



Taking Jesus to the Beach

For many of us the Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of the summer season. Family vacations, boating on the river, and trips to the beach are all popular ways to enjoy the blessings of sunshine and warm weather. Growing up, my family had a home on the coast, and I always looked forward to spending my summer days relaxing and soaking up the sun. The summertime has always been my favorite season and now that I have children, I love taking them to spend time with my family at the beach.

Unfortunately, the summer season has also traditionally marked a steep decline in church attendance. This is, of course, understandable. Weekends are when most people are free to leave town, giving plenty of time to travel. Not being able to attend church on Sunday morning does not however mean that we need to take a break from our faith. Feeding and nurturing our faith, and the faith of our children, is important all year long. So, this summer I want to challenge all of you to look for ways that you can continue to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ, even as you travel, rest, and spend time at your happy place, wherever that might be! Below I have provided a list of possible suggestions to help you grow in faith even when you are physically absent from Christ Church.

Find a church at the beach- Worship is important. Most coastal churches are eager to welcome seasonal worshipers. Worship is not just about what we get out of it, but it is also about what we put in. God desires our worship. Corporate worship is an important part of our Christian identity.

Spend time in the Word- Take your Bible on vacation with you. If you are one of those early risers who likes to watch the sun rise over the water, there is no better time to read God's inspired word. The scriptures are powerful, and they can inspire you in ways you never imagined!

Join a Bible study- Whether it is our 7:30am Bible study on Wednesday mornings at Christ Church, a mid-week Bible study here in town, or a group of friends at the coast who gather to study scripture, Bible studies can open you up to hearing scripture from a whole new perspective.

Sign your kids up for VBS- Several churches are offering Vacation Bible School again this year and it is a great way for your children to be reminded about the love of God throughout the summer. VBS helps your kids dive deeper into the faith and can provide a life-changing experience as they encounter Jesus in new and exciting ways.

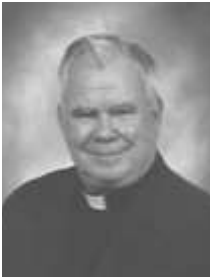
Embrace a daily devotion- As Episcopalians we are blessed with a wonderful resource in the Book of Common Prayer. In addition to Morning and Evening Prayer there are several other short prayer devotions that are geared toward individuals and families. They are found on page 137. Try incorporating one or more of these devotions into your daily agenda.

Attend a midweek service at Christ Church- If you find that you are out of town on the weekends, but in Elizabeth City during the week, try attending one of our mid-week services. Morning Prayer is offered daily at 7:00am in St. Philip's Chapel and Holy Eucharist is offered every Wednesday at noon.

Worship with us online- One of the benefits of the recent pandemic is that we now can offer our worship services online. Feel free to join us wherever you might be at 10:30am on Sunday mornings or catch up with the recording!

Let us remember the words of our Savior from Matthew 11:28-30 *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* I pray that everyone has a safe, fun, and fulfilling summer and I look forward to hearing about how God was at work in your life while on vacation, allowing Christ to provide us with true rest!

In Christ,
Rev. Daniel



Fr. Jim McGee
Rector Emeritus

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE HOLY TRINITY

150 years before Jesus was born, a man named Hipparchus said there were exactly 1026 stars in the universe. 1500 years later Galileo using a newly invented telescope, looked up into the sky and saw many times that number. Today we know there are about 100 billion stars in our galaxy alone, and, there are billions of galaxies such as ours. Can you get your mind around that? Billions and billions of solar systems like our own! How big is this universe? Several years ago, an astronomer observed with his naked eye the explosion of a distant supernova - an explosion so powerful that it released as much energy in one second as our sun will release in ten billion years. The truly startling fact is that this supernova exploded 170,000 years before it was observed on earth. It took that long for the light generated by that far-away explosion, traveling almost 6 trillion miles a year, to reach us on planet earth. Can you imagine the magnitude of a God who is bigger than all that? Is your God big enough?

Can you imagine a God for whom time does not even exist? We talk about "forever is a long time." That's not it at all! Where God is, there is no time. In Augustine's writings, he said God created time just as He created space. There is no tomorrow or yesterday in heaven. It is always now! Can you get your mind around that? Eternity is timeless.

Having said all of that, realize that we are bearing witness that the God who is beyond our understanding, came to this planet earth in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. No question, some people have problems with this. But, this fact is the heart of the Christian message. We are not Deists, Jews nor Unitarians. We believe God came into the world in the life of a humble carpenter.

Notice, I did not say in the guise, or form, or pretext of a humble carpenter. I said in the life of a humble carpenter. Jesus was not masquerading as a man. No, God emptied Himself and became fully human when Christ was born in the manger of Bethlehem. He cried real tears, sweat real sweat and bled real blood. He was fully human, yet fully God. God was in Him "*reconciling the world unto Himself.*"

It is beyond our comprehension that a God of billions of galaxies would humble Himself to become one of us, and take upon Himself our weaknesses, our shame, but you see, God is God. He defies all of the categories with which we are familiar. That is what the doctrine of the Trinity is saying to us. God is bigger than all that we know and all that we can imagine. Yet, God humbled Himself and walked among us.

Admittedly, the Trinity is a deep mystery. Theologians have spent lifetimes spraining their brains trying to understand it.

Well, it always helps to dig and to learn what the early church, the church formed by Jesus' followers meant when they spoke of "God in three persons." The word "person" comes from the Latin "persona," and originally referred to the mask worn on the stage by actors in a play. Because of masks, each actor in the Roman theater could play several roles. So God plays several different roles on the stage of human history. God is the Creator, God is Redeemer, God is Sustainer. You might look at it as God's attempt to get closer and closer to us. Not content to be "above" us, God came to walk beside us. Not even content with that, God now dwells - dwells within us. That is what we mean when we say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit is God in the present tense. The Doctrine of the Trinity says basically that the essence of God is relational. God's very being, God's oneness, can only be described in terms that describe a relationship.

The confusing doctrine of the Trinity says that the same God of a billion galaxies is he who emptied Himself and walked the dusty roads of Galilee. He is also here, and He is available. If we have a need, He is our Provider. If we are broken-hearted, He is our encourager. If we have wandered from the path of righteousness, He is our Savior. Everything we ever need, we find in Him. God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Pax Vobiscum
Fr. Jim

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Admin Report for Treasurer - April 2021

General Operating expenditures were higher than revenue:
Revenue= \$20,717.15-Income
\$613-Capital Campaign
\$21,330.15

Operating Expenses = \$38767.07

Robinson Charity Fund Balance - \$13,440.54

Rental Property Fund balance = \$4,315.26

St. Philip's Fund balance = \$734.35

Charles Schwab with Palladium balance = **\$1,362,780.17**

Cemetery Fund balance = \$2,389.12



The Rt. Rev.
Bishop Bane

A Bishop's Meanderings...

Here is a word that can strike fear into our hearts. *Forgiveness*. In the Gospel of Matthew, Peter asks Jesus how often he should forgive. He should have known better because the answer was, "seventy times seventy." The human response will be, "Oh good! Then I can quit at 4901!" Well, no, of course Jesus meant there is no limit to forgiveness. We struggle with this all of the

time. It is a very personal and potentially painful subject. I think it may be the one thing that could actually heal our world, but it is so very, very hard to do as a way of life. C. S. Lewis once wrote that "everyone says that forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive." "If you..... then I....." is usually the way forgiveness works in our world. When it appears at all, it is "other-generated," If *you* change, if *you* are really sorry, if *you* promise to never do it again, if *you* make amends over the right amount of time, THEN, I might get around to forgiving you. *Maybe..... There are no guarantees here. My self-respect, my offended pride, my value system demand no less. No cheap grace, no way, no how..... We tend to deal out forgiveness as if it were a commodity we own, and there is a limited supply of it. We cannot afford to just give it out to just anyone who might need it. Well, yes we can, but it requires humility, honesty, and compassion.*

As we read about Jesus it is clear that true forgiveness is not "other-generated," but rather "God-generated." To forgive in the name of Jesus comes independent of the attitude of the offending other. That is why the capacity to forgive is a gift from God. Everything human in us recoils at such a thought. The "eye-for-an-eye" grip is simply too strong. Its entitlements are just too precious to give up easily. But, as is the case with every decision, there is a cost. Over time, the legitimate hurt and anger over being wronged begins to turn cold. The chill of resentment glazes over the human heart. What was meant to be a warm furnace of love becomes instead an icy deep-freeze of bitterness. An "arthritis of the spirit" sets in. Life shrinks, and life stinks. So, what is the payoff for unforgiveness? Why is it so popular? The payoff, of course, is that the offended party can stay offended, self-justified to the end. Unforgivers, blind to their own behavior, keep impeccable and detailed records on the specks in their neighbors' eyes. I think we can often distinguish those who forgive from those who refuse to forgive by the look in their eye. Is there gentleness and peace there, or does it seem a bit rigid and unwelcoming?

Several years ago we visited what may be the most powerful symbol of Jesus-forgiveness in the world in what is left of the high altar of the charred, skeletal remains of Coventry Cathedral in England, fire-bombed by the Nazis in WWII. On the altar is set a cross, an unadorned cross of nails, stark, simple, powerful. It somehow makes everyone looking at it to stop and be quiet. Underneath the cross are the words, "Father,

forgive." Not, "Father forgive those murderous Nazis," but simply, "Father, forgive." Forgive them. Forgive us. Forgive everyone. Forgive those of us who live our lives in-between good and evil. Forgive those who are offended by your total unmerited forgiveness of them. Forgive us all, and, in turn, let us all forgive those who have sinned against us. Can you imagine such a world?

*In Christ's love,
+David*

Youth Service Pictures



CONGRATULATIONS CHRIST CHURCH GRADUATES



Logan Elliott – Logan has attended Christ Episcopal Church since his early elementary years and has fond memories of serving as an acolyte, especially when Father McGee led the service. Logan participated with the Glory Ridge and Towel Beach mission trips. While on the Towel Beach trip he was part of the team building a deck for a family. Logan also enjoys the homemade jams made by the choir. The jams are a favorite. Logan will graduate from Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies on June 7. He plans to attend Cape Fear Community College located in Wilmington, NC in the fall and work on his general studies classes. He enjoys skating and currently works with a local landscaping company.



Worth Elliott - Worth has attended Christ Episcopal Church since his early elementary years and remembers the Glory Ridge Mission Trip. He and his team replaced a damaged, worn out shingled roof with tin. He said it was a great experience and had an amazing week. He commented that one thing he likes about Christ Church is that everyone knows each other and he always feels a warm and welcoming atmosphere. He enjoys hunting and fishing and currently works in the commercial fishing industry. Worth will graduate from Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies on June 7. He also plans to attend Cape Fear Community College located in Wilmington, NC in the fall and study Marine Diesel Mechanics. After his Sea Devil time at CFCC, Worth would like to work on a tugboat in Alaska.



Ellie Hornthal - Ellie has attended Christ Episcopal Church since birth and has fond memories of Sunday night youth group, the confirmation beach retreat and volunteering with Vacation Bible School activities. She is grateful for all the memories she has made through the years. **Ellie was part of Northeastern High School's soccer and tennis teams. She recently received Female Athlete of the Year award, is a Lorraine Payne tennis scholarship recipient and all region and offensive MVP for soccer.** She was active with FFA and placed for State Champion on a landscaping team and participated in FCA. Ellie will graduate from Northeastern High School on June 5. She plans to attend University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall and major in journalism.



Hayden Ray - Hayden joined Christ Episcopal Church in 2007 when he was 4 years old. He has been involved in Vacation Bible School and youth group activities though out the years. He enjoyed youth group nights at Benjamin House and has great memories of the youth ski trips. **Hayden was part of Currituck County High School's soccer and swim teams and currently works for Duck Village Outfitters.** He enjoys spending time skating, surfing and fishing. Hayden will graduate from Currituck County High School on May 28. He plans to attend Appalachian State University located in Boone, NC in the fall and is currently undecided in his major. He plans to work on his general studies classes before deciding.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL



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.CHRISTCHURCHCITY.ORG

June 21-25
9am-12pm

Adventure ISLAND



SUPPLIES

CRAFT SUPPLIES


- Small stickers/foam pieces (fish, flowers, sun/stars, animals)
- White posterboard
- Various colors quick dry air clay
- 30 count 4x6" wooden picture frames
- 30 count small wooden boxes
- Cotton swabs
- ELMERS liquid glue (refill jug, individuals, glue sticks)
- Tiny decorative shells
- Metallic paper squares

VOLUNTEERS

As a small notion of thanks, we will provide a volunteer refreshment area. If you are interested in sponsoring a day or donating various appetizers, snacks, beverages, or boxed lunches for 12-15 volunteers please notify Jessica Cenci or Kim Willis.

SNACK SUPPLIES

- 4 boxes graham crackers
- 4 boxes brown cinnamon sugar PopTarts
- 3 boxes chocolate teddy grahams
- 3 boxes/bags animal crackers
- 3 packages chocolate chip cookies
- 3 bags stick pretzels
- 3 boxes swiss cake rolls
- 1 box Coco Puffs
- 1 box Cheerios
- 1 large box Goldfish
- 1 container raisins
- 30 chocolate donuts
- 30 fruit roll ups
- 30 MINI candy bars
- 30 cupcakes PLAIN GREEN ICING
- Gummy fish/sharks
- 6 containers green frosting
- 3 containers chocolate frosting
- 3 containers marshmallow cream
- 3 containers red/yellow/orange sugar
- 3 bags regular sized marshmallows
- 3 bags mini marshmallows
- 3-5 bags mini Oreos
- 30 candy eyes
- 300 small bottles of water/juice



CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Parables of Jesus



"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Matthew 5:7

Our children enjoyed getting to know Daniel in the month of May. They had a great time making lion masks and learning new songs! During the BUSY month of June we will be learning about the parables of Jesus and why he spoke in "code" sometimes. Please utilize the QR code to view the short videos and initiate conversations about parable interpretation, the children love to figure things out!

Looking ahead, we will dive into VBS beginning June 21. Our theme is "Discovery on Adventure Island". We will be searching for God's great light through creation, Moses, the healings and parables of Jesus, and finally the empty tomb. I hope that some of you will join us to volunteer or participate!

<p>JUNE 6 The Lost Sheep</p> <p>JUNE 13 The Unforgiving Servant</p>	<p>JUNE 20 The Sower</p> <p>JUNE 27 The Good Samaritan</p>
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VIDEOS

June Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 Staff Mtg 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	2 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12 Noon Holy Eucharist at SP	3 7:00 am Morning Prayer SP 6:00 pm VBS Volunteer Mtg 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	4 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 12:00 pm EYC Pool Party at the Bunn's 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	5 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
6 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	7 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	8 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	9 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12 Noon Holy Eucharist at SP 6:00 PM Ecuador Presentation	10 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	11 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	12 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
13 8:00 am Morning Prayer 10:30 am Morning Prayer 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	14 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	15 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Mtg 6:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	16 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12 Noon Holy Eucharist at SP	17 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	18 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	19 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
20 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	21 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 9:00 am-12:00 pm VBS	22 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 9:00 am-12:00 pm VBS 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	23 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12 Noon Holy Eucharist at SP 9:00 am-12:00 pm VBS	24 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 9:00 am-12:00 pm VBS 5:30 pm SOULs feeding 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	25 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 9:00 am-12:00 pm VBS 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	26 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP
27 8:00 am Morning Prayer 10:30 am Morning Prayer 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	28 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP	29 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous	30 7:00 am Morning Prayer at SP 7:30 am Bible Study, Parish House 12 Noon Holy Eucharist at SP			

Sr Warden Report



Phil Hornthal
Sr. Warden

Finally some good news! Within the last couple of weeks both the CDC and Governor Cooper have given guidance allowing our State to lift mask and social distancing restrictions. Daniel and other rectors have been invited to conference with Bishop Skirving, as have Wes Lupo and myself as Wardens, in an effort to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider, as a Diocese, our best path forward to return to normal worship. In fact, by the time you receive this newsletter, you might have learned that Christ Church, while encouraging unvaccinated folks to follow CDC recommendations and wear masks, will no longer be requiring masks at our live services. For many of us, this is welcome news, and an opportunity to see each other's smiling faces again. However, we encourage everyone to mask up if they so choose, and more importantly, that we all be patient and loving to one another as we transition back to (hopefully) full attendance at church. Although we have all sacrificed as a church for the good of everyone, I feel we have lost something without our face to face interactions, especially on Sundays at Christ Church. Now, more than ever, especially locally, we need the love of Christ, communal prayer and spiritual gathering and community. While we understand and encourage those who are more comfortable joining us for worship on Facebook, we hope that as many of our flock as are able to return to 200 S. McMorrine Street on Sundays for worship.

Looks like nice weather for the Church Picnic May 23, and by the time you read this, I hope you left with a full belly and a smile on your face. Continue to pray for our local community, treat your neighbors with kindness, especially those with whom you disagree, and let's have a great Church year in 2021.

Yours in Christ,
Phil Hornthal



June Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 O.C. Abbott | 20 Michelle Flach |
| 2 Jim Hathaway | 21 Maggie Rudd Cahoon |
| 3 Frances Gaither | 22 Jackson Bunn |
| 4 Quinn Cahoon | 23 Lauren Flach |
| 5 David Harris | 28 Betty MacKenzie |
| Grace Wood | |
| 6 Anna Biggs | |
| Kim Parrish | |
| Patrick Sanders | |
| Liza Gillam | |
| 7 Lee Gutman | |
| Meredith Umphlett | |
| 8 Brian Smith | |
| 10 Stedman King | |
| 11 Allen Wood | |
| 14 Tony Dean | |
| 18 David Wright | |
| Kristin Bunn | |

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

June Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Nell and John Morrison | 16 Marion and Lee Gutman |
| 3 Betty Jennings and Mark Washburn | 19 Hunter and Greg Michael |
| 5 Roy and Mickey Golden | 21 Carolyn and Joe Peel |
| 10 Rob and Mary Gillam | 23 Lisa and Chuck Wakefield |
| 14 Beth and Danny Jennings | Brian and Allison Auten |
| | 26 Kathy and Chris Rogers |
| | 27 Ann and Lennie Hughes |

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

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Standard Mail
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ELIZABETH CITY, NC
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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
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
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In Elizabeth City, North Carolina
E-mail: administrator@christchurchecity.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/christchurchelizabethcity](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchelizabethcity)
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