

# Parish Notes

## A message from the Rector

The Bible says that when John the Baptist was in prison, he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" What a question. John proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah, the One whose sandals he was not worthy to untie, the One to save the world. The Gospel according to Luke says they were cousins. So, doesn't John know who Jesus is?

But things are obviously not going well for John. He's in prison on borrowed time. Soon Herod would kill him. And Jesus? He's not acting like John expected. John expected fire and winnowing forks. John expected justice. John expected the Messiah to set things right. But he hears that Jesus eats with tax collectors, and is soft on prostitutes, and apparently, He hasn't called down holy fire on anyone. What kind of self-respecting Messiah is this?!

But Jesus replied to John's followers, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor." In other words, the presence of Jesus is transforming the world to further God's purposes. But to see the things going right, they need to quit concentrating so much on the things that are still going wrong. Even with Jesus in it, the world is not perfect. There is evil, there are challenges, people don't think and act the way we think they should. So sometimes it's hard to see the good.

Yet Jesus says the Kingdom is like leaven hidden in flour, or a seed hidden in the ground, or a net lowered into the depths of the sea, or stuff packed in a storeroom. It's not always obvious, and things could be happening that we can't see yet. I know in my own life it's often only when I look back I see that God was at work. But at the time, I didn't realize it.

So what does that mean for us? It means when we start feeling overwhelmed or frustrat-

ed, when things clearly aren't going right, when life is hard, or dark, or scary, and the future seems bleak, we can and should hang on to hope. We are people of faith, and faith strengthens hope. The letter to the Hebrews says "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." So even if we don't yet see God at work, we have the conviction, through faith, that those things for which we hope are assured. Evil never has the last word with God.

It also means we need to be patient and remain faithful. In his letter to the Romans, Paul says, "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." That's hard for me; I'm not a patient person. I want this pandemic to be over and let us get back to church. I want my eye to heal so I can get back to normal activities. I want the divisions between Americans to heal now. And it is always tempting to try to hurry things along. But that is not faithful.

If we truly believe, through faith, that God is already at work and transforming the world in God's own time, then even if we don't see it yet, we need to continue to live faithfully and wisely. So, we will continue to practice social distancing and mask wearing. I will follow doctor's orders about rest and medication. And we will keep on praying that God will soften our hearts toward each other, and help us to see and appreciate the things that connect us rather than the things that divide us.

But what about John, stuck in that prison with execution in his near future? What hope can he have? He has the hope of new and better life even after death. Paul said "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed." That's always true, for John, and for us.

David +



# Katherine Gould

## Outreach

### ■ Outreach

#### ★ Donate to the Lazarus Ministry in Honor of Judy Phipps

Judy Phipps has volunteered with the Lazarus Ministry since its inception 20 years ago. This important ministry of listening and financial assistance depends on the time of its volunteers and the financial support of the rest of us. It is currently thriving with new energy and safety precautions in place. Please help us honor Judy by contributing to the Lazarus Ministry in her name. Perhaps \$20 or \$200 in celebration of 20 years! Just think of the number of lives touched over the years. Thank you, Judy, for your quiet dedication and compassion.



The Lazarus volunteers would also like to start giving a small gift along with the check to the utility companies. We will start collecting laundry detergent pods that we can put in small bags and send with each client. Buy in bulk or when bogo and leave them in the outreach hub. Although we aren't currently worshipping in the church, I feel we are doing a great job being the body of Christ out in the world as we are called to be. Well done, everyone!

#### ★ Christ Church Collectibles

We are now offering scheduled in-person shopping on Monday mornings from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. To make an appointment or to donate items, please call or text Katherine Gould at 205-523-2530



# Michelle Waits

## Christian Formation

### ■ Coming Events

Coming in April--**Conversations with Catherine+**, parenting edition, via zoom. Bring your lunch and join us as we discuss a different parenting topic each week. Look for more details soon!

### ■ Staff Updates

**Kathryn Adams** is excited to take on the role of Marketing Coordinator for Christ Church. She has been a member since 2019 and was confirmed in November. She is active in the Lazarus Ministry, Community Soup Bowl, and Stough Guild. Kathryn has been married to her husband Will for 21 years. They have two daughters, Anna (19) and Madison (16). In her free time, she enjoys true crime documentaries, yoga and lazy couch time with her beagle mixes. She also serves as Marketing Director for Boys & Girls Clubs of West Alabama.

Kathryn will be responsible for our graphic design, social media, website, service sign ups, and Church Chat emails. To contact her please email [christchurchonline1828@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchonline1828@gmail.com)



**Cooper Parker** will be our Children's Ministries Coordinator. She grew up in both Tullahoma, TN, where she was a member of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, and Sewanee, TN, where she attended services at Otey Memorial Parish Church. She is a full-time manufacturing production planner and an adjunct instructor at UA. Cooper began attending services at CEC in January 2020 and has continued to find a strong connection to the church despite the challenges of the pandemic. In her free time, you'll find Cooper reading, cooking, or coming up with another DIY craft project. She resides in Tuscaloosa with her standard poodle puppy, Bonnie.



# February 2021 *Tributes and Gifts*

## MEMORIALS

In memory of  
Freda Thomas

Mrs. Luther W. Richardson

In memory of  
Emily Rogers

Patty and Joe Dice

In memory of  
Darryl, Courtney, and Liam Reeves

Frank and Jo Rutledge

The Community Soup Bowl  
in memory of

Jerry Belk

Don Salls

Bill Stewart

Sandra Dockery

The Community Soup Bowl  
in memory of  
Betty Sue Boyd

Sandra Dockery and Diana Blount

In memory of  
Freda Thomas  
Charles Ezell

Ed Davis

Caroline Phifer

Marion Poole

## HONORARIA

The Lazarus Ministry  
in honor of  
Judy Phipps

Frank and Jo Rutledge  
Cathy and Jimmy Adams

Cathy Randall

Ellen Dodson

Mary Winston Laseter

Carol Gatewood



The Christ Church Foundation

in memory of

Ed Davis

Larry Pierson

Emily Rogers

Charles Ezell

Bill and Mary Meriwether

The Christ Church Foundation

in memory of

Freda Thomas

Cade Cook

## A Month of Birthdays

Circle the Date . . .

1st Merrill Fitts  
2nd Jackie Drew, Spencer Cull, Augusta Robinson,  
Gay Burrows, Lesley McRae Sharpe  
3rd Katie Anderson, Mallory Hoover  
4th Philip Sasnett, Spencer Burchfield, Carol Downs,  
Spencer Williams  
5th Eric Wilson, Tricia Stone  
6th Margaux Buttram Shelton  
7th Gerry green, Fitts Achterhof, Mary-Keeley Smith  
8th Julia Thames, Erin baker, Nancy Spencer  
9th Jimmy Sledge, Anne Rogers Hines, Sally Cate Hines  
10th Missy Brazil  
11th Bobby Guthrie, Kay Guthrie, Paul Underwood, Layton Ball  
12th Wilbur Manderson  
13th Michael Farrens  
14th Beth Allaway, Martha Hinton, Rick Pearce  
15th Amanda Humber, James Brazil, Boozer Downs, Ellie Hart

16th Virginia Melton, Madeline Williams, Allan Hinson,  
River DeSimone  
17th Patrick Halliday, Mark Lancaster  
18th Beverly Wingard, Frank Wingard  
19th Ronny Robertson, Kelly Shannon-Henderson, Madison Parks  
20th Jack Harris, Caroline Lasseter  
21st Alicia Foley Parsons, Allison Terry Perry, Faulcon Fitts  
22nd Joanne Strudwick, Brad Johnson, Janet Chambers,  
Hallie Hull, Kate Reel, Clara Minear  
23rd Gaius Whitfield  
24th William Waits, Mary Helen Watson  
25th Betsy Gary, Bob Weatherly  
26th Susan Barnes, Mary Navarro  
27th Bunny Cox, Cathy Randall, Steve Wiggins, Mason Ward,  
Walt Cummings, Vivi Cummings, Christine Poston  
29th Hudson Underwood, Flint Breckenridge, Leah Searcy  
30th Terri Bryan, Marilyn Buttram, Meg Lancaster  
31st Camille Elebash, Jason Bailey

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*  
Leigh Cummings  
*Membership and Ministries*  
Katherine Gould  
*Outreach*  
Mary Margaret Murdock  
*Interim Youth Director*

## 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

205-758-4252

## Fax

205-758-0293

## Email

bsteimle@christchurch1828.org

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Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

*Return Service Requested*

## ■ Angels in the Wilderness

"He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him." (Mark 1:13) We have entered the season of Lent, a time in which we are asked to walk along with Jesus and spend time apart to prepare us to face down everything in this world which would also tempt us to despair.

The spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness before his ministry even began. He learned how to face his adversary, Satan, so that he might be better prepared over and over again in his ministry. But the whole time Jesus had the angels who waited on him, who ministered to him through those forty days and helped him through it all.

Jesus preached, and healed, and fed the hungry, and suffered and died in a world much like this one. God claimed him as beloved, and claims us also, and this helps me keep my eyes open for "angels," the people that will walk with me in the wilderness or troubled times. I know that these times do not last forever, I know that light prevails over darkness, that love triumphs over hate and that life is more powerful than death. And I know most of all that God is present.

In these forty days, remember the angels, look for them. Recognize the angels ministering to you in the midst of your life.

Lenten blessings,

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