

Parish Notes

A message from the Rector

Sad, confused, anxious, but mostly afraid. As one follower said later, "we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." They thought he was "the Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior of the world." But the respectable people, the religious leaders and the teachers, treated him like the worst criminal, and killed him in the worst way. So now, stripped of the hope and enthusiasm that led them to follow him, they huddled behind locked doors. Their way of life, their normal routines, their freedom, all gone.

Of course, some of their fear was prudent. The mob had been blood-thirsty and cruel, shouting for the ultimate penalty that even Pilate seemed reluctant to impose. And Jesus had hurt no-one. But Peter ... Peter recklessly drew a sword and assaulted a servant of the high priest. He actually cut off his ear. Fortunately, Jesus healed it on the spot. Otherwise, surely they would be hunting Peter down. Maybe the only reason they hadn't taken him away yet is because his arrest would have elicited testimony about the miraculous healing. That would have been awkward for them. So, once again, the grace and mercy of God saved someone from their own impetuous bad choice.

But even in their grief and disappointment, they still loved Jesus. So, in spite of their fear, some felt the need to do something. In the Gospel according to John, we're told Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea had wrapped the body of Jesus in spices and linen to prepare him for burial. But maybe the women described in the other gospel accounts didn't know this. After all, they probably didn't run in the same social circle as two such important and well-connected men. So, out of love, they wanted to bring spices to the body and do what they thought needed to be done.

But, again prudently, they waited until the right time. Public attention only lasts so long. The news cycle moves on. People get interested in other things. So they waited until the third day, and they waited for daylight. They could

not do what needed to be done if it were too dark. They still didn't really know how they would get in the tomb, but they came anyway. And, of course, it turned out to be just the right time! Had they come any earlier, they would have found a sealed up tomb. Instead, they found angels, and they heard Good News, and everything changed.

I don't mean to try to compare our own inconvenience with the death of our Lord; that would be too trite. But, of course, there is nothing that could compare with the death of our Lord, and Dr. Catherine recently preached about our need to die "little deaths." And, honestly, we have been living with sadness, confusion, anxiety, but mostly fear for a year now. Our way of life, our normal routines, our freedom all got shattered by a pandemic. Most of us huddled with our families. Oh, some acted recklessly, and suffered consequences. Others avoided consequences probably because, once again, the grace and mercy of God saved them from their own impetuous bad choices.

But through it all, we still love Jesus. And the right time is coming. The sky is getting lighter; dawn is about to break. Our safety measures helped save our hospitals from getting overwhelmed. And now, more and more of us are getting vaccinated. I firmly believe we are close to emerging completely from this ordeal, this trial, this exhausting, tedious, and limited way of life.

Yet we have to remain prudent. We are close, but not there yet. In Holy Week, we will come back together, but with masks. We will continue to worship together with masks until we are fairly confident that we can put them away. But at least we will be together in our sacred space. We will again be able to celebrate a Holy Communion with our Lord and with one another. And maybe, we will encounter the presence of angels, and experience Good News, and everything will change!

David+



Katherine Gould

Outreach

■ Outreach

Community Soup Bowl is in special need of volunteers to provide meals and treats for those in need on **Easter Sunday, April 4.**

There are several ways you can help!

Donate Easter candy to go in special gift bags to be handed out with meals.

Donate to CSB to support Easter meals and gift bags—Paypal, Venmo and checks accepted

Volunteer to put bags together **Thursday, April 1 at 1:30 PM**

Volunteer to serve at CSB on **Sunday, April 4 10:45 AM to 1 PM**

Donations can be dropped off directly to CSB or left in the *Outreach Hub* no later than **Monday, March 29.**

Contact **Susan Lavender** (205-752-2421) to volunteer or **Beth Yates** (205-345-7554) if you have questions.

- ◆ Go to the [Outreach](#) page on our website to sign up for other available opportunities to help our community.

christchurch1828.org/outreach

If you need assistance, please contact Katherine Gould.

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

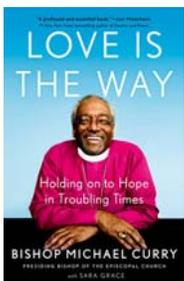


Michelle Waits

Christian Formation

■ Coming Events

April--Conversations with Catherine+, parenting edition, Wednesdays at 12:00 noon, via zoom. Bring your lunch and join us as we discuss a different parenting topic each week.



Coming in May--Love is the Way by Bishop Curry, an outdoor book study lead by Jim Jolly

■ Living the Good News

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 A.M.--Join us via zoom for our lectionary discussion group. Simply use the church telephone number as the meeting code or click the link in your church chat email. (This group will NOT meet on Easter Sunday.)



March, 2021
Tributes and Gifts

MEMORIALS

In memory of
Rita Ramage
John Ramage

Dr. and Mrs. Britt Turner, IV

The Katherine Jolly Cork Preschool
in memory of
Rita Ramage
John Ramage

Brad and Susan Cork

HONORARIA

The Lazarus Ministry
in honor of
Judy Phipps

Sandee and Bob Witt
Virginia M. Woollen

Wayne and Cheryl Hutton
Pam and Ed Parker
JoAnn and Charlie Cook
Jordan Rippey

Margaret and Eric Wilson
Sam and Bunny Cox
Kathryn Drew

Gene and Cal Wilson
Grace Gilchrist
Annette Spigener

Brad and Susan Cork

Judy and Hodo Strickland

Kathryn and Bernard Harwood

John and Kirsten Hicks

The Lazarus Ministry
in honor of
Carol Gatewood

Judy Phipps

The Lazarus Ministry
in honor of
Julia Thames

Jessica Robertson



The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Ed Davis
Jerry Belk
Freda Thomas
Betty Sue Boyd

Jamie and Gene Poole

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Rita Ramage
Win Yarborough

Carroll and Scott Phelps

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Rita Ramage

Katy and Reuben Cook
Milla Windham Green
Libby and Bob Shaw

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Emily Rogers
Marsha Powe
Jodi Jobson

Pam and Ed Parker

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Freda Thomas

Cade Cook

The Christ Church Foundation
in memory of
Rita Ramage
Michael Guin
Anne Monfore

A Month of *Birthdays*
Circle the Date . . .

- 1st John Hinton, Kristy Cooper, Cooper Parker
- 2nd Sarah McFarland, John Watkins, Herren Green
- 3rd Rodney Windham, John Poole
- 5th Sharon Moore, Bradley Hargett
- 6th Elizabeth Williams
- 7th Jim Anderson, Cade Cook, Nicole Hughes, Saxon Skinner,
Thomas Navarro, June Hart Wascher, Cate Thoss
- 8th Lee Moore, Cooper O'Rear, Henry Nagel
- 9th Kat Quarles, John Mason
- 10th John Mantle
- 11th Spencer Burchfield, Jr., Wells McEntyre, Houston Jones,
Virginia Hargett, Barbara Steimle, George O'Rear
- 12th Katy Cook, Christian Williams, Allison Drake, Ben LaPish
- 13th Miller Pearce, Harrison Howell, James Cox
- 14th Jim Brooks, C. J. Searcy

- 15th Drew Johnson, Robert Poellnitz, Lee Pike
- 16th Kara Poole, Franklin Holmes
- 17th Wood Howell, Julia Madrid
- 18th Wes Williams
- 19th Andrew Minear, Ashley Minear
- 20th Lin Moore
- 21st Justin Hart, Patrick Henderson, Maddie Adams
- 22nd Haskell Nevin, Caroline Sandel, Curt Wart, Grant Husack
- 23rd Heather Barnes, Greta Husack
- 24th Judy Strickland, John Murdock
- 26th Pete Cavert, Jane Vornbrock, Rusty Gibson
- 27th Milla Windham Green, Bob Land
- 28th Lauren Holmes
- 29th Gretchen Crouse
- 30th Ruby Hoofman

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
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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

205-758-4252

Fax

205-758-0293

Email

bsteimle@christchurch1828.org

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
605 Lurleen Wallace Blvd. N.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Return Service Requested

■ Leaving Well

My first day at Christ Church twelve years ago was the day of Pentecost. As your new curate it was a lovely beginning of a long pastoral relationship with you. Now as I contemplate retirement, I am aware that good leave taking is as important to building up the body of Christ as good beginning.

It is exciting that Holy Week begins our return to in person worship in the Nave. I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks at church. It will give us an opportunity to look back on what we have done together, what we have meant to each other, and look forward with anticipation and joy to different relationships.

Leaving well in the case of retirement means I will no longer be your associate rector. I will no longer do pastoral and priestly things with you but we will stay in touch, share news, pray for each other, and see each other once in a while. After an appropriate length of time I will sit in the pews and worship with you. I will attend church and baptisms and weddings and funerals as a parishioner with you.

In retirement I look forward to spending more time in the garden, traveling to see the children and grandchildren with Sam, and having some adventures. I will miss you all very much, but it is time to rest. These years at Christ Church have been the happiest times of my life.

So please join me in my leaving well. As I conclude my pastoral relationships with you in the next few months if there is any unfinished business or a conversation you need to have, please give me a call and we'll talk.

Grace and peace,

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