

Parish Notes

A message from the Rector

Ten years ago, sudden and unexpected upheaval took away the familiar and the comfortable, replacing it with chaos, confusion, and catastrophe. An unbelievably powerful tornado bulldozed through Tuscaloosa, knocking down trees and power poles, destroying buildings, ripping up the landscape. Businesses lost money, people suffered, some people even died. All of us experienced an interruption to our schedules and routines; some of us experienced life changed forever.

But we responded with love, generosity, compassion, and sympathy which bonded us closer together. Sure, there were political squabbles about priorities and allocation of resources, but the squabbles got swallowed up by our desire to help, to be there for each other, to give and to receive simultaneously. We grieved losses and we expressed gratitude for blessings. And, finally, we adjusted to a new normal. The landscape is changed, but we go on.

Last year, a sudden and unexpected upheaval took away the familiar and the comfortable, replacing it with chaos, confusion, and catastrophe. An unbelievably contagious disease bulldozed its way around the world, making people sick and scaring us silly. Businesses lost money, people suffered, some people even died. All of us experienced an interruption to our schedules and our routines; some experienced life changed forever. This devastation was not as plainly visible, however. Some folks refused to believe it. Once again, political squabbles go on about priorities, and resources, and how we should live.

The question is, can we swallow up the squabbles with love, generosity, compassion, and sympathy once again? Can we unite together again with a desire to help, to be there for each other, to give and to receive simultaneously? Can we adjust to a new normal, and, even with a changed landscape, go on?

This week, a parishioner told me she is tired of watching worship on social media. I get that; I'm tired, too. The same day, another parishioner sent me an email thanking me for worship on social media, because her child is at high risk.

They have been home-schooling and staying away from people for about a year. I get that, too; I sympathize. Even as governments and businesses are lifting restrictions, there is, as of yet, no vaccinations for children, and it's still a scary thing when a family member is particularly susceptible and vulnerable to infection.

So, we are trying to do a "both/and" approach to worship. Starting in May, we are lifting some of our restrictions. We will no longer have a seating chart, we will no longer require reservations, we will no longer rope off every other pew. We invite folks to come and sit where they feel comfortable and safe based on their own best judgment. We are still requiring masks, because that is still recommended. I don't like those, either, but the scientists say it's the best practice. We will continue, however, to offer virtual services on social media for those who cannot come, or those who don't yet feel comfortable coming.

It sure would be helpful to us if everyone involved took advantage of the vaccinations against COVID-19. Barbara and I worked very hard to get our shots; we stayed up past midnight one night trying to get an appointment. Vaccinations are so plentiful now, however, that many locations are offering "walk up" service – no appointment necessary. The more people in our congregation get vaccinated, the safer we will all feel in returning to worship the way it used to be.

Some commentators whose livelihoods and success depend on keeping folks divided and stirred up at each other advise against the vaccines. That's a shame; it's like the political squabbling after the tornado. My take on it is this: even if you do not believe in the efficacy of the vaccine, even if it's inconvenient for you to get it, even if you are suspicious of it and worried about side effects, get it anyway. Get it because it makes others feel safer to be in a room with those who have had it, even if they don't believe in it. This is part of how we show love, generosity, compassion, and sympathy for others in this catastrophe; this is how Christians should act.

David +



Katherine Gould *Outreach*

■ Sawyerville Swimsuit Drive

Christ Church is partnering with Sawyerville this year and you can help by donating a woman's one-piece swimsuit (size L) and/or helping provide a meal. Swimsuits should be turned in to the Outreach Hub by May 15th, or if you prefer to donate \$25, someone can shop for you. Simply write "Sawyerville" in the memo line of your check or Venmo @Christ-Church-1. For more information about meal dates, please contact Claire Cotten—claire@sawyerville.org.

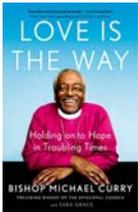
■ Blood Drive

Sign up to give blood and give life on May 11 from 10 AM to 2 PM in Randall Hall. Donation times can be found at redcrossblood.org/give.



Michelle Waits *Christian Formation*

■ Coming Events



Jim Jolly will lead a study of Bishop Michael Curry's new book, Love is the Way, on Thursdays in May at 11:00 a.m. in the 6th Street Courtyard. A zoom option will also be available. Watch your Church Chat email for details.

■ Living the Good News

Living the Good News Sunday school class continues through May 16th with both in-person and zoom options available. Join us in the Conference Room or click the zoom link in your Church Chat email--at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday!



■ Coffee and Cookies in the Courtyard

Coffee & Cookies
IN THE COURTYARD

Join us in the front courtyard between the services to visit and reconnect with your church family.

Sundays

immediately following the 9 AM service



■ Transitions

Baptisms: Wilson Boyd Humber, son of Thomas and Jessica Humber; April 10, 2021
Branham McGraw Moore, Jr., son of Branham and Mary Jane Moore; April 18, 2021

Deaths: Claude "Sonny" Hinton; January 23, 2021
Robert Rey; February 6, 2021
David Cochrane; March 15, 2021
Roland Pugh; April 19, 2021

April, 2021 *Tributes and Gifts*

MEMORIALS

**In memory of
Rita Ramage**

Jim and Karen Brooks

**In memory of
David Cochrane**

Jim and Karen Brooks
Dr. Glenn and Naneita Cobbs

**In memory of
Dr. Luther Richardson**

Maria and Kirksey Overstreet

HONORARIA

**The Lazarus Ministry
in honor of
Judy Phipps**

Emily and Hoyt Winslett

**In honor of
Amy Grimes
Martha Nabers
Sandy Gunter**

Anonymous



**The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
David Cochrane**

Katy and Reuben Cook
Hugh and Ginger Underwood
Libby and Bob Shaw

**The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Rita Ramage**

Drew and Anne Kyle

A Month of Birthdays

Circle the Date . . .

1st Jan Holman, Gardner Rowell, Patrick Martin
2nd Frances Fritz
3rd Scarlet Macon
5th Day Weatherly, Kelly Ray
6th Helen Ahlquist, Meg Aured, Kristi Dyer
7th Hooker Robinson, Anne Frances Lipscomb
8th John Oneal, Nora Ruth Scott
9th Annie Macon
10th Shannon Beard, Kirsten Hicks, Jessica Prather
11th John Harris, IV, Claire Tisdal, Dylan Neder
12th Sterling Taylor, Mac Reel
13th Sherry Allison, Catherine Cooper, Christopher Darling
14th Morgan Parson, Anne Witt
15th Jo Rutledge
16th Bob Robertson, Jacqueline Trace
17th Wilson Moore, David Rains, Alex Gould, Amanda Jones
Douglas Fortenberry, Griffin Williams, Elizabeth Ahlquist

18th Herschel Hamner, Leigh Cummings, Morgan Mann,
Hayley Lackey
19th Jeffrey Purinton
20th Clarkson Pearce, Johnny Pradat, Whit Whitfield, Bill Wilson,
Charlie Wolbach, Eloise Turner, Meg Dalton
21st Ann Cull, Rena McEntyre, Jennifer Waters
23rd Camille Cochrane, Jennifer Anderson
24th Elizabeth Kilpatrick
25th Jenelle Marsh, Ann Emrich
26th Cameron Parsons, Jr., Libby Shaw, Doug Behm,
Ryan Montgomery
27th Jeff Cull, Posey McWaters, Lee Tolbert
28th William Heath, Alexandra Kamburis, Bill Rabel, Philip Reich,
Kim Martin
29th Ken Hinton
30th Kathy Chappell
31st Marie Kyle, Bill Meriwether, Drew baker, Jack Aured,
Teresa Woodson

If your birthday is not on here for this month, and should be—it is because we do not have an updated membership information sheet. Contact the office to get one.

Directory



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 69
Tuscaloosa, AL

Clergy

The Rev. David Meginniss
The Rev. Dr. Catherine Collier

Ministry Staff

Michelle Waits
Christian Formation
Kathryn Adams
Marketing Coordinator
Katherine Gould
Outreach
Mary Margaret Murdock
Interim Youth Director
Cooper Parker
Children's Ministries Coordinator

Music Staff

Doff Procter
Director of Music
Laurel Procter
Assistant Music Director
Steven Taranto
Organist/Assistant Music Director

Administrative

Valerie Starks
Financial Manager
Barbara Steimle
Communications Director
Dwayne Aull
Facilities Manager
Patricia Allen
Housekeeper
Albert Benderson
Security
Blanche Gunter
Librarian

Vestry

Term expires at the end of 2023
Rick Bryant
Julia Emrich
Sally Reel
Whit Whitfield
Steve Wiggins
Term expires at the end of 2022
Evans Fitts
Heyward Gould, Senior Warden
Amanda Humber
Madolyn Kirby, Clerk
Jimmy Sledge, Junior Warden
Term expires at the end of 2021
Rodney Haas
Kathy Harris
Jim Jolly
Ryan Stallings, Treasurer
Jackie Wuska

Preschool

Beth Zark
205-758-5704

Telephone

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Email

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Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Return Service Requested

■ Thank You

A few weeks ago Bishop Glenda came for parish visitation. Thanks, everyone, for a full church for both services to welcome her. She gave your clergy a particular gift during her sermon. She talked about our many years serving among you and her understanding of the transition to come this summer. And then she said the kindest thing—she reminded all of us of the long tenure of clergy at Christ Church and said that David and I would always be in the DNA of Christ Church. I have often said I can feel all the souls of those who have gone before us in our pews.

I feel such gratitude for my twelve years with you. It has been the best time of my life. Ralph Waldo Emerson reminds us to “cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude.”

You have been kind, compassionate, and patient with me. That is such a gift and Christ Church’s best asset. Please continue your welcoming and wonderful hospitality to those who come next, to be woven into the DNA of Christ Church. Thank you.

It’s not too late for a short visit, call, or goodbye chat. Lots of folks have stopped in and we have really enjoyed talking about our time together.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine".