

# The Messenger

PO Box 1246 • 320 Pollock Street • New Bern, NC

[www.christchurchnewbern.com](http://www.christchurchnewbern.com)

August 27 - September 3, 2023

252.633.2109



## A Moment with Stewardship

One of our take-aways from last year's stewardship campaign is that some people want to know the facts, the numbers, the bottom line when it comes to discussion surrounding stewardship. What does the budget look like? Is what's coming in going out responsibly? What can we reasonably afford?



Others are drawn not to the accounting issues, per se, but want to know what we, as members of Christ Church, give to further the mission of Christ Church? Where do those dollars go, and who are they benefiting? Hence, the head vs. heart graphic above. What are we thinking about stewardship, and how are we feeling about what we endeavor to do?

In reality, of course, it's not head versus heart but about how our heads and hearts connect to inform us. Stewardship is both about being responsible with the time, talent, and treasure we give to the church and about using it to spread God's goodness as we reach out to others. It is a way of life for Christians, an intentional decision to give back to a God who gives us everything. It's a spiritual response to God's love, grace and mercy.

Our theme for the 2024 stewardship campaign is Live the Faith, and it has three actions: pray gratefully, serve responsibly, and give generously. We will focus on letting you know exactly what we spend, how we spend it, and how this benefits the parish and the community. If you have specific questions, let us know and we'll do our best to answer them.

This week, let's focus on praying gratefully. Look around at all the ways you see Christ Church reaching in and reaching out. Consider how you can be an important part of that. Pray with gratitude for the church and its people and programs. Pray for our volunteers who will be honored today.

*"Today I choose to live with gratitude for the love that fills my heart, the peace that rests within my spirit, and the voice of hope that says all things are possible."* -- Anonymous

Randy Bogle [rbogle1968@gmail.com](mailto:rbogle1968@gmail.com)

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Pray Gratefully | Serve Responsibly | Give Generously

## JOIN US TODAY FOR A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

Today is our *Celebration of Service*, when we celebrate all the ways the people of Christ Church serve our parish, neighbors, and community.

Our sermons will feature Christ Church parishioners talking about how serving in ministry impacts their faith life. After both services, join us in the Parish Hall, where you'll have a chance to learn about the many ministries at Christ Church.



## From the Rector...

Dear Friends,

Meg Jones shared with me on Monday that she has accepted a call to be the Director of Youth Ministry at Grace Cathedral in Charleston, SC. Her last Sunday will be September 3rd.

Meg began her time with us as Director of Christian Formation in August 2019. She worked diligently to welcome new families, recruit new teachers, and breathe new life into all aspects of Christian Formation. Click [here](#) to read my parish email announcing her departure.

I hope you will join me in thanking Meg for her time at Christ Church and wishing her well in her next calling. We will collect funds for a purse for Meg as she departs. You can give online ([www.christchurchnewbern.com/give](http://www.christchurchnewbern.com/give)) or write a check. Please note "Meg's purse" in the memo line.

In Christ,  
Paul

## Fall Clean Up

On Saturday, September 16th Christ Church is going to get the churchyard prepared for Pumpkin Patch 2023. We will need volunteers to help clean up the church grounds to clear the way for the thousands of visitors that will be coming in October. The clean-up will begin at 10 am and will last no more than two hours. **MANY SMALL JOBS** need to be completed. Nursery is available during this time, and **STUDENTS** can get **COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS** for helping out. Questions?? Please contact Rick Miller at 301-503-5268 or [rickmiller950@hotmail.com](mailto:rickmiller950@hotmail.com).

## Open House, Open Hearts

### Revival

10:30 am - 5 pm October 21, 2023

Episcopal Farmworker Ministry, Newton Grove, NC

We are excited to welcome Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to the Diocese of East Carolina. The feature of his visit will be the *Open House, Open Hearts: Extending God's Welcome in East Carolina* revival, where he will be the featured preacher. You can get an idea of the power of his preaching from these two recent sermons: <https://tinyurl.com/PBatEYE> and <https://tinyurl.com/ya3crn8v>. We are working on a bus to the event, so watch our regular pieces of media for more details!

One way you can help now is to pray for this event. Pin this prayer someplace you'll see it. Keep it in your hearts and minds, and help us see what God's spirit is doing in East Carolina!

For more information, contact Jettie Pelletier ([jettiej9@gmail.com](mailto:jettiej9@gmail.com)) or the Rev. Paul Canady ([paulcanady@christchurchnewbern.com](mailto:paulcanady@christchurchnewbern.com)) for more information.

We Invite Your Prayers for our Upcoming Revival

# REVIVAL PRAYER

Holy and amazing God,

We ask you to open the hearts and minds of the people of East Carolina to what your Holy Spirit is preparing for us.

Remind us of your presence in our everyday life so that we can see your hand at work in the world around us.

Strengthen the leaders of our upcoming Revival and show them the path you are laying out.

Help us let go of the things that distract us from your purpose, and show us where our focus should be.

Sustain our energies before, during, and after this Revival so that we may be the agents of transformation you have called us to be.

Empower us to engage our neighbors so we can share the loving, liberating, life-giving Good News of Jesus.

In his holy name we pray. Amen.



## Walk to Fight Hunger

With a goal of *Ending Hunger One Step at a Time*, New Bern's 2023 CROP Hunger Walk will be held September 24 at Union Point Park. New Bern's CROP Walk is hosted by Faith Connections, and funds raised will benefit local hunger programs at Religious Community Services (RCS) of New Bern, Inc. and the global humanitarian efforts of Church World Services. This is a fun, family-friendly event, with music and activities for all ages.

For more information and to join Christ Church's team, click [here](#) and select Register. Our team name is Christ Episcopal Church, New Bern. Please join us!

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

2023

CROP HUNGER WALK

BUILDING *global* RESILIENCE

## Contemplative Prayer Group:

### Praying with Thomas Merton

**When:** 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM on Mondays, 9/11 – 11/20

**Sign Up:** By email – [pastor.bornemann@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.bornemann@gmail.com)

**Meets In-Person & On Zoom:** In-person: Pelletier Room (Upstairs at Christ Church)

**Leader:** Rev. Barbara Bornemann

**Study Book:** *Praying with Thomas Merton: Companions for the Journey* by Wayne Simsic (Used paperbacks can be ordered online through Amazon.)

Thomas Merton, a mystic and twentieth century Trappist monk, wrote passionately about deepening our relationship with God through a path of contemplative prayer. For Merton, to learn how to pray contemplatively is to learn how to open our hearts to God's transforming presence. Contemplative prayer, Merton writes, "begins . . . with a return to the heart, finding one's deepest center, awakening the depths of our being and our life." (*Merton, Contemplative Prayer*, p. 30). "Thomas Merton is a spiritual master," writes Wayne Simsic, "because he invites us down a spiritual path that we can all follow. Merton reminds us that we can all receive the gift of the contemplative experience if we are true to God's call and grace on our own pilgrimage." (*Simsic, Praying with Thomas Merton*, p. 32) This fall, you are invited to participate in a weekly Contemplative Prayer Group. During each gathering, we will support one another on our pilgrimage of prayer as we open our hearts to God's transforming, compassionate love.

# In peace we pray to you, Lord God

For parishioners who have

**requested prayers:** Mike Pridgen, Mary Hasell, Betty Jane Bonapartian, Bob and Joan Burnett,\* Champ Mitchell, Janet Anderson, Bob Kohn, Susan Rivenbark, Warren Meadows, Hal Cameron, Joe Mansfield, Barbara Odderstol\*, Jim Keeter, M. Carolyn Lawson, Evelyn Hunter, Katherine Gill, Kathy Blanchard, Pat McCotter, Ralph Cowan, David Watrous, Vicky Allen, Lindy Emory, DJ Bessack, Carol Kross, Carol Athing, Rena Knott, CB Evans, Mike McCulley, Willis Stevens, Betsy Primavera, Mollie Bales, Robert Lane, Sheridan Holstein, Judy MacDougall, Vickie Evans, Joan Kunkle, Margaret Scott\*, Jim Banks, Jim Gruenebaum, Ann, Doug Sudduth, Kaye Frampton Brown, Myra Lewis, Sandy Valentine, Eugene Simon, Frank Rice, Margaret Wright, Bruce Baker, Geoff Wood, Richard Marsh, Bev Perdue, and Mary K. Whitfield.

**For our friends and families:** Liesel, Niels, Trinity, Bill, Joan, Brooke, Mary, Ann, George, Anne, Bruce, Nancy, Lynda, Mike, Connor, Stephen, Inez, Ed, Karen, Bob, Cortney, Craig, Larry, Eleanor, Julie, Denni, Santa, Teresa, Monika, Margie, Laurissa, Paul, Stephanie, Pam, Ellen, Kate, Corey, Stephanie, Bambi, Justin, Judy, Nancy, Paula, Kelly Ann, Lois, Laurissa, Martha, Melissa, Melissa, Anna, Dave, Elle, Halle, Mariya, Laura, Christina, Mary Ann, Billy, Bob, Ted, Rosemary, Bill, Naomi, Carol, Joseph, Jimmy, Grant, Eunice, William, Marie, Melanie, Sylvia, Aline, Rose, Rosemarie, Shelly, Susie, Larry, Anne Marie, Ginny, Lisa, Louise, Selma, Jackie, Kathi, Julia, Ardean, John, Peggy, Patty, Margaret, Jackson, Julie, Butch, Jim, Joan, Wes, Joe, and June.

**For our deployed military:** Lt. Christopher Miller

**For refugee families and those seeking asylum.**

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Albemarle Deanery

*\*These parishioners live out of the area but have requested to remain on the Christ Church prayer list. If you would like to add or remove someone from the list, contact [Betsy Downard](#).*

## Youth Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes will begin soon for those 8th-12th graders who have not already made a public affirmation of faith. We will meet on Sunday afternoons at 4:45 pm for about an hour. Bishop Skirving will make a special visit on Sunday, November 12th at 4:00 pm. Confirmation class is a great way to learn about the church and think about how God acts and moves in your life. Please contact the Rev. Paul Canady ([paul.canady@christchurchnewbern.com](mailto:paul.canady@christchurchnewbern.com)) to sign up or for more information. Our first session will be Sunday, September 10th.



## REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

## THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

### Sunday, August 27

#### **Celebration of Service**

8 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)

10 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / [Online](#))

Baptisms of Luca Thomas Butters and Stephanie Rose Wood  
(10 am service)

Following 10 am Service: Cursillo Reunion (Chapel)

4 pm: POD Meeting (Purple Pineapples Room)

6 pm: EYC (Youth Room)

### Monday, August 28

1 pm: Staff Meeting

### Tuesday, August 29

7 am: Al-Anon Meeting (2nd Floor Living Room)

8:30 am: Eucharist (Chapel)

10 am: Woman's Book Study (2nd Floor Living Room)

6:30 pm: Small Wonders NA Meeting (Pelletier Room)

### Wednesday, August 30

5:30 pm: Pumpkin Patch Committee (Library)

6:15 pm: AA Meeting (Harrison Center)

7 pm: Parish Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

### Thursday, August 31

7 pm: Director of Music Search Committee (Library)

### Saturday, September 2

11 am: Ed Opphile Funeral Service

### Sunday, September 3

#### **Birthdays and Anniversary Sunday**

8 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave)

10 am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / [Online](#))

11 am: Lemonade on the Lawn

## ECW September Meeting *Changes in September Program*

Unfortunately, our planned speaker with NC Child is unable to join us in September. We hope to reschedule them in the future.

However, we have a great program replacement! Christ Church's own historian, Nelson McDaniel, will talk to us about the Legendary Women of Christ Church. Please join us at 10 am, Monday, September 11, in the Parish House to hear about our long-ago, creative and amazing sisters and women of the parish. All are welcome!

Questions? Please contact Rodney Hayes (203.640.2638 or [rodneyfhayes@yahoo.com](mailto:rodneyfhayes@yahoo.com)).

### **Don't Forget: Annual Trolley Tour - Monday, October 9**

We will tour sites from the novels of New Bern author, Nicholas Sparks. More information to come.

# THE GOODS

## Sacred Ground Coming in September

Christ Church is offering Sacred Ground to its parishioners beginning September 17 and running through February. These meetings will be in the evenings for 90 minutes.

Sacred Ground is a film-and reading-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith in Jesus. Sacred Ground is a sensitive prayerful resource that creates space for complex but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to challenges and divides of our present day. It invites participants to reflect on family histories, and stories, as well as essential narratives that shape the collective American history. Sacred Ground holds as a guiding star the vision of a beloved community, where all people are honored, protected, and nurtured as loved children of God who weep at one another's pain and seek one another's flourishing.

All articles and films will be available online to be read and watched on your own time. The two core books for class are *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving and *The Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. Both books are available on Amazon.

For more information on Sacred Ground, visit <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/>. The first and last sessions will be in person in the Harrison Center (5:30 - 6:30 pm). Meetings will take place via Zoom on Sundays at 6:30 pm. They will be led by Mary Lynn Guidage.

Contact Meg Jones ([megjones@christchurchnewbern.com](mailto:megjones@christchurchnewbern.com)) if you're interested in signing up.

## Where Can You Plug In?

- **Worship:** Volunteer to serve in our upcoming services. Click this link for [September](#) Sundays. For more information contact Sarah Risty Davis at [sarahristydavis@christchurchnewbern.com](mailto:sarahristydavis@christchurchnewbern.com).
- **Volunteer Receptionists:** If you can help us answer the phones, welcome visitors, and complete odd jobs here and there, we'd love to have you! Reserve your September dates [here](#). Click [here](#) for October dates.
- **Volunteering with GIG:** Growing In Grace is Christ Church's after-school program. We meet Mondays - Thursdays from 3:15 - 4:45 pm. Our mentors work one-on-one with students to help them with homework, test studying, and being an extra person in a child's life. You can choose to do one day a week or as many as you would like. We also need subs for mentors, van drivers and van riders. Please contact Debbie Fodrie, Director of GIG: [debbiefodrie@christchurchnewbern.com](mailto:debbiefodrie@christchurchnewbern.com) if you're interested.
- **Counters Needed:** Are you detail-oriented, enjoy puzzles and understand the importance of confidentiality? Christ Church would love to have you join our group of Monday Counters Volunteers. Background check is required. Training provided. Time commitment: 2 hours once a month typically on Monday morning. Contact Cindy Tripp, Finance Coordinator for more information and to sign up -- [cindytripp@christchurchnewbern.com](mailto:cindytripp@christchurchnewbern.com) 252-631-5865.

## Call for Members: Pumpkin Patch Committee

### *Pumpkins Arrive Afternoon of September 28*

The church is in the process of forming a Small Pumpkin Patch committee. The purpose for this committee is to organize the running of the patch during late September and the month of October. Tasks include setting up pallets prior to pumpkin delivery, unloading of the pumpkins, organizing story times, setting up the grounds, and organizing the online sign-ups for patch volunteers, baked goods, etc.

These may sound like a lot, but division of labor makes the work easy. That's where the Committee members come in. Once the above tasks are finished, most of the work is complete. This is a meaningful way to get involved and help in such a wonderful event for the church and our community.

ALL proceeds go to local charities. PLEASE VOLUNTEER AND GET INVOLVED.

We will have an informational meeting at 5:30 pm, Wednesday, August 30 in the Library. Questions: Contact Rick Miller at 301-502-5268 or [rickmiller950@hotmail.com](mailto:rickmiller950@hotmail.com).

