

# CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

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## Newsletter November — December 2020

*On the following pages, you will find reports from several council members, committee chairs, and team leaders. Enjoy!*

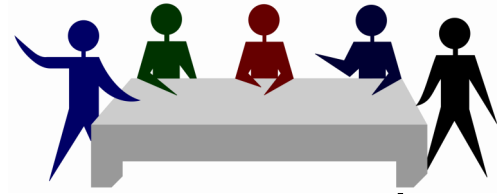
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# Governing Council

## Bruce Gilbert, Chair



Plans to reopen inside Worship Services were reported to you in the Sept-Oct Newsletter. Christ Community Church did in fact reopen inside Worship Services on October 11th. Safety precautions such as temperature screenings, health questions, facemasks and a (one-time) liability waiver are being followed upon entering, and ushers are seating congregants to observe social distancing once inside. Published pandemic conditions are constantly being monitored. Attendees still have the option of listening to the 10:00AM services from their vehicles in the west parking lot by tuning to AM1630. Your suggestions are welcomed.

Thanks to all volunteers and committee members this year for your hard work in difficult times, and a special thanks to Property Committee Chair Mike Kordich and Security Team Leader Glenn Ulman. Kudos also to Pastor Derek for his flexibility and spiritual guidance.

In October, a Called (Virtual) Congregational Meeting was scheduled for October 21st to vote on the purchase/installation of a children's playground on Church property. The email vote overwhelmingly approved the purchase/installation. The majority of the funds for this project are already in place through designated donations. The Special Picnic Pavilion/Children's Playground Committee will be proceeding accordingly. The Special Committee has also been actively pursuing plans for the construction of a multi-use Picnic Pavilion on Church grounds. Drawings and details will be released as they further evolve. Many thanks to Anne and Gary Wood for leading these projects.

With sadness we acknowledge the loss recently of two members, Greg Smith and Anne Daly. They will be missed and our condolences go out to these families.

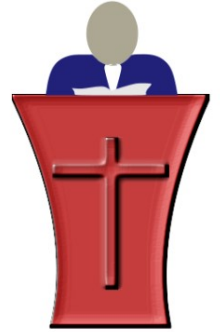
And finally, the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary after the Worship Service on December 13th. The Agenda will include the proposed 2021 Church Budget and the election of expiring term Church officers and committee chairs.

Thank you for your continuing support of Christ Community Church.

For The Governing Council,

Bruce Gilbert, Chairman

## Pastor's Perspective



<sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would like them to do to you. (Luke 6:31 NLT)

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3 ESV)

Do you remember the most popular Christian phrase of the 1990's? "What Would Jesus Do" was likely referenced at some point by every American Christian during that decade. Bracelets with the printed acronym WWJD adorned the wrists of many youth as a reminder to make decisions as Jesus would have made them. Janie Tinklenberg popularized this slogan after reading Charles Sheldon's book, *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?* Sheldon was a minister in 1886 who often posed this question after presenting an entertaining story containing a moral dilemma at the end of his sermons. 100 years later, in the 1990s, Tinklenberg revived this concept by encouraging her youth group to wear bracelets with this phrase encouraging them to be mindful of living as Jesus lived as they went about their daily lives.

As I ponder this phrase, I cannot help but consider how Jesus would conduct his life should he be an American in 2020. Would he wear a mask or balk at the idea? Would he vote Democrat, Republican, 3rd party, or not at all? Would he support Black Lives Matter, All Lives Matter, Blue Lives Matter, or would he remove himself from the debate altogether? Would he engage others on social media attempting to argue the rightness of his point of view or would he abstain from making his positions known? Would he support a person's right to choose or cast his vote to ban abortions in an attempt to protect those with no voice? The answers to these questions are not as clear cut as some may like to think.

I ask these questions not to provide answers, but to suggest the way we treat others that disagree with us matters. There are Christians across the globe that support each of the positions I have posited. The problem is not the position. The problem is our desire to be right in relation to the ideological positions we hold and, subsequently, the way we treat others who disagree with those positions. We tend to place ideological position over personhood. We like our ideology more than we like people. I will not be so arrogant as to assume what positions Jesus would hold. However, there is one thing I can say with confidence, Jesus loved people. He loved people as they were, regardless of the ideological positions they held. Ideology was not a pre-qualifier of his love. Are we living as Jesus lived? Are we loving as Jesus loved? I believe a good litmus test is evaluating whether we are more concerned with a person's ideology than his/her being an image bearer of God.

Blessings!

Derek

*\*Smallwood, K. (2014, June 6). The fascinating story of how the "what would Jesus do?" slogan came about. Retrieved from <http://www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2014/06/origin-jesus-slogan/>*

**You may reach Pastor Derek at 540.420.6836**

Christian Education Committee  
Norma Gilbert, Chair



Our last Small Group Bible Study for 2020 began mid October at 6:30pm and continues through November 16th. Howard Noel is leading this six week study, *Stories Jesus Told: How To Read A Parable by Greg Carey*.

For the Study, we are using face masks and observing social distancing in the little house annex. Extra cleaning procedures are being followed. Thirteen participants signed up.

Thanks to 2020 Worship Committee members Heather Layman, Sharon Agee and Carol Schaller

## Outreach Committee

Randy Agee, Chair



Comfort Quilt meetings  
are postponed.  
Notification will be sent  
when meetings resume.



We continue to collect  
Coke product caps for  
Glade Hill Elementary  
School.



We continue to collect  
can tabs for Ronald  
McDonald House.

*Submitted by Barbara Armstrong*

# Outreach Committee

**Randy Agee, Chair**



The Caring Crafters are working on several projects from their homes and the Youth Enrichment Program has resumed the Flower Ministry. The Quilting Ministry is on hold.

The Penhook Food Pantry dates are November 12th and December 10th. The Food Pantry will remain a curbside event, so the October Coat drive had to be cancelled. The Thanksgiving dinner grocery bag distribution, usually held on a special Saturday, will be combined with the November Food Pantry. Instead of collecting new, warm clothing articles for our Neighbors in Need, at the December Food Pantry we will give each family a Walmart gift card. Please consider participating in this holiday gift with your donation. Make checks payable to CCC.

We continue to collect Coke product bottle caps, can tabs, and box tops for education. Our School Ministry will continue this fall and winter with weekend backpack food, kids Christmas gifts and holiday family food. The CCC Sweatshirt Ministry has been a huge success. We have distributed 1,420 full zip hooded sweatshirts and have 90 for distribution as needed this fall. We continue to support the Franklin County Resource Center/Shelter, Franklin County Humane Society, Faith Network, Helping Hands, Lake Christian Ministries and other local organizations with financial resources. Please sign up for Kroger Cares and Amazon Smile and select Christ Community Church as your charity. A percentage of each purchase will be donated to CCC Outreach.

You can be specific with your donations to CCC Outreach Ministries. Donations to the General Outreach will go to local organizations and Caring Crafters. Specify your gift for the Family Outreach or the Y.E.P. and the funds will be used to help local families and youth enrichment in our community. Please let me know if you have any questions about CCC Outreach. (randyagee360@gmail.com). Thanks to all that help make the CCC Outreach Ministry possible.

Blessings to All, Randy



# SECURITY

## Glenn Ulman, Team Leader



Hello Congregants,

In the waning months of 2020 I have to reflect. This has been one bad year, one so bad that McDonald's isn't even bringing the McRib back in 2020!!!

If you can't pray and laugh then we are doomed.

My first point of ramblings for this newsletter is that I would ask the congregation to please thank the governing council for their decisions, leadership, and plans for re-opening the church. The first phase of reopening was car church, which went well. Today we had our fourth service of inside church (3 Sunday services and Greg Smith's celebration of life service). So far we have been safe from Covid transmission.

The procedures that have been emplaced to get people into and out of the church are there to protect you the congregant. If anything that has been learned from March to the present about COVID is that it is unpredictable. Unpredictability is hard to plan for; however all possibilities were taken into consideration for this plan. Please follow the guidance of ushers, use hand sanitizer, and wear your mask when inside the church.

Currently I am unaware of any recent church shootings in Virginia or surrounding states. What I am aware of is vandalism in conjunction with various protests in larger cities of Virginia and across the country. I do not expect it in the Penhook area, but when strange cars are in the parking lot during the week they are challenged.

Recently we have lost 5 people from the security team because of family/outside/health priorities. Currently we are looking for people that can serve on the security team, or that can assist as ushers in entering/exiting people in the church, or helping outside with car church (Parking/offerings)

In the last paragraph I talked about losses to the security team, now I would like to welcome Emogene and Glenn Weller to the security team. They volunteered to be ushers.

Thank you for your time in reading this, as I pray for you to be safe, I ask that you pray for all in the church to be safe.

Glenn

# PROPERTY COMMITTEE

**Mike Kordich, Chair**

The restrooms in the church now have touch free faucets and towel dispensers. These units were installed as a safety measure for COVID-19. Also, as part of the COVID-19 precautions a second monitor has been installed in the Narthex.

We have three large projects that we are working on. We have two projects awaiting drawings so that a request for quotes can be issued. The first is a covered walkway between the southwest Sanctuary door and the west parking lot. Because the original design which included a drive through was too expensive, this simplified design is being developed. The second project, headed by Gary Wood, is the pavilion. A general location between the east parking lot and garage has been selected. Currently, preliminary plans are in development.

The final project is the playground which has been submitted for congregation approval. We have contracted to have the eaves of the garage enclosed. This work will be done shortly and will prevent more wasp nests in the eaves from being made. The windows in the garage will be covered with expanded metal to prevent the glass from being broken and a child getting cut. If the congregation approves the project, we will remove the sod in preparation for the equipment installation.





# HOLIDAY WREATHS AND POINSETTIAS

Lillian Farling, Coordinator

It's that wonderful time of the year again, and even though life seems far different from what we are used to, it is always best in trying times to keep the things we love alive.



That being said, we would like to have a display again this year of Poinsettias, and I have been in contact with Brad from Willow Tree. Thankfully, he will be doing them again, and has said the prices will be the same as last year. Plants will be \$9.00 each and wreaths will be \$35.00 each. To simplify the sign up procedure, just bring the coupon at the bottom of the letter to church with you, along with the payment (cash or check.) Just be sure to put it in an envelope together with the coupon. A box to drop off your request will be provided.

If you have any questions you can call me at 434-429-0792. If I don't answer, leave me a message and I'll call you back right away. If you lose this, or can't print it at home, don't worry...we will have them at Church and they'll be given to you at the door. If you attend outside in the car, I'll be sure you're handed one as you leave if you need it and you can place your envelope in the collection bucket when it is complete. All requests must be turned in by Sunday, November 22 so that Brad can process the order in time.

Thanks for being patient and I hope you are all well and happy.  
God Bless You....Lillian

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Name	_____
Phone Number	_____
Wreath or Poinsettias	_____
In Memory Of	_____
In Honor Of	_____

# WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Deborah Smith, Chair

**Sunday Worship:** Besides the limited seating in the sanctuary, we will continue to offer car church until further notice. For those of you wishing to follow the service in your car (1630 am), the sound system has been greatly improved.

**Flowers:** Let Lillian Farling know if you want to sign up for flowers. (434) 429-0792, call or text.

**Wedding and Funeral Guild:** For health reasons, Sarah Cahill has resigned as Chairman of the Wedding and Funeral Guild. Christ Community Church has been blessed to have someone so knowledgeable and caring to lead this group of dedicated ladies. We thank you, Sarah, for all you have done. Linda Simpson said she would be happy to co-chair, so I am looking for someone else to assist her. If you would be interested, please contact Deborah Smith, [deborahsmith0451@gmail.com](mailto:deborahsmith0451@gmail.com) or (219)688-6330, call or text.

**Upcoming Celebration of Life Service:** November 7, Anne Daly.

**Advent:** November 29, December 6, 13, 20

We will continue to have our Advent Readers during these services. If you would like to volunteer, please let Derek know, otherwise, he may be calling! The readers do not have to be a couple, so single folks are welcome.

**Christmas Season:** Our Christmas Service this year will be on Sunday, December 27th. We will not have a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Service. We will not schedule the Christmas Carol sing-a-long.

**Poinsettias:** We plan to decorate our sanctuary again this year with poinsettias. Lillian will have the sign up sheets or you may contact her about ordering a poinsettia. She will need a final count by November 22.

**Tree Trimming:** We will not be setting up a tree this year in the narthex since it will be difficult to social distance.

Even with the scaled back holiday season at our church, in our homes we can still celebrate the birth of Christ resplendently, musically, and with the greatest of joy.

Blessings,

Deborah Smith

## A REQUEST FROM OUR FORMER PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I am writing to make a personal request to you for you to put your faith into action. My mother, Annie Marie Hodges, will be 95 on Monday, November 2. Because of the pandemic we are unable to celebrate her birthday as we would want to.

I am asking 2 things of you:

1. Please pray for her--pray specifically for God's very best for her.
2. Please send her a card. She has always treasured each card anyone sent her.

Her address is:

Annie Marie Hodges  
Franklin Health and Rehab  
720 Orchard Ave. Room 16B  
Rocky Mount, Va. 24151

Love in Christ,  
Liz Lazenby