



Christ Episcopal Church

Chronicle for Dec. 2024 & Jan. 2025

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This past weekend marked the opening date of the movie *Wicked*. John, the girls and I had the opportunity to see this on Broadway last year when we were visiting NYC. Though I have not seen the movie yet, I am excited to see the film adaptation. The story is sort of a prequel to *The Wizard of Oz* and how the Wicked Witch became who she was in the *Wizard of Oz*. It also talks about the friendship that Glenda the Good Witch and the Wicked Witch had in their youth.

In thinking about the movie, I am reminded of how much the story of the *Wizard of Oz* and Dorothy's quest parallels our own quests in life as Christians. We hope for courage, knowledge and love to guide us in life. We hope to follow that Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City to meet The Great and Powerful Oz (heaven and God). It is our friendships and connections throughout the day to day that help us to follow that road and shape us to who we are.

In the musical there is talk of being accepted for our differences and yet also making changes to make us "popular." While I love the song "You're Gonna Be Popular" from the musical, my reflection has led me to the reminder that changing to someone you are not isn't always what is best for us.

In a world that has and continues to see friendships and families torn apart for political views, differing opinions, and hurt feelings, this story reminds us that at the core of it all we are who we are. God calls us to love one another in who we are and where we are in life. He reminds us that even the least of us is important in His kingdom.

As we step into the Advent season and prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, I hope we will all remember it is a tiny baby who reminded this World how to love not just our friends, but those who are different or differ in opinion from us, too. We may not always understand why that person feels that way or has those opinions, but it is better to love than to hate, and pray instead of argue.

This year at Christ Church is coming to a close and another year is upon us. I urge you to think this Advent season about what we as a church and you yourself can continue to do to spread God's message in our community. I ask you to think about your role in your faith and in this church. What can we do better? What needs to be done in the future and where do we go from here? Your Vestry needs your input and looks forward to discussing these ideas in the upcoming year.

Faithfully in His service, Kristi Ross, Senior Warden

ECW
CHRISTMAS PARTY



**ECW Christmas
Party Friday,
December 6th,
6:00 p.m.
in Barksdale Hall**



The ECW held their last meeting of the year on October 20, 2024. At that meeting we discussed fundraisers for next year. Janis Chenery agreed to chair our very Popular Bingo Fundraiser. Other suggestions were an Art Auction in the spring, a Gift Basket Raffle of some sort, and maybe a Painting Party, where participants are guided through painting a piece of art.

Plans were made for our annual Christmas Party, which will be December 6th at 6 p.m. Set up for the party will be Thursday, December 5th at 12 noon. ALL WOMEN in the church are members of the ECW, whether you go to the meetings or not. All are welcome; just bring a wrapped \$10/\$15 gift for our Secret Santa Gift Game and a dish to share.

We also nominated and voted on our officers for 2025. Next year's officers are Lu Sullivan, President, Sherry Gott, Vice President, Marge Fifield, Secretary and Sarah Oakes, Treasurer. We had a good year this past year and are looking for 2025 to be as good, or even better.

Lu Sullivan,
President

ECW Prayer

Almighty God, we pray that you will bless our work in our mission and ministry in the world. Help us to pray fervently, labor diligently, and give liberally to make known the power of your love given through your son, Jesus. Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world. -Amen



We are collecting donations for Christmas Flowers. There are forms located on the narthex credenza or you may email Info@ChristChurchDanville.org with the "in memory of" or "in thanksgiving for" name and mail your donation to: Christ Church, P.O. Box 10355, Danville, VA 24543-5006

Please have your Christmas Flower form returned or emailed by **December 22nd** to ensure it can be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



**Christmas Eve
Holy Eucharist
Tuesday, December
24th, 7:00 p.m**

Plan to arrive early and enjoy Kathy Northen's extended organ prelude starting around 6:45 p.m

**Please join your church family for a
Christmas Eve reception following the
service**



This is a busy time of the year for the Altar Guild. We will be getting together next month for a thorough cleaning day of all service related items, and getting ready for Christmas. It is one of the times of the year that I like best, with everything church wise looking bright and sparkling!!

We have 4 ladies who take care of the weekly Sunday services throughout the year, and many more who step in to help when needed, especially at Christmas and Easter. If anyone is interested in being part of the Altar Guild, please see me. We are always looking for people to share their time and talents with us.

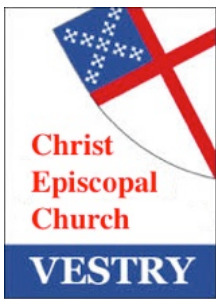
Lu Sullivan,
Altar Guild Director



Ladies of the church are busy knitting/crocheting Prayer Shawls and Lap Robes to be given to people for many different occasions. If you have noticed recently, our Prayer Shawl Room is a little empty. The wonderful thing is these Shawls were given out to people for many reasons, health issues, celebrations, and thanks to those who are caretakers who give much of their time helping others.

The Crafting Fellowship Group meets every other Saturday, and we are so lucky to have people here who share their crocheting and knitting skills to give us the many Shawls that have been given away over many years. There are about six or seven of us who meet and bring along whatever we are working on. Some come just to be with others, have conversation, and Pray. The next Crafting Fellowship Day is Saturday, December 7th, 10:00-12:00 in Barksdale Hall.

Lu Sullivan, Pat Irwin,
Coordinators



Do you have an interest in parish governance? Now is the time to think about vestry nominations for 2025. The newly elected members will begin service after the **Annual Meeting on January 19, 2025**. It is a three-year commitment. The vestry

functions like a board of directors, overseeing policies and operations of the parish.

The person volunteering must be a confirmed communicant of Christ Church in good standing.

If you would like to serve on the Vestry, please speak to Kristi Ross or any other vestry member by January 1st to be added to the agenda. (Open nominations will be taken at the Annual Meeting).



Birthdays & Anniversaries



December

Pat Irwin	1
Alex & Melissa Brummett – Anniversary	7
Jason Hall	7
Rena Howard	7
Alberta Hamlett	9
Mark Benz	10
Brantley Boyd	10
Nancy Cormier	15
Bob & Janis Chenery – Anniversary	24
Lucas & Selena Fifield - Anniversary	29
Joe & Kathy Northen - Anniversary	29
Daniel Hoffman	31
Chris Smith	31

January

Karla Brummett	8
John Benz	13
Sherry Gott	19
Jerry Oakes	20
Janet Hamilton	28
Jordan Hall	28
Sally Vick	28
Donna Moroni	29
Faye Harbrant	30
Andy Sands	31



2025 Financial Pledge

Please prayerfully consider your pledge for the 2025 church year. Your prompt pledge commitment will help the Vestry as they prepare a budget for next year.

Pledge cards are available on the narthex credenza.

Thank you for your financial support of Christ Church and its ministries.



A service for the blessing of animals to honor St. Francis was held on Sunday, October 6th. There were many furry friends in attendance and pictures of others that were unable to come to the service. They all received a special blessing from Rev. Grayce O'Neill Rowe. Thank you to all who contributed in the special collection that Sunday. We were able to donate \$330 to the Pittsylvania Pet Center.





Nancy Sands and Marge Fifield attended the 104th Province III ECW Annual Meeting on October 26-27, 2024 in Martinsburg, WV where we shared food, fun and fellowship.

Nancy was presented with gifts of appreciation for her hard work and dedication as Province III President for the past four years. New Officers were elected, and the weekend culminated at Trinity Episcopal Church where our group was welcomed with open arms.



The Christ Church ECW hosted a baby shower on Sunday, November 10th for Anna Ballenger and Mary Ross who are both expecting boys in December. They were both very grateful for all the wonderful gifts and words of encouragement from those in attendance. Please continue to pray for them as they become mothers and that God's divine love and care surround them and their sons.





There were 46 members in attendance on November 24th for Giving Sunday.

After the service we held a fellowship meal in Barksdale Hall with so many wonderful Thanksgiving foods. Thank you to all those who brought a dish to share and those who helped set up and clean up for our Thanksgiving meal.

Thank you also to everyone who brought in non-perishable items or donated money to support God's Storehouse in November. Christ Church was able to donate \$250 to purchase turkeys & hams and provide 4 boxes of food to this important local charity.



December 2024 - January 2025 Service Assignments

Date	Reader	Chalice	Elements	Servers	Ushers	Altar	Hostess
December 1 10:00 am HE	Pat Irwin	Bob & Janis Chenery	Jerry & Sarah Oakes	Catherine Daniel	Jake Howard	Pat Irwin	Cathy Hyler
December 8 10:00 am HE	Nancy Sands	Sarah Oakes & Marge Fifield	Shaun & Dinah Anderson	Abigail Ross	Jerry Oakes	Sarah Oakes	Janis Chenery
December 15 10:00 am HE	Lu Sullivan	Shaun Anderson & Kristi Ross	Bob & Janis Chenery	Brantley Boyd	John Ross	Lu Sullivan	Marge Fifield
December 22 10:00 am HE	Shaun Anderson	Bob & Janis Chenery	Cathy & Michael Hyler	Catherine Daniel	John Benz	Marge Fifield	Bonnie Hill
December 24 5:00 om HE	Bob Chenery	Sarah Oakes & Marge Fifield	David & Bonnie Hill	Abigail Ross	Shaun Anderson	Pat Irwin	Reception
December 29 10:00 am HE	Janis Chenery	Shaun Anderson & John Ross	Marge Fifield & Pat Irwin	Brantley Boyd	David Hill	Sarah Oakes	Kristi Ross & Rena Howard
January 5 10:00 am HE	Marge Fifield	Bob & Janis Chenery	Jerry & Sarah Oakes	Catherine Daniel	Jake Howard	Lu Sullivan	Pauline Ross
January 12 10:00 am HE	Sherry Gott	Sarah Oakes & Marge Fifield	Shaun & Dinah Anderson	Abigail Ross	Jerry Oakes	Marge Fifield	Nancy Sands & Pat Irwin
January 19 10:00 am HE	Jason Hall	Shaun Anderson & Kristi Ross	Bob & Janis Chenery	Brantley Boyd	John Ross	Pat Irwin	Reception
January 26 10:00 am HE	Kathy Hoffman	Bob & Janis Chenery	Cathy & Michael Hyler	Catherine Daniel	Shaun Anderson	Sarah Oakes	Dinah Anderson

Christ Episcopal Church - December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School First Sunday of Advent Rev. Kurt Alsiyao Coffee Hour following</p>	2	3	4	5	<p>6</p> <p>ECW Christmas Party 6 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Crafting Fellowship 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Second Sunday of Advent Rev. Grayce O'Neill Rowe Coffee Hour following Vestry Meeting</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>Tuesday Fellowship Lunch Bunch Applebee's 12:00 p.m.</p>	11	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Third Sunday of Advent Rev. Gene Anderson Coffee Hour following</p>	16	17	18	19	20	<p>21</p> <p>Crafting Fellowship 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Forth Sunday of Advent Rev. Gene Anderson Church Decorating Coffee Hour following</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve 7 p.m. <i>Reception following</i> Rev. Grayce O'Neill Rowe</p>	<p>25</p> 	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Grayce O'Neill Rowe Coffee Hour following</p>	30	31				

Christ Episcopal Church - January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Crafting Fellowship 10:00 a.m.
5 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Grayce O'Neill Rowe Coffee Hour following Vestry Meeting	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Grayce O'Neill Rowe Coffee Hour following ECW Meeting	13	14 Tuesday Fellowship Lunch Bunch Olive Garden 12:00 p.m.	15	16	17	18 Crafting Fellowship 10:00 a.m.
19 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Grayce O'Neill Rowe Annual Meeting Pot Luck Reception	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Rev. Gene Anderson Coffee Hour following	27	28	29	30	31	