lay Eucharistic Minister/Chalicer and Choir.

Initially trained as a Dental Hygienist, she has also worked in wholesale picture framing sales, owned two packaging and shipping franchise businesses, managed a home-based business and done event planning/site services for an internationally recognized Jazz Festival. Most recently she has been doing Liturgical Arts design and production for churches in Florida and North Carolina.

Frank Hazard

Frank has been an active member of Christ Church for over 10 years. During that time, he has served on the Vestry for three years, served on the

Finance Committee for over five years, and served as Oblation Bearer, Lector, and Greeter/Usher during worship services.

Frank has a background in business working with large budgets, and has also been involved in many civic activities. While the list of his service is lengthy, in brief, he's been a Police Officer, the Director of Greenpeace in the Atlanta office, a United States Marine combat veteran, and is retired from Homeland Security. Locally, Frank's service has included being the Vice President of the Sparta Revitalization Committee, a Judge Advocate for the Sparta VFW Post 7034, a volunteer at the Food Closet, the coordinator for the Prather's Creek polls on Election Day, the President of the Alleghany Community Theater, and a volunteer at the Heritage Festival. He's also held many auctions in the county.

Frank believes in Christ Church's philosophy of outreach and inclusiveness and will strive to see that everyone has a seat at the table with the Lord.

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Adult Forum: Embracing Spiritual Awakening began January 7th

Join us in Adult Forum Sundays at 9:15am as we are invited to examine and understand the changing cultural landscape in North America. Church Historian Diana Butler Bass will be our guide as we explore what evolving Christianity means to Churches today and how experiential faith is moving to the forefront for newer generations. Is the Church in a second "Great Awakening?" What does it mean to be spiritual and religious in today's world and how might Christians be grace-filled witnesses; the reality of God's love in a changing landscape?

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Poinsettias Available

The poinsettias used to decorate the sanctuary have been moved to the Fellowship Hall and you're encouraged to take one or more. There are a few left and they need good homes!

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Ladies' Lunch Out NEXT TUESDAY January 23rd!

The first 2018 Ladies' Lunch Out will be **next Tuesday, January 23rd at Becca's** Backwoods Bean Coffee Shop at **12 noon**.

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Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, January 21st

With our Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 21st, the Food & Fellowship Committee is coordinating a Potluck Luncheon to be held immediately following the morning service and before our annual meeting begins. Please plan to bring your favorite dish to share and enter your selection on the sign-up sheet located on the table in the fellowship hall. Utilizing the sign-up sheet helps us to better coordinate the luncheon. Please join us for this first fellowship event of the new year!

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Women's Fellowship

Friends in Faith meets on Wednesdays at 11:00. We gather as sisters in Christ to praise, pray, study, and share our lives. We hope you will join us!

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Hosting Ladies' Lunch Out

The new list is up for Hosting 2018 Ladies' Lunch Out. This is an excellent opportunity to share time together and get to know each other better. Our community offers many different menus with something for everyone. Please consider signing up for a month, choosing a restaurant and time, and we will all look forward to being with each other for an enjoyable time. Any questions, contact Jeanne Green at 336.372.4781.

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If you have any questions regarding anything building or grounds related, please contact Phil Donaldson or Willie Plummer with your concern.

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Food Closet Needs

The Solid Rock Food Closet currently needs the items listed below. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated!

shelf-stable milk
peanut butter
frozen veggie packs
dry pintos
canned fruit (applesauce, peaches, etc.)
raisins
hotdogs (they do NOT need buns)

white rice
ALSO, personal care items:
soap
shampoo
feminine hygiene products
razors
toothbrushes
toothpaste

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As a reminder, if you have news & notes for the GN&N OR announcements you want posted in the bulletin OR new prayer requests, please email them to me at ccepiscopal@skybest.com or call the office at 336.372.7983. DEADLINE is Wednesdays by noon. Blessings!

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For Urgent Prayer Request – Contact Gary Medley. Please be sure to get permission to share any details for the Prayers. Also, if you like to be listed as an Urgent Prayer Partner, please let Gary know.

Great thanks & peace, Gary Medley
gapdweller@gmail.com
336.372.7464 or 336.572.2905

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Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, January 21 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

9:15am – Adult Forum

10:30am – Holy Eucharist

Annual Meeting & Luncheon following the morning service

Wednesday, January 24

10:00am – Holy Eucharist

11:00am – Christ Church Friends in Faith

Sunday, January 28 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

9:15am – Adult Forum

10:30am – Holy Eucharist

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**Prayer requests from the staff and prisoners at
River North Correctional Center, Independence, VA**

Thank Christ for everything. He has blest me. Ask for blessings for those in need. -AR

Pray for me and my three sons, my family, RN Church and guests. I will be 51 years old this week. I thank God for my year on earth. Keep me in prayer. Pray for the world and keep God in your life. Whatever God does is best. Love always. -SC

Pray for my family in court and being friendly in the pods.

I would like the church to pray for my family, friends, and loved ones. I would also like the church to pray for my safety and for my friends. -FS
Keep my father in prayer. He is recovering from cancer by the grace of God. He is also recovering from a pancreatic cyst. God bless you all. -JV

Pray for my friend to get healthy and to find a better job. Pray for my family and little ones and for me. Forgive us our sins and grow strong in Christ. -S
I pray that God preserves, safeguards, and protects us with every feather of God's wings.

Pray for my family and loved ones well-being while I am incarcerated. Continue to pray for the way I think and see things. Pray for my health, my back, and my family. -MD

Pray for my growth, my children, my family, and friends. Pray for the guidance I need in my life. -KS

Pray for my spiritual journey and growth and that I do the Lord's work. -DJ
Lord Jesus, bless us all with Your love and lead us to the spiritual drinking water so that we may never thirst again. -AR

I praise God for all God is doing in my life and will continue to do. Bless Your people Lord in Jesus' name. -AC

Prayer of forgiveness for not allowing God to guide my life according to God's plan. I am a sinner and I pray for forgiveness.

Pray for me, my family. Pray guide us to the end.

Almighty God draw me closer to You so that I may understand my place in the body of Christ. Amen.

Than You Jesus for holding onto me even when I let go of You. -GS

Bless my mother, children, grandchildren, siblings, and their children.

Forgive me my shortcomings. Pray that the Lord will grace me with God's favor of health and the Holy Spirit. -FH

Pray that God take away my depression. Pray for the gentlemen in here who lost his father.

Pray for all in the world. Pray for my family, friends, and those who hate me. Touch my mother that she stays strong. Give me strength to keep walking right. Amen. -SP

Pray for my brother's family that lost his dad. God, give the family strength to endure. Bless my family. We had lost my cousin's dad. I pray his heart was with You when he was called home. I pray for salvation for my daughters. -KD

Pray for my family and all the families of Christ. -DA

Pray for my family and loved ones. Thank you for the ones I received. Pray I have the strength to make the right decisions and stay out of trouble and get a job. -JS

Pray for a release and for my son. -HR

Thanks for all the volunteers. Keep my aunt in prayer. She has arthritis and is in pain a lot. Thanks. God bless. -GT

Keep my dad in prayer as he goes the Word. Pray for all the families. I ask that they prosper. -JF

I want to thank Jesus. -JT

Thank You lord for answering prayers.

Pray that I make parole after 25 years inside and that Jesus gives me pardon and strength and wisdom to endure and conquer all that life throws my way. Pray that I will be able to help others as others have helped me. -MC

Pray for my family.

Pray for all the volunteers and the leaders at RN that we all continue to be filled with the spirit. -JS

Pray for revival and the movement of the Holy Spirit. Pray for our families. -CB

I would like to pray for all those who are troubled and do not know which way to turn. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! -RJ

I am praying for all offenders and visitors and their families and friends. -DH
Pray for family and friends and forgiveness.

Pray for all the lost souls in need of our Lord's healing hand. Pray for my friends for the loss of their son. Pray that I may get a favorable resentencing. Pray for our men and women serving our country. Thank you. -BB

Pray for all the men and women serving overseas fighting for our country. Pray for me that I might stop procrastinating, stop being distracted and become the man God wants me to be. -CD

Pray that we Christians start producing more spiritual fruit by spreading the Word of God. Pray for the many prison ministries and ministers around the globe that they are able to reach and teach more souls than ever. Bless our families, friends, loved ones, and service men and women. Thank you. -NW
Pray to the creator that God's will will be done on earth now and forever as in heaven. Amen. -DH

Thank You lord for blessing brother for healing and declaring him whole in Jesus' name. Comfort brother in the loss of his father. Build him up on his most holy faith to glorify You in the midst of it all. Teach us Your ways. Amen.

Pray for my children, my family, my friends, the volunteers, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and for the ones who are not saved. Pray for me in my situation and for all the world. -DR

Pray for my father. He has skin cancer. Pray that the Lord will give the doctor the wisdom to do his job and ask the Lord to take the sickness out of my dad. Only God can heal my dad. -HS

Pray for healing all during the flu season, especially my sister and household. Pray for comfort of all who have lost loved ones, for our nation to repent of selfishness and pride. -HD

Got back from the hospital a couple of days ago. It seems he had a blood clot in his right leg. Pray for him. I have.

Pray for my nephew. He was rushed to the mental ward. He was using drugs and alcohol.

Dear God in the name of Jesus I pray for strength, for my family and for You to continue to open doors of blessings unto me. Amen. -VM

Lord, I thank You for Your mercy and Your grace that have given me the strength I need day by day to do Your will. So I intercede for my brothers that You break every curse that have been placed on them. I seek live and salvation over them. -CJ

I pray that God sees fit to have my pardon granted by the governor of VA this year. Keep my grandparents healthy and strong. Thank you. -S

Thank You Lord for Your revelation.

Pray for strength and patience for brother --. -JD

God bless forever more. -B

Lord, thank You for waking me up this morning. Continue to be with my family and kids. Be with all my loved ones and everyone here at RN. Send us Your blessings as we send our prayers to You. -LW

The Good Lord that art in heaven, thank You for giving believers, non-believers, everybody in the world another year to be able to serve You. God bless my family and friends and enemies. Thank You for keeping my family in good health. -JM

Por afvor oren por todos nosotros que estamos prezos. Gracious que Dios los bendiga.