

Greetings Christ church family,

I hope you are well, in health and in faith. Life is hectic and watching the news it seems like the sky is falling, but if you get a chance to look around you I think you will find a better view. St Mary's county is still a great place to live and grow. And Christ Church is a shining spot of comfort and stability. Life can be a challenge, but together we can find strength and purpose.

Our new organist, Marcus Thompson, is getting comfortable with both the choir and the service. He wasn't a home grown Episcopalian but is quickly becoming one. I can hear his confidence growing in his playing, and he is a positive addition to the service at 10:00. He has told me he enjoys being with us and I consider us lucky to have found him. Organists are scarce and he lives in the county; luck or providence brought him to us.

Our new administrator, Jenni, is also a great addition. She has had the difficult task of taking over the position without a very long transition since our previous administrator had taken another full time job. It is also complicated by the fact that we are without a priest, someone who would be in the office every day to assist her in getting comfortable in her duties. Despite the challenges, she is doing a great job and providing stability to the office. She works from 8:30-1:30 Monday to Thursday.

The church hall is open for rentals. We have had several rentals since we re-opened in July. Our facility is a very affordable venue in the county - please tell your friends and relatives.

If I haven't conveyed to you my enthusiasm for our parish, let me do it now,.... **PLEASE COME BACK TO CHURCH!!** We are back to worshipping and socializing as we have been since colonial times. It is good for my soul to see you on Sunday and during the week, and the more of you I see the happier my heart is.

If you haven't had the opportunity to pledge during the past year, which is totally understandable, please consider doing it for the last half of this year. It is important to our financial forecast as we search for a new priest/rector. Before I cause any worry, we are doing good financially, but we need to know what the regular income will be.

Father Ted will be with us for the next 4 weeks, August 15, 22, 29 and Sept 5. I am continuing to search for supply priests and an Interim rector. Pray for a breakthrough in that situation.

UPCOMING; Sunset dinner, music and a fine meal, September 18th. Please check out the flyers in the church and church hall.

We are planning a bonfire, with hotdog roast and ice cream social at the church. This will be a Friday or Saturday evening in October. A cool evening where we can enjoy some fun around the big brush pile. More details to follow.

On a personal note, please get your Covid vaccine. It could save your life. You still might get one of the variants, but you won't die.

God bless us all. Take care of each other.

Keith

Senior Warden

Congratulations!



Clayton Frawley graduated from Army Boot Camp in June 2021. He is pictured here with proud parents Sara and Brandon Frawley.



Lynn and Chip Burton proudly introduce Olivia Ruth Burton, their first great-grandchild. Olivia was born on June 20, 2021.