



October 2025

extraOrdinary Times

this month at Christ Church

October 1

Dinner Church | 5:45 p.m.
Auditorium

October 2

LGBTQ+ Theology & Faith | 7:30p.m.

October 4

Labyrinth | 9:00 a.m.

October 5

Animal Blessing | 3:00 p.m.
Churchyard

Choral Evensong | 5:00 p.m.
Church (Reception follows)

October 13

Organ Works of Bach, Willis, and Bridge; Paul
Byssainthe, Jr.
12:15 p.m.

October 16

LGBTQ+ Theology & Faith | 7:30p.m.

October 25

Stewards of the Dirt | 9:00 a.m.

October 28

Vestry Meeting | 7:00 p.m.



Outreach Spotlight: The Lazarus Ministry

The Christ Church Lazarus Ministry began in the 1990s when clergy faced an overwhelming number of requests for help from people in the community. Members of the congregation stepped forward, determined to provide consistent financial assistance. Since then, the ministry has grown and adapted to meet the needs of Alexandrians. St. Paul's even used our model to launch their own Lazarus Ministry.

Today is Tuesday, September 30, 2025, and tomorrow could look very different. If the government shuts down, many Alexandrians—especially government employees and their families—will face an immediate crisis. The city government, our community partners, and our Lazarus Ministry are preparing to respond.

Alexandria covers 14.9 square miles and is home to roughly 155,230 residents in 76,890 households. The population is 49% white, 21% Black, 18% Hispanic, and 6% Asian. About

7.1% of residents live below the poverty line, including 9% of seniors and 10% of children.

Poverty refers to a state where individuals lack sufficient financial resources to meet basic needs, including food, shelter, and healthcare, often reflecting a more severe and chronic condition. Low income, on the other hand, indicates a specific financial status where individuals earn below a certain threshold, but they may still manage to meet their basic needs with income support or assistance. Because it is a more fluid state, health issues, employment/layoffs, childcare, death in the family, and government shut down are the things that destabilize families with low incomes.

Think of the person who cuts your hair, serves your food, watches your grandchildren, serves as an aid to your elderly parent, drives your uber, does your landscaping, etc. These are all people faced with variables that are

*Inside.....
Blessings On
Worship Notes
Rites of Passage
September Happenings*

out of their control. And there is no time or room for things like anxiety, depression, or mental health issues in general.

In 2025, inflation remains high, job numbers are low, and immigration enforcement and mass layoffs continue to destabilize families. Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP loom on the horizon. Against this backdrop, the Lazarus Ministry has already helped 418 people with rent, utilities, and medical expenses over 32 weeks. We operate every Thursday at Fairlington Presbyterian Church with the help of 12 volunteer counselors and 4 volunteer greeters. So far this year, we have spent \$198,493.62: \$149,194.54

from Christ Church, \$24,484 from ALIVE!, and \$24,314 from the Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

But Lazarus is more than money. We provide case management, advocacy, and a listening ear. For those whose situations are complex and daunting, our follow-up team continues to walk with them long after their first visit.

We meet people whose lives have been turned upside down—the partner of someone detained by ICE, a statistician let go from NASA, an accountant laid off from USAID.

Every week we hear more stories filled with fear, grief, and disbelief. And

yet, our Lazarus counselors and volunteers remain steadfast.

We pray, with God’s grace, that we can continue this vital ministry no matter what comes. At Lazarus, we will keep showing up with a listening ear, a kind smile, and a compassionate heart for all who need us.

--Melanie Gray, MSW,
Director of Outreach & Mission

Rites of Passage

Deaths

Margo Fitch
Bud Harvey
Tony Collins
Nancy Norman Riggs
Barbara Johnson
Donald O’Born
Charlie Orr
Nana Arthur
Ron Weber

Transfers In

Michelle Mangrum

Blessings On...

- Claire Chow, Adrienne, Dave, Spencer and Henry Wegner, Brent, Holly, Ellie and Noah Levanto, Matt, Henry, and Nick Zahn, Tillman and Meredith Finley, Chris Parente, David Johnson and Scarlett Swan for moving furniture on August 30 for ALIVE!
- Our Summer Social hosts Fran Usher, Sara and John Grey, Stephanie and Jay St. John, Marilyn Bromley, Anne Shine, Elizabeth and Brett Trigg, and Jaclyn Moyer and Tillman Finley for their cheerful hospitality in opening their homes, backyards, and rooftops to parishioners in August.
- The Mengo Committee team who sold Mengo Raffle tickets on Welcome Sunday: Andrew Floyd, Karen Hill, Bob Carpenter and Jim Cannon.
- Our Meade Memorial Bag Lunch volunteers Karen Hill, Mary Hobbie, Emily Bryan and family, Maude Williams, Emily Soapes, Elaine Wick, Amanda Blue, Anne Land and Claudia Ellet.
- JoAnn Ackerman, Jane Baird, Marie Cataffo, Glen Hewitt, Jeanne Hoenicke, Liz Jones, Kirk Kitchen, Bob McIntyre, Michele Smith, Ann Spitler, and Maude Williams for delivering Meals on Wheels on Wednesday, September 17.
- Our Facilities Assistants, Glen, Kevin, and Van, for all of their hard work both seen and unseen.
- Bob Carpenter, Lenny and Milly Marsico, Anne Shackleton, Joe and Carol Shull, Michaela Shaughnessy, Kris Lebras, Barbara Boehm and Robin Campbell for shopping, cooking, and serving dinner at the Carpenter’s Shelter.
- Emily, Ian, Max and Evelyn Bryan and James and Jessica Hughes for gleanings at the Old Town Farmers Market.

Worship Notes

What is a Verger in the Episcopal Church? And why does she/he carry a stick?

The use of Vergers in Anglican liturgy can be traced back to the 12th Century. Cathedral courtyards were often markets, and priests had to make their way through them to celebrate services. Hence, lay churchmen (“Virgers”) were enlisted to carry a staff (a “virge”) to make a path through the people and animals in the markets. Over the centuries the use of Vergers became

incorporated into Anglican liturgy and remains so today.

The ministry has grown over the centuries to encompass far more. Vergers at Christ Church still carry our historic virge to lead the processional and recessional, but they do much, much more in ensuring services are conducted smoothly. They take care of numerous, hopefully unnoticed, small details – check the readings and prayers, set up the hymn boards, ensure the candles are lit and snuffed, work with the acolytes throughout the service, fetch the children from Children’s

Chapel, help the ushers when needed, and generally monitor the service to ensure nothing goes amiss.

Vergers work long hours, serving at both morning services on Sundays. At some “busier” services such as baptisms or bishop’s visits, you will see two of them. Christmas and Easter are exceptionally busy, with three Vergers simultaneously on duty at once at one point on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. Easter Week itself is very busy, with several complicated, once-a-year services that require a great deal of coordination. It is a very rewarding ministry that

(hopefully) enables our priests to concentrate more on spiritual matters than logistics during services.

So the next time you have a chance, tell your Verger “Thank you.” More importantly, try to stay out of the way of the processional/recessional – and the virge!

-- Brian Butcher, Verger



Monday Concert Series

Second Monday of the Month
October through May
The first concert in the series will be on October 13 and will feature Organ Works of Bach, Willis, and Bridge by Paul Byssainthe, Jr, associate organist at The Riverside Church in New York City. There is no admission for these concerts, though we hope audience members will support the series with a goodwill donation of any amount (suggested amount: \$10). These 45-minute programs include solo performers and chamber musicians based in DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The full schedule is here: www.historicchristchurch.org/music



WELCOME SEPTEMBER