



hungars parish path

CHRIST CHURCH, EASTVILLE - HUNGARS CHURCH, BRIDGETOWN

ADVENT/EPIPHANY

December 2019/January 2020

Last Tidings from the Rector

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

During our first two visits to the Shore, there were some pretty good snow storms, even though we'd been assured that snow never really happens here, and that when it does, it usually melts within ten minutes or so. But, on a cold, clear winter evening while we were enjoying pleasant company and a nice meal at Mary Floyd's house, it began to snow...again. But as I recall it, we had a good time anyway, hanging around, getting to know one another, while the snow accumulated.

Later, we rode with Dixon Leatherbury. I sat in the front with Dixon, Star in the back, and we talked about pastoral care all the way into Eastville. As I recall the conversation – Dixon may remember it differently – we were discussing a sort of general lack of pastoral care in the years before, and that good pastoral care skills were important in a priest, because no one but a priest could do that sort of thing.

All the while, we'd been following Pat Holland home: out Church Neck, down Bayside, down 13, south on Courthouse and then out Old Town Neck...in the snow. Dixon wanted to be certain she got home safely. At her house, Dixon waited until she made it up the steps and inside before we resumed our conversation. And he said something like – and please remember that this happened six years ago, but I think I can remember the substance of it – he said something like “We don't know how to do pastoral care.” I don't believe he was knowingly or purposefully ironic, but there he was... following his dear friend because it was snowing, and because there are badly crowned roads with some ditches along the way, and he wanted to see her safely home, because she's like family. Of course, it's pastoral care...it's the best kind; the kind you can use.

Not long after I arrived, during one of those times Star was in Kentucky caring for family, I was invited to dinner at Rex Ingram's house. It was a Thursday night, and I can't remember who all was there. Rex, and Mike Rouke, and Jim Arnold...maybe Phil Custis, too, and JT. You know, the usual suspects. It was a regular thing they did, and I was invited a couple times, always when Star was away. I asked Doc about it, and he explained that everyone there had something in common: they were all widowers, and they all got together regularly to support one another. I asked why I was invited, and he told me that, since my wife was gone a lot, I was considered an honorary member. And when I asked about JT, he told me that JT just kept showing up at dinner time, and so they let him hang around. They were taking care of one another, and it was pastoral care...good pastoral care...the kind you can use.

Jesus once told his disciples that those who would leave families and the familiar fields of home, all for the sake of his gospel; these blessed people would never fail to receive many more families and homes in this life. And it's so true. Over the past five and one-half years, we've received a lot of love and support from brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, we never knew existed before...even cousins: Cousin John and Cousin Diane. And now here we are, once again leaving family and the familiar fields of home; the peace seeing the beginning of the shore from the tall bridge. And even though we've done this before, left a church home and family behind, this time it's different.

This time, we're leaving a part of our hearts behind, and we will miss you. But, it's time to move on, and for someone else to come. You know, calling a new priest is a big, expensive deal. You put together a committee, and a budget, and start pulling together a profile, and you listen to a plethora of well-meaning expert advisors, and work with supply priests and maybe an interim. And after all that bother and expense, it only makes sense that you'd want a priest with a lot of experience and skills. Someone who can do it all: preach like Peter, pray like Paul, budget like Warren Buffet, and above all else, provide good, tireless pastoral care, day or night, and all at a moment's notice. But above all, you want someone who will care for you. And you deserve that very priest...every church deserves that priest. Lord willing, you'll have that very priest, and soon.

But until then, you've got something just as good; you've got one another, and the kind of care you give one another quite easily and naturally, is good pastoral care...the kind of pastoral you can use. I couldn't begin to tell you of all the instances of love and care I've witnessed in these two churches: people helping one another, encouraging one another, bearing one another's burdens during times of sorrow or stress. There are two good churches in this cure. And there's a lot of history to be proud of, and both these church buildings are simple and beautiful. And I have felt humbled and honored to be part of this history, to hold aloft chalices and patens older than this country. It's all beautiful.

But these churches are at their most beautiful when the members are loving and serving one another. It's the best kind of pastoral care, straight from the heart...the kind of pastoral care you can use. I don't know what your future will bring, but I hope and pray it will all be blessings. I do know that these two beautiful, small, historic churches need each other, and that the path forward will be far smoother if you work together as family, rather than as business partners. Please, don't stop to consider one another's liabilities first. Instead, seek to find where your strengths meet. Megan and Elizabeth have been a wonderful model of bonding and working together this past year.

Yes, there is the occasional dustup over which church pays more into the Cure, and who deserves what, and such as that... but really, neither of these two churches is owed anything, and neither church owes the other anything...right? Except this one thing: love...charitable hearts. Jesus said: Above all else, show selfless love toward one another, for by this, others will recognize your faith in me.

Another thing that seems very important to me to say today – at least for those who have ears to hear – is this: a church that tolerates secrets and gossip will find that blessings are scarce. People who come into a church, seeking to find a little grace for themselves, seeking to experience the power of Christ's gospel in their lives, seeking to be part of a spiritually nourishing community, will not find secrets and gossip a very palatable meal. Just let it go.

St. Paul wrote this to the church at Colossus: So, if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is... Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God... Put to death, therefore, whatever in you that is just too earthly....

Finally, were I to try and string together all the good and happy memories, and stories of all the wonders I've seen here, and the grace and mercy of God I've witnessed from time to time, well...we'd be all day in church, and the potato salad would go bad. So, instead, I'll just say that Star and I thank you for all the grace and support of the past five and one-half years, and that someday we hope to come back to worship in these churches, and to once again come over the tall bridge, see the shore, and have the feeling of home.

May God bless you all, throughout all your days, and into eternity.

+ Daniel



DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the deadline for items or announcements for the February newsletter is January 21? If you have anything for the HPP, please bring it to the Parish Office, call the office at 678-7837 or e-mail the information to hcp parish@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP AT HUNGARS CURE PARISH

Please prayerfully consider how you may allocate the gifts that God has given you to further the Kingdom of God in this part of His creation. If you haven't sent in your pledge or need additional Pledge Forms, they are available in the office and at the back of your church.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

The order forms for Christmas Memorials/ Thanksgivings are included in this newsletter. The poinsettias, which will decorate both churches are \$10 each this year. Memorial information will be accepted through December 16. Tributes will be printed in the Christmas bulletin.



Vestry Elections and Annual Parish Meetings

Both the Hungars and Christ Church vestries have initiated their respective nomination processes to identify nominees for vestry elections at the annual parish meetings in January. At the end of this year three members will be rotating off the Hungars Vestry and two from Christ Church.

Vestry terms are for three years and anyone who is an adult 16 or over and a confirmed communicant in good standing is eligible. Anyone interested in serving in this vital role should contact Megan Rose-Jensen, Senior Warden at Hungars or Elizabeth Dodd Russell, Senior Warden at Christ Church. Should you be contacted by a member of the nomination committees, please give serving in this leadership ministry your prayerful consideration.

***Our deepest appreciation goes to the members rotating off the vestries for their devoted service:
Hungars – Randy Childs, Phil Harris & Jim Townsend
Christ Church—Mary Ann Rice & Elizabeth Dodd Russell***

Mark your calendars now for the Annual Parish Meetings:

January 12, 2020 at Hungars. Vestry will provide the ever-popular Bojangles fried chicken and members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

Jan. 19, 2020 at Christ Church.

Both meetings, including vestry elections, will take place after the regular Sunday service and lunch will follow.

Thrift Shop News

The thrift shop annual meeting was held November 13 at Christ Church Parish House. We were fortunate to give \$7,500 to local charities this year. The spread sheet listing the charities and amounts given will be posted on the bulletin board in both churches.

The lack of air conditioning and adequate heat was discussed, but for now, the only solution is to close if it becomes too uncomfortable.

We will eventually have access to the front portion of the building which will give us more space to store out of season clothing. Meanwhile, we ask that donations of summer clothing be held until the spring.



VESTRY MEETINGS

*Hungars Church Vestry
December 9, 2019
5 pm*

*Christ Church Vestry
December 19, 2019
7 pm*



ECW News & Events

St. Cecelia's Guild will be meeting on Wednesday, December 4 and on January 8 at Christ Church Parish House at 1 pm.

On Sunday, December 15, following the service, St. Cecelia's Guild will have a Christmas Bake Sale. Holiday greenery arranged by St. Cecelia's will also be available for purchase.



Christ Church Decorating for Christmas

The "greening" of Christ Church will take place on Saturday, December 21 at 10 am. If you have any greenery to contribute - magnolia, variegated acuba, holly with berries - please bring them along. They will be most appreciated by the altar guild. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to lend a hand.



Hungars Church Decorating for Christmas

The "greening" of Hungars Church will be on Monday, December 23 at 9 am. All members of Hungars who are available that day are asked to come out and help prepare the church for Christmas Eve and this special time in the church year. If you have any "greens" that you can spare, please bring them with you. The more people the merrier and the faster the decorating can get done. Should you have questions, please see Sarah Bingman.

The men of Hungars Church are asked to stay after the service on December 22 to bring down and set up the items needed for greening. Thank you.

Advent/Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 1

9:30 am Holy Eucharist Hungars
11:15 am Holy Eucharist Christ Church

Sunday, December 8

9:30 am Holy Eucharist Hungars Church
11:15 am Holy Eucharist Christ Church

Sunday, December 15

9:30 am Holy Eucharist Hungars Church
11:15 am Holy Eucharist Christ Church

**St. Cecelia's Guild Bake & Holiday
Arrangement Sale - Christ Church**

Sunday, December 22

9:30 am Advent - Hungars Church
11:15 am Advent at Christ Church

Tuesday, December 24

6 pm Festival Eucharist
at Hungars Church

Sunday, December 29

10 am 5th Sunday
Joint Service
Holy Eucharist Christ Church

**The parish office will be closed from
Dec. 24 through Jan. 1.**



Outreach Committee Reports

During the few months, we asked for collections of supplies to fill Christmas Shoeboxes. With the help of a \$500 grant from Thrivent Financial and all the donations from church members, we filled 122 boxes at Hungars and 25 boxes at Christ Church. Other members contributed to shipping costs and we delivered 147 boxes to the collection center. Thanks to all who helped pack, bought supplies and donated funds.

Several of our committee members bought supplies to make small blankets and pillows for kindergarten rest time at Kiptopeake, Occohannock and Pungoteague Elementary Schools.

In December we are requesting food items for the Food Bank. I am including a list for a reverse advent calendar. If anyone wants to participate, we will deliver donations to the Food Bank. If you simply want to donate food items, the list gives you ideas of what to bring. We are working with other neighborhood churches to do a joint Thanksgiving service.

On January 2, 2020 we will be hosting a blood drive.

Thanks for all of your support for the outreach projects throughout the year. Hungars Cure is making an impact on our communities and beyond.



Blood Drive at Hungars

Start your New Year right with a life-saving donation of blood at the January Blood Drive organized by the Hungars Cure Outreach Committee. The American Red Cross will be at Hungars Parish House on January 2 from 1-6 pm. You can register and schedule an appointment online.

For further information, contact Sue Thatcher at 678-6947 or Sylvia Lurty at 678-9026.



Prayers for Hungars Cure Parishes



Birthdays

December

***01 - Josephine Boss
02 - Leonard Smith
04 - Martha James
07 - Parke Custis, Anne Holland
17 - Kelsey Bisker
20 - Jessica Beasley
21 - Lydia Wehner
22 - Ronald Lewis
24 - Patty Kellam, Shannon
Wescoat
25 - Sarah Katherine Bingman
27 - Megan Rose-Jensen
29 - Croxton Gordon
31 - Gee Floyd***

January

***02 - Mary Tankard
04 - Kaylee Trower, Kay Trower,
George Bryan
07 - Carolyn Jones, Nancy Stairs
11 - Ann Snyder
12 - Buddy Hickman
13 - John Wescoat
17 - Spencer Custis, Laura Vaughn
19 - Elizabeth Long, Amanda
Windsor
26 - Casey Wescoat
28 - Will Leland
29 - Koby Walker***

SERVANTS SCHEDULES FOR DECEMBER 2019

Please call the Parish Office (678-7837) with changes and substitutions for this roster. Every effort will be made to see that the newsletter and the Sunday bulletins are as accurate as possible. You may leave a message any time of the day or night!

CHRIST CHURCH

Altar Guild

Jennifer & Len Smith

Layreaders

DEC	01	Susan Enzastiga
	08	Katty Mears & Charles Boss
	15	Pres Trower
	22	Charles Boss
	29	Bev Leatherbury

Usher

Pres Trower

Coffee Hour

DEC	01	Vestry
	08	Open
	15	Open
	22	Open
	29	5 th Sunday @ Christ Church

HUNGARS CHURCH

Altar Guild

Joyce Holland, Randy Childs, Carolyn Sutton & Elizabeth Long

Layreaders

DEC	01	Rick Bingman
	08	Nancy Gonzalez
	15	Croxton Gordon
	22	TBD
	29	5 th Sunday @ Christ Church

Nursery

DEC	01	Nancy Bisker
	08	Sue Thatcher
	15	Randy Stuart
	22	Ann Snyder
	29	Mary Floyd

Ushers

DEC	01	Joyce & JT Holland
	08	Anne & George Payne
	15	Marion & Jim Roe
	22	Mary & Gee Floyd
	29	5 th Sunday @ Christ Church

Coffee Hour

DEC	01	Open
	08	Open
	15	Open
	22	Open
	24	Open
	29	5 th Sunday @ Christ Church



SERVANTS SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2020

Please call the Parish Office (678-7837) with changes and substitutions for this roster. Every effort will be made to see that the newsletter and the Sunday bulletins are as accurate as possible. You may leave a message any time of the day or night!

CHRIST CHURCH

Altar Guild

Layreaders

JAN 05	Sylvia Lurty
12	Susan Enzastiga
19	Katty Mears & Dixon Leatherbury
26	Pres Trower

Usher

Charles Boss

Coffee Hour

JAN 05	Open
12	Open
19	Open
26	Open



HUNGARS CHURCH

Altar Guild

Joan Wehner, Sandra Taylor, Monika Bridgforth,
Patty Kellam & Randy Stuart

Layreaders

JAN 05	Joyce Holland
12	Barney Selph
19	Randy Stuart
26	Jim Long

Nursery

JAN 05	Shannon Wescoat
12	Mary Floyd
19	Jeanne Selph
26	Monika Bridgforth

Ushers

JAN 05	Open
12	Open
19	Open
26	Open

Coffee Hour

JAN 05	Open
12	Open
19	Open
26	Open



Order Form

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS 2019

Poinsettias that will decorate *your* church are available for memorials and tributes.
Deadline for names to be included in the bulletins for Christmas services is December 16.

Please check the church to which you belong:

CHRIST CHURCH _____ **HUNGARS CHURCH** _____

Amount enclosed: Poinsettias (\$10 each) _____

PLEASE PRINT EXACTLY HOW YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR MEMORIAL OR TRIBUTE TO APPEAR IN YOUR CHURCH'S CHRISTMAS BULLETIN.

In memory of: _____

A thank offering for: _____

Given by (please print): _____

Hungars: Make checks payable to Hungars Church Altar Guild

Christ: Please make checks payable to Christ Church.

Your completed order form and check may be put in the offering plate on Sundays, or they may be mailed to:

***Christmas Memorials
c/o Hungars Cure Parish
P.O. Box 367
Eastville, VA 23347***