

May 2021

# Parish News



News & Events at Christ Church



The Rev. Daniel Cenci  
Rector

## Crawfish, Juleps, and Jesus

For nearly 150 years the Kentucky Derby has been held on the first Saturday in May. To honor this historic event, “Derby parties” have become commonplace in the South. Attendees typically dress in brightly colored outfits, big hats, and lots of seersucker. For many years on Derby Day my family and I hosted a low country boil at our farmhouse in Edgecombe County. It was a wonderful event; friends and family would come together and enjoy all the “fixins” of a traditional low country meal. And of course, we always served mint juleps! After several years it became a tradition that everyone looked forward to. The following day was typically our church homecoming service, so the Derby party made a great start to a weekend of fun, fellowship, faith and family.

The only problem with our Derby Day celebration/crawfish boil, was that it was a lot of work on an already busy weekend. Someone had to drive down to the coast to pick up the live crawfish, the yard needed to be manicured, the house needed cleaning, tents, tables, chairs, and decorations needed to be put up and someone had to boil the crawfish. Eventually we decided to take a year off with the intention to continue the tradition the following year. That was five years ago, and we have not had a Derby party since. Once the tradition was broken, it seemed like every year we found a reason to postpone. Although it was something that everyone loved, and that brought our friends and family together, it has, for now, fallen by the wayside.

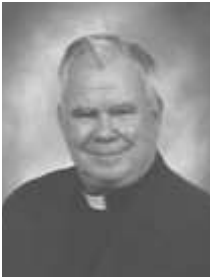
Over the past year it seems that Covid-19 has had a similar impact on religious devotion in America. Due to circumstances beyond our control, many have gotten out of the habit of attending worship services and other church events. Like my family’s love for the Derby party, most people still love their churches. We miss the opportunities for fellowship and faith development, but it is easier to just stay home. Being an active member of a church community takes work and commitment, and after a difficult year, many folks are feeling worn out and tired. Even though Covid cases are declining, and vaccines are abundantly available, for many Americans the habit of attending regular worship has been broken, and it will be hard to get back in the groove.

Our participation in the faith community is important. The church needs her members just as we all need the church. As the body of Christ, God has called us to be in fellowship with one another and to serve the world in the name of Jesus. As the world begins to return to “normal,” it is my hope that Christians will recommit themselves to regular worship and dedication to the many ministries that are changing lives for the sake of the Gospel. So, if you are having a hard time getting back into the habit of regular churchmanship, know that you are not alone; but also know that you are loved, valued, and needed. We look forward to having you once again share your presence and gifts with our blessed community. As the Lord reminds us in Job 11:13-18,

*“If you devote your heart to him  
and stretch out your hands to him,  
if you put away the sin that is in your hand  
and allow no evil to dwell in your tent,  
then, free of fault, you will lift up your face;  
you will stand firm and without fear.  
You will surely forget your trouble,  
recalling it only as waters gone by.  
Life will be brighter than noonday,  
and darkness will become like morning.  
You will be secure, because there is hope;  
you will look about you and take your rest in safety.”*

We can all take safety in the refuge of the Lord. Hold on to hope that brighter days are ahead. Surely some things will return as they once were, Derby parties and crawfish are on their way, but let us bring forth a renewed sense of faith to the body of Christ, uniting with one another as never before.

Faithfully in Christ,  
Rev. Daniel



Fr. Jim McGee  
Rector Emeritus

## IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK TO GET A FIRE GOING

The Act of the Apostles is a textbook: the What, the WHY, and the HOW of Christian evangelism. And our lesson from Acts two Sundays ago was a great illustration of “passing on” the message of Jesus.

But in this May message I want to tell you about the most effective form of evangelism known, and it **doesn't take much training** – it is simply to INVITE PEOPLE TO CHURCH! Here are some tips that guarantee success:

**INVITE SOMEONE YOU KNOW** – Surveys show that most people come to church because a friend invited them. **When you invite someone it's personal and effective.**

**PRAY ABOUT YOUR INVITING** – prayer is an unending resource. Pray for the right opportunity and the words to say. **Ask the Holy Spirit's help through prayer as you reach out to someone.**

**INVITE SOMEONE IN TIME OF NEED** – There are times in the lives of most people when the message of Christ and the fellowship of the worshipping community are especially needed. Such persons may be open to an invitation to worship. People going through the stress of change – a loved **one's death, sickness in the family, a new baby, a divorce** – all can be served by the message of the risen Christ around which our worship revolves.

**INVITE PERSONS TO SPECIAL SERVICES** – special services may also be times when people are open to an invitation. Christmas and Easter are natural opportunities as are services when young people participate.

**INVITE SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE A CHURCH HOME** – while Episcopal Churches are happy to have visitors from other churches, our reaching out is aimed at **non-churched families**. **We don't want to steal active members** from other churches. Instead, we look for opportunities to serve relatives, friends and associates who do not have a church to call their own. Invite those newcomers who just moved into your neighborhood.

**INVITE PEOPLE BECAUSE WE ARE PROUD OF OUR PARISH FAMILY** – There can be a healthy pride in our parish family and what Christ has given us to offer. That pride is the good feeling we have about our parish and our satisfaction in what God has done for us and through us. When we have something as wonderful as this parish family and our beautiful Episcopal liturgy we want to share it with others.

**INVITE PEOPLE IN YOUR OWN WAY** – **Don't worry** how to invite people to come to church with you. If you are concerned enough to ask, the Holy Spirit will bless **your asking**. **There is no single “right way”**. Even if you seem to be stumbling over words, the Holy Spirit will work through you and bless your endeavor.

**INVITE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP WITH YOU** – Non-churched people will attend our services more readily if **you're there to worship with them and help them find their way** around our prayer book, hymnal and other worship aids. Often visitors are embarrassed by not knowing when to stand, kneel and sit. Your presence with them makes them much more comfortable. Arrange to bring them or meet them at church and sit with them.

**DON'T GIVE UP** – **If your invitation doesn't work the first time, try other ways**. But, **don't push!** Be gentle, but make sure that person knows the welcome mat is out.

Well, there you have it. Tips on how to start your own personal evangelism campaign. But, **don't dilly dally, START NOW!** God doesn't ask us to be good at it. He asks us **merely to be faithful**. So, let's be about doing God's work immediately, if not sooner.

Pax Vobiscum  
Fr. Jim

.....

## Admin Report for Treasurer- March 2021

General Operating expenditures were higher than revenue:  
Revenue= \$24,585.44-Income  
~~\$2173~~-Capital Campaign  
\$26,758.84

Operating Expenses = \$36,676.34  
Capital Campaign = \$20,414.00 (money collected from 12/20 – 4/21 and sent to Palladium)  
TOTAL = \$57,090.34

Robinson Charity Fund Balance - \$12,304.54

Rental Property Fund balance = \$3,900.94

St. Philip's Fund balance = \$1,160.42

Charles Schwab with Palladium balance = **\$1,325,925.06**

Cemetery Fund balance = \$2,389.12



The Rt. Rev.  
Bishop Bane

## A Bishop's Meanderings...

Forgiveness is at the very root of Christianity and forgiveness is closely related to "letting go," something we are not very good at. There is the story of two monks in Japan traveling together down a muddy road in a heavy rain. Just ahead they see a very pretty woman in a silk kimono unable to cross the road. "Come on young lady," says Tanzan, lifting her in his arms

and carrying her over the mud. That night Ekido could no longer contain

himself and blurted out, "We monks are not to go near beautiful women, it is dangerous, why did you do that?" "I left the girl there," said Tanzan, "are you still carrying her?"

Something very clear in the New Testament is that God forgives us no matter what, but that forgiveness is really conditional. It depends on whether or not we are willing to be forgiving and loving and kind to those who hurt and wrong us. It is not that God withholds his forgiveness, but that we are not able to receive it while holding onto grudges and resentments. The Greek word for "to forgive" is "aphiemi" which means to "let go." As followers of Jesus we cannot keep score. We must "let go."

It all begins with the awareness and acceptance of the fact that we are all sinners, we all "fall short of the mark" in some way and it is irrelevant as to how we stack up against others. Without that first step we will never appreciate and be changed by God's unconditional love of us, and we will never be able to truly forgive others. The tricky part of all of this is that while we deny the whole "sinner thing" we also suspect that down deep we are pretty worthless, that if our inner thoughts and desires and even some of our actions were known, we would be rejected, and deservedly so! The irony is that when someone hurts us we usually say, "Oh, that's OK," even when we don't mean it. But let us be the one who is behaving badly and we can crucify ourselves for being inadequate. Guilt makes everything harder. We find ourselves punishing others the way we believe we ought to be punished if the truth were known.

Jesus Christ is not interested in guilt, or shame, or resentment, other than wanting it healed and using it as the means to a new life. The Gospel is that God is not interested in keeping score, and as his children, neither should we. Because of the Cross we awaken every morning with a clean slate in the eyes of God, and in order to keep it clean we must practice the skill of "letting go" as a way of life.

*In Christ's love,*

*+David*

## Sunday School Pictures...



Making resurrection rolls



Learning of how Daniel prayed three times a day, we are reminded of these verses from Luke 19:37-40.

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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

SPACE IS LIMITED. SCAN  
CODE TO REGISTER OR  
VOLUNTEER.

[WWW.CHURCHCITY.ORG](http://WWW.CHURCHCITY.ORG)



*June*  
**21-25**  
**9am-12pm**





# FAITH LIKE DANIEL

*Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God. Daniel 6:10*

## CALENDAR

MAY 9  
*Prayer Rocks*

MAY 16  
*Lion Snacks*

MAY 23  
*Drama Den*

MAY 30  
*Bible Bowling*

### VIDEOS



### CRAFTS



**VACATION**  
BIBLE SCHOOL

**VOLUNTEER**  
INFORMATION  
SESSION

**THURSDAY**  
**JUNE 3**  
**6-7PM**

CEC PARISH HALL

# May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
<b>2</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>3</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	<b>4</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>5</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12:00 pm Noonday Prayer	<b>6</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>7</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>8</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
<b>9</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>10</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	<b>11</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Mtg 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>12</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12:00 pm Holy Eucharist	<b>13</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>14</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>15</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
<b>16</b> 8:00 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Morning Prayer 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>17</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	<b>18</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>19</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12:00 pm Holy Eucharist	<b>20</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 5:30 pm SOULs feeding 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>21</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>22</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
<b>23 YOUTH SUNDAY</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 4:00 pm Parish Picnic 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>24</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	<b>25</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>26</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12:00 pm Holy Eucharist	<b>27</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>28</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>29</b> 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
<b>30</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am SS with John Morrison at SP 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>31 MEMORIAL DAY</b> OFFICE CLOSED					

# Sr Warden Report



Phil Hornthal  
Sr. Warden

At our last Vestry Meeting, things began to feel a bit more normal: we were moving forward with plans for Vacation Bible School, increased live attendance at our two weekly worship services, and planning a real Church Picnic, outside with all the trimmings provided by our own Bob Carson! And then Wednesday April 21, happened, and our local community and Christ Church were thrust into the middle of a chaotic, tragic cloud of pain, hurt and anger arising from the death of Andrew Brown, Jr. Suddenly, our small, quiet waterfront community was thrust into a media tempest, witnessing to nightly protests as community members and others expressed their first amendment right to demand answers. **Our young rector and his faithful bride didn't sign up for this when they agreed to come here from Clinton a little over a year ago. I suspect they've been anxious like the rest of us to get back to "normal," and start more regular, face to face relationships with their parishioners.** However, our Rector has not only stood tall during this crisis, but he has joined other faith leaders to be the voice of **God's love, standing in the midst of what could become an even more tragic situation if hate and anger were allowed to prevail.**

**Rev. Daniel presented an inspired Sunday message about the power of God's love through his Son, Jesus Christ.** He joined with other local clergy to organize and arrange a community prayer service and procession on the one week anniversary of those tragic events, leading the procession, bearing our own Ehringhaus cross, walking steadfastly to the scene of the tragedy, joined by Bishop Skirving and other ministers from our diocese, other local and State leaders from other denominations, lay members of various congregations and even a few protestors, bearing signs, some praying nonetheless with the local clergy, as each, including Rev. Daniel, offered words of hope and encouragement to a hurting community.

**My hope as your Senior Warden is that we all follow Rev. Daniel's example, and are a beacon of hope, love and encouragement, even as we grow frustrated, with whether the pace of the investigation, the lack of instant answers, harsh words about our friends and neighbors, or the inconvenience of daily and nightly protests, resulting detours and closed businesses. As we as a church move towards our own "normal" on the other side of COVID, with the hope of Spring amongst us, let us all continue to pray for the Brown family, law enforcement, our community leaders, with the hope that we continue to be an example to the rest of the world that, despite what the media, social media and others with an agenda say about our town, Christ Church remains a beacon for the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for the building of community, all the while focusing its sights continuously on the needs of those outside her beautiful stained glass windows and her open doors.**

Hope to see as many of you as are able to attend the picnic if not before.

Yours in Christ,  
Phil Hornthal

## May Birthdays

- 3 Madeline Umphlett  
Sarah Giannakopoulos
- 5 Ruth Goetz
- 10 Mary Black
- 14 Olivia Sanders
- 15 Lennie Hughes, Jr.
- 16 Betty Ingram  
Cameron Pureza
- 17 Kristy Hornthal
- 19 Alvin McPherson
- 20 Jonathan Bunn  
Ellie Hornthal
- 23 Jo Ann Austin  
Parker Bunn
- 28 Ann Hughes
- 30 Leah Jones

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

## May Anniversaries

- 2 Maria & Tark Pharr
- 3 Natalie & John Peel
- 5 Edla & Bill Stevens
- 18 Maggie & Mike Cahoon
- 24 Tracy & Tony Dean
- 27 Mary & Ron Black
- 30 Michelle & Tony Flach

## 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  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

---

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**  
**Standard Mail**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**ELIZABETH CITY, NC**  
**PERMIT NO.22**

---

---

# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

## STAFF

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

## VESTRY (2021)

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

The Monthly Newsletter of  
*Christ Episcopal Church*  
In Elizabeth City, North Carolina  
E-mail: [administrator@christchurchcity.org](mailto:administrator@christchurchcity.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/christchurchelizabethcity](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchelizabethcity)  
Phone: [252] 338-1686  
[www.christchurchcity.org](http://www.christchurchcity.org)