

Parish Notes

A message from the Rector

We are emptying shelves and cleaning drawers, giving stuff away, throwing stuff out, sorting through the detritus and sediment that accumulates with extended habitation. Sorting through some files, I found stuff like the closing papers on our first house in Tuscaloosa dated July 2005, and the little owner's manual for an old flip style cell phone. We are moving out and moving on. And it's bitter-sweet.

Serving as Rector of Christ Church has been a source of profound and deep joy for me. We've shared joys and sorrows, celebrations and catastrophes. We've worked to preserve the past and embraced new changes. We've welcomed new children into the world, new friends in our congregation, and said goodbye to cherished loved ones. We've prayed together, studied together, sang together, eaten together, cried together, laughed together, served together, grown together, and, at times, just been together. We've been a happening place where we are assured that "Jesus loves us th-i-i-i-i-s much!"

We could dwell on our past together, and be sad. But that's not who we are! So, instead, let's anticipate a new adventure.

I am re-reading *The Hobbit*, for no better reason than I finished the book I had been reading and I cast about the house for something else, and there it was. You may remember that the Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, was thrust into an adventure almost against his will. He wanted to stay home by his warm fire and let life go on as it always had, so he could have been comfortable and safe. As he rightly predicted, his adventure with the dwarves proved to be decidedly uncomfortable and dangerous.

And I'm warning you, there will be times when Christ Church's new adventure may seem uncomfortable and less than safe. You will have to get used to new clergy twice: an interim rector will start immediately when I leave, and then a permanent new rector will follow him.

New clergy means new voices, new ways of doing things, new preferences, new attitudes. That's the thing about adventures; they are by definition unpredictable. Some of this newness will be welcomed and delightful; some of it will be suspicious and doubtful.

But what Bilbo Baggins discovered in his adventure is that he had gifts and skills he had not used before, and the adventure caused these gifts to quicken, to come alive, and to sharpen. He learned courage and honor, and the satisfaction of reward for hard work. Mainly, he grew spiritually, mentally, and emotionally to be a better person ... ah, er Hobbit.

That can be true for this new adventure for Christ Church as well. This is an opportunity for you. The new clergy will be a bit lost at first. Maybe they won't even know their way around town yet, or where to get a decent meal, or where to get their clothes cleaned. I remember getting a little turned around my first day just trying to find the men's room! Maybe they've never done Rite 1 before, never seen our children's liturgy, never even (God forbid!) been to an Alabama game before. They have a lot to learn, and they need you to teach them.

Because the new clergy will be a bit lost at first, your lay leaders will feel greater pressure and more responsibility. But remember, they got chosen to have their names in the vestry hat probably because they are busy people, and they will still be busy people even while they are assuming a greater leadership role in the parish.

So, here's how to make the adventure the best it can be: stay patient, and give both your new clergy and your lay leaders a break. Things won't always get done as quickly as you may like. Stay open, and remember the way we've always done things is not the only way, and maybe not the best way. Stay available, and volunteer. Be generous with your time, your money, and your gifts. Sing to the Lord a new song, and have a great adventure!

David+



Cooper Parker Children's Ministries

■ Coming Events

Christ's Kids Movie Night will be held in Randall Hall on June 9th from 6-9PM. We will learn about the real superheroes God put in our lives and watch *Flora & Ulysses*. Please contact our children's ministry coordinator for more details (christskids@christchurch1828.org).

Jim Sledge Facilities Update

■ From the Junior Warden

- ◆ We are continuing to work on the front courtyard. After removing some overgrown plantings and dead trees, we started restoration by adding azaleas around the fountain and the angel. This weekend a crew installed annuals in the planters, bringing in a bit of color. In late fall or early winter we expect to add new trees. We also planned to restore the lawn just south of the Nave; but unfortunately, we have major issues with our irrigation system, so the lawn will be delayed and temporary watering systems have been implemented for the new growth. Thanks to Bobby Cheronos and Pat Williams (a friend of the church, even though not a member) for design, and Bea Strong, Ginger Buck, Susan Smith and Alex Wilson for implementation.
- ◆ The 6th Street Courtyard has been the center of much construction activity over the years, as cranes were brought for various projects, most recently to replace the flat roofs. With those projects behind us, it is time to make the space nice again. Sandy Gathings Williams has designed an urban green space incorporating a beautiful statute of St. Francis of Assisi. Working with Evans Fitts, a detailed plan has been created and is being priced at this time. Funds permitting, we hope to do this work during the summer.
- ◆ You may not know that David, Catherine, Doff, Stephen and the music staff spend a lot of time pre-recording our Morning Prayer services so that these can be posted to Facebook and YouTube. While this will not be possible after David and Catherine retire, we are putting together an audio-visual ministry to record a service each week and post it for viewing. The goal is to create a small group, with one of us taking each Sunday. New equipment is on order that will allow the volunteer to participate in the service. Contact Jimmy Sledge or Evans Fitts if you are willing to help.

A Month of Birthdays

Circle the Date . .

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.

1st Henry Cull, Mabry Poellnitz, Margaret Wilson
2nd Morgan Anderson, Alexander Wilson, Michelle Crouse
3rd Hobson Bryan, Marly Thomas, William January
4th Carol Gatewood, Allie Sandel, Debbie Reich
5th Ellen Dodson, RJ Thurman, Mac Smith
6th Ben Madrid
7th Searcy Elebash, Jane Simpson, Pam Wade, Kathryn Adams
8th Emmaline Pearce, Katherine McVinnie, Elise Allison
9th Carolyn Rowell, Jack Tozzi
10th Cadham Humber, Edward Patton, Davis Pearce, Elizabeth Whitfield, Alice DeSimone
11th Eric Wilson, Sally Reel
12th Andrew Ault
13th Beth Hamner, Marguerite Haggerty
14th Margaret Whitfield, Betty Pike
15th Doug Aured, Anna Ezell
16th Taylor Pearce, Alexis Waters

17th Caroline Ferry, John Lamb, Mary Lyon Williams
18th Charlie Crouse, Grayson Williams, Mick Blackledge, Alex Smith
19th Donna Boles, Irene Welborn, Kathy Moseley, Taylor Drake
20th Cameron Crouse, Wescott Youngson, Wyn Wyant
21st Samuel Barnes
22nd Eric Anderson, Vivian Elebash
23rd Michael Anderson, Liz Pearce
24th Cortland Meriwether, Ford Meriwether, Ella Heifner Perrin Williams, Laurel Brannon-Parham
25th Kathryn Harwood, Anne Skinner
27th Billy Prout, Leigh Heifner, James Hinson, Holland Powell
28th Albert Lewis, III
29th Robert Meriwether, Bob Poellnitz, John Watkins, Rae Hill, Jordan Rippey, Philip Nader, Sarah Macon
30th David Welch, Preston Lancaster, Hasseline Thompson, Janis Jones, Merrill Boles

May, 2021 Tributes and Gifts

MEMORIALS

In memory of Roland Pugh

Sully Cochrane
Ken and Ramona McGee
Jim and Karen Brooks
John and Georgine Duckworth
Max and Diane Wilson
Wayne and Cherie Hutton
Dr. and Mrs. Norman Carlson
Frances Harris
Bo and Julie Harris
Carolyn and Lee Carter
Jayne Shirley
Winfrey and Annette Sanderson
Bee Cooper
Mojo and Phillip Weaver
Henry and Elizabeth Pruett
Sammy and Debby Watson
Valerie Minges and Jeff Patterson
Jean Hinton
Virginia Joiner
William and Frances Pool
Hugh and Ginger Underwood
Jim and Carol Jenkins
Rex and Martha Zeanah

In memory of Searcy Elebash

Jim and Karen Brooks
Camille and Shapard Ashley
Camille Cook Ashley
Grace and John Ashley
Fitts Agency

In memory of Freda Thomas

Robert and Rhonda Tyree

In memory of David Cochrane

Dr. and Mrs. Britt Turner, IV

The Lazarus Ministry in memory of Kimberly Stroud

Sandra Dockery

The Community Soup Bowl in memory of Stanley Park Roland Pugh

Sandra Dockery

The Lazarus Ministry in memory of Roland Pugh

Steve and Ann Wiggins

The Lazarus Ministry in memory of Roland Pugh Paul Scalise Searcy Elebash

Eric and Margaret Wilson

The Lazarus Ministry in memory of Searcy Elebash

Paul and Lisa Underwood

In memory of Rita Ramage Searcy Elebash

Kathryn and Bernard Harwood

In memory of Mike Guin Roland Pugh Terry Bunn David Cochrane

Wilbur Manderson

The Lazarus Ministry in memory of David Cochrane Suzanne Drew

Mary Nelson and Mort Jordan

HONORARIA

The Lazarus Ministry in honor of The Rev. Greg Evans

Eric and Margaret Wilson

The Lazarus Ministry in honor of the marriage of Frances and Edward Stroud

Sandra Dockery

The Lazarus Ministry in honor of Judy Phipps

Lynn Zeanah



The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Roland Pugh
Stanley Park
Searcy Elebash
Anne Monfore

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Roland Pugh
Searcy Elebash
Howard Cater
Eleanor and Ed Streit

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Roland Pugh
Jim Flemming
Jodi Jobson
Terry Bunn
Allie Littrel Marcoccia
Gene Poole

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Freda Thomas
Rita Ramage
Caroline Phifer
Sydney Jack Jackson
Ed Davis
Steven and Frances Runsey

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Searcy Elebash
Paul Scalise
Libby and Bob Shaw

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Roland Pugh
Libby and Bob Shaw
Wayne and Nita Caldwell

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Rita Ramage
David Cochrane
Roland Pugh
Pam and Ed Parker

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Roland Pugh
David Cochrane
Kathryn and Bernard Harwood

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Searcy Elebash
Marsha Powe
Rita Ramage
Ronny and Sue Robertson

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Searcy Elebash
Katy and Reuben Cook

Directory

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

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■ See You Around

Mahatma Gandhi said, "There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in my heart." Every one of you has been woven into the fabric of my memories these past twelve years. Our Pentecost celebration was glorious as we sat close together, dressed in red, hearing all the different languages and releasing doves into the air afterwards. It became another remembrance for me among so many.

This time represents a transition for your clergy and for all of you. Life comes down to that many times as we make our way through the world. Transitions can be good and growing times. The future of Christ Church is in good hands and God already knows who has been chosen to lead you next, it is only for you all to go out and find them.

I feel such gratitude for my time with you. My heart is full with all the many ways I have come to you over the years. Marriage and family, in the birth of a child and the birth of a friendship, in my family of faith, in your loved one's departing, and the challenges to serve here from the tornado to the pandemic. It is the memory of our faith during these times that leads us to lives of gratitude.

I have great joy and hope for the future and I look forward to sitting with you in the pews after a time. Until then, you will be in my prayers. This is not goodbye. I will see you around.

Grace and peace,

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