

# Christ Church Good News & Notes!

*Deadline for GNN submissions is Tuesday at noon.*

**A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.**



## Annual Picnic



*Our Annual Picnic with a full table of delicious food & the dessert table in the background.*



*Kathy & Karla seem deep in discusion. Bob & Emma are seated in the background.*



*We had a full house! Barbara & Gwen are chatting closest to the camera with Patti standing in the background and Libba seated straight ahead.*



*Bob & Emma were back with us yesterday and Nancy checked in with them. {Bob had partial knee replacement surgery and is healing well!}*



*Jann was pretty in pink & ready to picnic!*



*Jeanne & Hal visited together a bit.*



*Seated at a table for two, Jane is the one who organized the picnic & the guy hugging her is her husband, John.*



*Joan & Gwen are listening closely to the person speaking and in the background we can spot Emma, Laura & Nancy.*



*All I said was get closer so I can take a picture, and Rod got as close as he could!*



*It was great to see John & Pat on Sunday, too! The guy closest to the camera is Frank, Patti's husband, and Patti is leaning in to hear what John is saying.*



*Jim & Libba were here on Sunday; see Jim seated across from Frank. In the background, individuals most of you know.*



*Barbara is chatting while Gwen & Joan (back of heads showing) and Judy listen. Breezing by in the background is Elizabeth.*



*Bob & Emma chatting with Nancy and Laura. In the background, Libba & Karla were chatting and Jeanne & Jim were too.*



*In the background of this photo, on the left Karla is visiting with John & Pat, Cliff & Kathy are enjoying lunch, and just beyond Kathy, is Les.*



*In the background, way at the other end of the photo, we see the side of Marybeth's head, Louise at the end of the table, Elizabeth is standing up.*

Great  thank yous to Jane for her coordination of the picnic, and her contribution of beautiful flowers. Thank you to Barbara & Jim for arranging and setting the tables. And thank you to everyone who brought food to share and helped with cleaning up afterwards. The food & fellowship were enjoyed by all!



## Outreach Support

Some of you have expressed support for the Outreach Committee and our efforts at fundraising but aren't interest in buying any of the Ten Thousand Villages' items for sale. ***We would like you to consider an outreach donation.*** If you're able to help in this way, just label your check or donation envelope, 'outreach.'

All proceeds from this sale plus the generous support from the church budget allows us to help the food closet, homeless adults, people in need of fuel in the winter, the backpack program, and victims of domestic violence.



## The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is celebrated by Christians around the world as a time for renewing, repairing, and restoring our relationship with God, one another, and

all of creation. At Christ Church, we will celebrate creation season beginning **THIS Sunday, September 13 – Sunday, October 11** with special liturgies and activities.



*Canticle of the Creatures by Francis of Assisi; Sr Jane Mary Sorosiak, OSF*

Our Sunday morning liturgy will reflect the focus on creation. We will be using new prayers, a creed, confession, and Eucharistic Prayer recommended by the National Episcopal Church. The hymns will also reflect creation themes.

## **Additional celebrations:**

**Sunday September 20 at 4:00 pm: Outdoor Celtic Christian Eucharist** marking the fall equinox. We will meet at **Wildcat Rock**, which is just past the Bluffs Lodge in Doughton Park on the BRP. **{You keep bearing to the left and drive to the parking lot beyond the Lodge. We'll meet right at the base of the water tower.}** Bring a camp chair to sit on and invite a friend.

**Monday, Sept 28th from 10:00 – 2:00 pm: Sauntering with the Sacred** at Doughton Park, Sparta, NC. *More information is in a box further down.*

**October 11 at 2:00 pm: Blessing of the Animals** will be held in the lower parking lot here. We encourage all who would like their pet to be blessed to arrive before 2:00 pm and *make sure you have control of them at all times*. If your animal friend is *not able* to be around other animals, let us know and stay with your animal in your vehicle.



## **Christ Church Episcopal of Alleghany County, Sparta, NC Celebrating Our Heritage 25 Years**



During the coming year we will be celebrating Christ Church's rich heritage spanning more than 25 years. An anniversary team has been formed (Doris King, Jeanne Green, Louise Law, Judy Ritchie, and Nancy Wilson) and they will start looking at pictures, scrapbooks and documents to create some storyboards (pictures, scrapbook stuff) for display, a written history document, and a slide show. **We need your help. If you have anything of historical interest – pictures, bulletins, newsletters – bring them to the church. And we also would greatly appreciate people who can volunteer time to help with the creation of the above.** There will be a designated space on the tables in the Parish Hall. If you have any stories that need to be told - email them to the office. Please reach out to anyone you know who attended Christ Church in past years and might be interested.

**Here are some key dates we will be looking at.**

Bible study held at Andy & Frances Huber's home - **February 1997**

Episcopal Mission is formed - **June 1998**

Parish status is granted and name given: Christ Church Episcopal of Alleghany County - **November 2000**

10 acres of land is donated, groundbreaking ceremony for church building - **June 2001**

First service held in new Sanctuary - **Easter 2002**

**SAVE THESE DATES -**

**March 31, 2027** (Easter Sunday) Anniversary of 1st Service held here

**June 20, 2027** Christ Church Celebrating 25 Years Homecoming Picnic  
(anniversary of groundbreaking)

**A great time to bring any photos, articles and/or newsletters, etc. would be THIS Sunday at the picnic!**



## Schedule

**Sunday, September 20 – The Season of Creation** (*Celebrated at CC Sept 13 – Oct 11*)

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

**4:00 pm – Outdoor Celtic Christian Eucharist at Wildcat Rock**

**Monday, September 21**

11:00 am – Vestry meeting

**Tuesday, September 22**

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

**Sunday, September 27 – The Season of Creation** (*Celebrated at CC Sept 13 – Oct 11*)

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

**12:00 – 1:00 pm – Living & Dying Well**

Monday, September 28

**10:00 am – 2:00 pm – Sauntering with the Sacred at Doughton Park**

*The Office will be closed*

Tuesday, September 29

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, October 4 – **The Season of Creation** (*Celebrated at CC Sept 13 – Oct 11*)

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, October 6

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, October 11 – **The Season of Creation** (*Celebrated at CC Sept 13 – Oct 11*)

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

**2:00 pm – Blessing of the Animals service in the lower lot**

Tuesday, October 13

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group



## Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

| Date    | Altar Flowers | Coffee GUILD | Coffee Hour   |
|---------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Sept 20 | Judy Ritchie  | Rod Pace     | Jane Franck   |
| Sept 27 | Cynthia Grant | Jim Halsey   | Cynthia Grant |
| Oct 4   | Jeanne Green  | Jim Halsey   |               |
| Oct 11  | Louise Law    | Rod Pace     | Louise Law    |



**Sauntering with the Sacred**  
**Monday, Sept 28th from 10:00 – 2:00 pm**  
**Doughton Park, Sparta, NC**

Come slow down and wander. Join Karla Woggon from Christ Church, Sparta for a half day of sauntering on holy ground. Open yourself to the guidance of the wilderness. Move slowly among the trees, and learn from their rootedness, resilience, and community. Grounded in the Celtic Christian tradition and open to all seeking quiet and connection, we will cross a threshold into sacred time, carry an intention into solitude, and let the land mirror back what it will.

**What to bring:** lunch, water, hiking boots, and a camp chair

**For more details about the exact meeting spot and to  
SIGN-UP, contact Karla at 828.638.0533.**



**Please join us in prayer...**

**Intercessions:**

Antje & Bill, Brenda Weems, Buck Hunnicutt, Cara Todd, Carol Greer & family, Chris, Debbie & Doug Bebbler (Cynthia's friends), Denise Seckel, Diana Asher, Donald & Audrey Carter, Donald Lundy (Pat Hardee's brother), Erin Mohr & her family, Jeff & his wife Karen, Jerry & Theresa, Jim & Diane (Nancy's BIL & sister), John & Jane Gehring, John & Diane (Judy's BIL & sister), Karen & Dick Dewald, Ken & Janice Kleva, Langhorne Jones, Louise Law, Martha Honaker, Michael, Sally & Chuck Besaw, and Sara Brown Davis. We also pray for all those impacted by the fire in downtown Sparta this week; by violence, war and weather disasters; our local neighbors that fear detention; and Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

**Long-term prayers:**

Allan Joyce, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Coralie & her mother Mary, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin (Nancy's brother), Gary Medley, Gwen (Ann), Inza & Blair, Isabel Tomé, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Linda/Cindy/Trent, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Raymond Hindman (Cara Todd's father), Rita Woodruff, Rudy McKnight, Susan & Jim Doss (The Rev), Tom Warndorf, and Vanita.

**Departed:** Carl Greer, Jeanne's BIL (Sept 14)

**Birthdays:** Larry Seckel (Sept 16), Pat Bassett (Sept 17), Tammy Blevins (Sept 20)

**Wedding Anniversaries & other Thanksgivings:**



**Please pray for the inmates, staff, and volunteers at River North  
Correctional Center in Independence, VA**

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God. *Romans 14:1-12*

Please, pray for the USA.

Pray for my family.

Pray for me and you. Love you!

Pray for all inmates in the DOC custody.

Pray for my families and keep them safe.

Pray for – who is waiting for surgery. Pray for all the brothers and sisters incarcerated all over the world.

Pray for my family and for me. Pray for me not to be angry. I pray for you. God bless all. Amen.

Pray for my friends and for yours.

Pray for health, both spiritually and physically.

Pray for God's grace to be on River North.

Pray for all the incarcerated, for their health, families, and hope of release.

Pray for my family and my appeal.

Pray for love, peace, and unity upon our people and the world. Amen.

Pray to the Lord for all the souls who lost their lives on the day {Sept 11}. Pray for comfort for the families. Pray for peace and love for all mankind and that we all turn to God.

Pray for my wife and child, dad, mom, aunt, grandma, brothers and their wives and children. Pray for the families who lost loved ones on this day {Sept 11}. Comfort them and give them peace.

Pray that I can strengthen my relationship with Jesus and come to know Him better.  
Thank You!

Pray for peace.

Pray for us not to judge.



## **We invite you to donate to our Priest Discretionary Fund (PDF)**

Each parish has a PDF. This fund is only used by the priest and while it isn't advertised and we don't talk about how the funds have been used, it enables our priest to help someone who needs a little help with their electric or gas bill or with a partial payment for rent. Anyone requesting help is first sent to AL CARES or another local vendor who can provide aid, and if they've exhausted those means, then the priest will determine an amount to give, if any. All checks are written to the vendor (eg, Blue Ridge Energy, landlord, etc) and calls are made ahead of time to verify what's needed. This is a one-time effort and that's explained at the time of the request. Checks are then delivered to the appropriate vendor or the vendor can pick them up at the church. Again, all of the above is done at the priest's discretion.

Giving to this fund helps our priest help others. If you decide to write a check, make sure to write **PDF** on the memo line and if giving with cash, make sure you write **PDF** on the offering envelope. Please give as you're able – every gift makes a difference!



# Living & Dying Well

**Sundays: Sept 27 and Oct 25**

**12:00 – 1:00 pm**

Join us for a three-week series exploring the acclaimed PBS Frontline documentary *Being Mortal*, based on surgeon and writer Atul Gawande's bestselling book. Through intimate stories of patients, families, and doctors, the film asks hard but important questions about aging, illness, autonomy, and what truly matters when time is limited. The first two sessions include a portion of the film followed by open, faith-grounded conversation. The third session will include practical handouts for planning your funeral and making sure your family has all the documents they need. You're welcome to attend one or all three weeks. This is a gentle, thoughtful space to reflect on mortality, care for loved ones, and hope. Led by Karla.

The first session was on Sunday, Aug 30<sup>th</sup> and it was a powerful experience. If you missed it, it's ok – you can still come to the other two classes. All are welcome.



**Ministerium-sponsored event**  
**“Heart to Serve” coming in early**  
**October**

## Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026 from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm at Sparta United Methodist Church.

This event is a community connection opportunity for churches of all denominations to hear directly from leaders of local non-profits, agencies, and service organizations about met and unmet community needs as well as partnership opportunities. We, Christ Church members & friends, are encouraged to start compiling a list of known organizations in the community that fit these criteria.

While still in the planning phase, the Ministerium has tentatively invited three guest speakers:

- **Mitch Calloway**, Stone's Throw Ministry (Elkin)
- **Shane Glenn**, acting Sheriff of Sparta
- **Stacey Presnell**, Director of DSS

This will be a free event and will include a light lunch. We encourage you to be thoughtful about local organizations that might be a good fit for that event and share any thoughts you have with either Elizabeth Barr Bryant or Nancy Wilson who share representing CC at the monthly Ministerium meetings.



## Solid Rock needs

Our Solid Rock representative, Wanda McKnight, shared the following information that updates the greatest needs at the food closet including the Backpack Program, now that school is in session. Please read through the list and provide whatever you're able to provide. ***All donations make a difference!***

### Always Needed

toiletries (deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)

toilet paper

paper towels

liquid dish soap

laundry detergent

## Backpack Program Needs

### Individually-packaged:

fruit cups

applesauce

Mac n Cheese

vegetable cups

Chef Boyardee type mini cups

crackers (cheese & peanut butter, etc.... 'Nabs)

breakfast bars

Ramen noodles

**IMPORTANT:** Please note the expiration date on items. Items **cannot** be donated after the expiration date.

**Financial donations are also welcome.** Write your check to 'Christ Church' and write SRFC on the memo line or if you decide to give cash, on the offering envelope.

If you want to contribute financially to the Backpack Program, include 'backpack program' on the memo line.

If you have any questions, contact Wanda McKnight at [wandagmcknight@gmail.com](mailto:wandagmcknight@gmail.com) or 615.707.0266.



Try out our new QR code to connect to our website:



## Christian Formation

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer

2:00 – Book Discussion

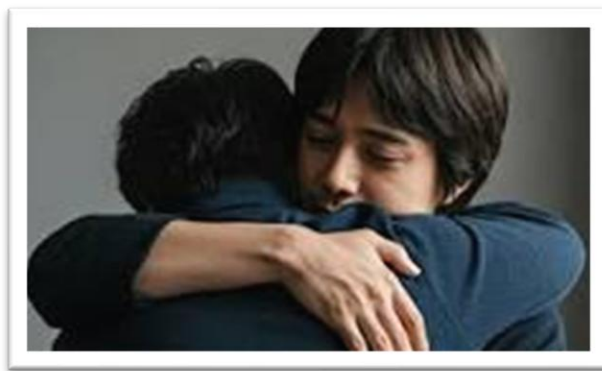
Every Tuesday at 1:00 pm, Patti Phelps leads a group in Centering Prayer. The group begins with a check-in and anyone with a prayer request can share it then. After that is 20 minutes of Centering Prayer – a time to listen for God. Do you have questions about Centering Prayer? Patti has helpful information in a trifold leaflet and it can be found on the rack in the narthex. But the easiest way to have your questions answered is to ask Patti. She's at church most Sundays or you can email her at [frankandpatti@yahoo.com](mailto:frankandpatti@yahoo.com).

Every Tuesday at 2:00 pm, Patti leads a book discussion group. Some of the Centering Prayer group members attend that group, too, but not all of them. You can decide what works best for you. The book discussion group has just started a new book – *The Enneagram of the Soul* by Nhien Vuong. This follows the enneagram class recently taught by Julie Smith, an Enneagram Consultant and someone who works at the Center on Action and Contemplation. *The book can be purchased on Amazon or other online bookstores.* Once again, if you have questions, Patti is at church most Sundays or you can email her at [frankandpatti@yahoo.com](mailto:frankandpatti@yahoo.com).

**Everyone is welcome to join either or both groups!**



## Need prayer now?



If you have a prayer need, for example, illness, upcoming surgery, death in the family, big life decisions or needing comfort/support, there are a few ways to communicate that need. You can call or email our Priest in Charge, The Rev Karla Woggon; call or email Mary Lee at the office and she'll email the members with a Prayer Request; share your request with a Vestry member; or fill out a Prayer Request Card (found in the pew backs in the sanctuary).

If you're sharing information about another individual(s), *please make sure you have permission to share the need*. If you prefer not to share any details, you can simply email or call and ask for urgent prayer.

*Also, if there are reasons to remove anyone from the prayer list, please let us know that, too.*

We know the power of prayer and if each of us stops and takes a few minutes to pray for the individual(s) in need, it will have a great impact.



## Prescription Bottle Drop-Off

We **recycle** prescription bottles with lids and *with the labels pulled off*. There is a bag attached to the **water fountain just inside the Narthex on your left** for you to leave your pill bottles in. A **BIG** thank you to **Ann & Frank Hazard** for **delivering the bottles to the vet's office!**



## The Prayer Shawls/Lap Blankets are available



The prayer shawls/quilts have been moved **under the table in the narthex**. Please feel free to take one for someone you know and love who would benefit from being wrapped in love from Christ Church. Be sure to fill in the book in the box which tells who and why. We've had thanks expressed from new mothers to a death in the family to surgery. These are gifts made by parishioners who want to share their talent. If you're interested in making a shawl or quilt, please contact Patti Phelps at [frankandpatti@yahoo.com](mailto:frankandpatti@yahoo.com).



**MEMBERS ONLY**

Our updated website ([christchurchalleghany.org](http://christchurchalleghany.org)) has a **Members Only** page that contains the most updated financial reports, Treasurers' Report, Vestry minutes, and the 2026 budget. Once you get on the website, you can easily navigate each page to review the information. *If you're interested in accessing the Member's Only section, email Mary at [christchurchspartanc@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchspartanc@gmail.com) and she'll provide you the password.*

We also invite you to share our website – [christchurchalleghany.org](http://christchurchalleghany.org) – to introduce the Parish and encourage others to visit.



Dial 988 for crisis line support



Christ Church Episcopal of Alleghany County,  
also known as Christ Church

The Rev Karla Woggon, priest-in-charge

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**Office hours:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday – 8:00 am – 1:00pm

Wednesday – work from home