

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

14900 Old Franklin Turnpike
P.O. Box 100 Penhook, VA 24137

tel 540.576.4242 www.christfamily.org

Newsletter March — April 2021

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor	pastor@christfamily.org
Website/Emails	admin@christfamily.org
Newsletter	newsletter@christfamily.org
Bulletin	bulletin@christfamily.org
Prayer list	prayer@christfamily.org

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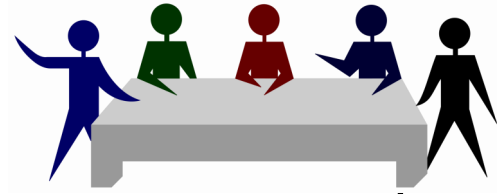
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Love. Grow. Serve.



GOVERNING COUNCIL



Hello Christ Community Church. With Spring quickly approaching, Summer can't be far away. Yahoo!!

At the January Governing Council Meeting, amongst other business, Randy Agee was elected Governing Council Vice Chairman and continuation of our 10:00AM Sunday Worship Service time was approved. Church standing committees continue, where possible, to work hard on Church missions including Outreach, Communications, Security, Property, Worship, etc. Your ideas and suggestions to Pastor Derek, myself or any committee chairperson will certainly be appreciated. Also, the Special Pavilion/Playground Committee led by Gary & Anne Wood continues to be very active in the pursuit of these two Church growth projects.

Optional Car Church in the west parking lot is an important part of the Christ Community Church worship experience. Efforts are underway to enhance and grow that experience including more personal welcoming of new/visiting attendees, small informational Church welcome bags and more. Our Car Church broadcasting system has been upgraded and now clearly broadcasting on 90.1 FM. Again, your ideas are needed. INVITE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!

Watch for one or two new and continuing CCC Newsletter fun features in this or future bimonthly issues.

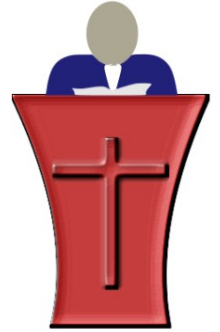
And finally an extra special thank you to Sharon & Randy Agee as past leaders of the CCC Outreach Committee. Their hard work, dedication and leadership over the years grew this Church mission extensively and prepared it for even greater things in 2021 and beyond. THANK YOU SHARON & RANDY! Kudos also to the new Outreach Committee Co-Chairs Anne Wood and Jody Barbour who have jumped in "feet first" to continue and build this important community mission. I haven't heard them ask but I feel sure they'd appreciate any volunteer help.

May God bless and keep you safe.

For The Governing Council,

Bruce Gilbert, Chairman

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE



Pastor's Perspective

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:15-21 ESV)

I recently deactivated my Facebook account. I did this, not because I think Facebook is inherently evil or infringing on my rights in some way, but to redeem the time I found myself losing. This was a personal, and likely temporary, decision I made to refocus and reclaim my time. It has enhanced my productivity and increased my mental well-being. I have also gained a greater awareness of my surroundings and the blessings God has placed in my life.

As a child, I spent a lot of time outdoors. My brothers and I did not have video games, cell phones, TV, radio, or any of the other things that occupy a child's time in today's culture. Nature was our means of entertainment. We spent many hours fishing, riding bikes, playing Cowboys and Indians, hunting, and swimming. Since I spent most of my time outside, I gained an appreciation for the caw of a crow and could easily identify quail, squirrels, turkeys, and bullfrogs by the sounds they made. Since deactivating my Facebook account, these sounds have once again been making their way to my inner ear. It has been quite nostalgic.

The intent of this Pastor's Perspective is not to encourage you to deactivate Facebook, but to inspire you to examine your life and identify the things that may be robbing you of your time. The Apostle Paul lived in a dangerous era and knew the value of time. He recognized it was a limited resource to be protected and esteemed. He understood once a moment passed it was gone forever. He encouraged the church at Ephesus to evaluate how they spent their time and suggested they focus on important activities, activities of eternal significance, while avoiding activities with little to no value.

How do you spend your time? Do you focus on things of eternal value or is your primary focus temporal? What activities rob you of priceless time that could be better utilized elsewhere? Much like Paul encouraged the church at Ephesus, we should encourage one another to avoid foolish activities of little value and focus on God's will. In so doing, we will be making good use of the time granted to us by God and become more aware of the blessings around us.

Blessings ahead!

Derek

You may reach Pastor Derek Layman at 540.420.6836

PRAYER LIST

We are asking the membership to please review the Prayer List and let us know who can be removed! We certainly want to keep anyone on there that needs our prayers and support, but the list is becoming a bit outdated.

You can find the Prayer List on the [Sermons & Prayer List](#) page of our church website www.christfamily.org

Please email admin@christfamily.org with names that can be deleted.

Thank you!



OUTREACH



The Outreach Committee met in January and February to organize for the coming months. Due to the impact of COVID, we will be thinking of potential new ways that we can provide service to the community as so many current activities are restricted or limited.

The Committee recognized the tremendous work and dedication of Randy Agee in leading the Church in touching the lives of so many in our community.

The Committee entertained several potential projects and selected to learn more about a totally volunteer organization that was developed in Union Hall, VA by a retired Physical Therapist, Cathie Cummins. The service is C.A.T.S (Children's Assistive Technology Service) and recycles, repairs, reassigns and reutilizes equipment to assist disabled children. They have relationships with hospitals, schools, and Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy businesses throughout the state now. The developer presented an interesting slide program of all of the services C.A.T.S provides and shared the stories of many of the children and how they have expanded the opportunity for these children. Outreach agreed to pursue a connection and relationship with this service. Cathie focused more on the need for volunteers to assist in the program vs. the funding at this point. The facility is located in Moneta. Several members will be visiting and seeking out a special bonding project for Christ Community Church. Please research more at www.atdevicesforkids.org or let Anne or Jody know if you have an interest in volunteering.

Backpack nutrition for children continues as CCC provides for 18 children at Glade Hill for 16 weeks of school year and 40 children every week at the Rocky Mt. Elementary School.

We learned of another service opportunity for providing weekend nutrition for 66 of the middle school students at Benjamin Franklin Middle School. This age group is very reluctant to verbalize their insufficient funds for sustaining nutrition on weekends. We are working closely with the Principal and have reached out to other local churches to assist us in meeting this hunger issue. Penhook United Methodist church will take 15 children and contacts for assistance have been initiated with Redwood UM and Christian Church and the Episcopal Church in Rocky Mt. The committee approved for immediate support for 15 of these children. We are searching for additional funding to help with this endeavor. We are also in contact with the Feeding Southwest VA agency to discuss obtaining free or reduced cost items to address hunger in our community. We were asked to consider becoming a local Food Pantry for this agency but our church is unable to meet the facility requirements. There may be an opportunity if the "little house" could be upgraded to meet requirements.

.....continued on next page...

OUTREACH



The Committee approved the continuation of the Coat/Hooded Sweat Shirt project with an expansion to cover a school very much in need of clothing in Rocky Mt. We are hoping to reach 2000 children to provide additional warmth for winter months.

The committee approved an operating budget for 2021 consistent with prior years but with an additional \$1,000 for Faith Network to assist with displaced citizens due to work restrictions with COVID.

Kim Cassada as leader of the Youth Enrichment Program is engaging youth in learning how to shop for nutritional and value based items.

Caring Crafters is ready to provide items once the restrictions are eased in facilities. New opportunities may happen with the relationship with CATS.

Continue to support the collection of Box Tops, Coke tops and let Barbara Armstrong know if you have a person that could use a quilt for comfort and care.

The Food Pantry dates are March 11 and April 8. There are limitations at this time and currently it is a “drive -through” pantry. Randy Agee is assisting Penhook United Methodist Church at this time but may need to call on others in the future.

Thank you to the many supporters of the Christ Community Church’s Outreach program. Through your love, we are able to reach out to so many in need of love and care.

You may direct your donation to assist the General Outreach or specify that you wish to support the Family Outreach endeavors related to feeding, nurturing local families and youth.

Anne Wood and Jody Barbour

PLAYGROUND

We should have a fully operational playground by the first week of March.

We are also fortunate to have received a donation for the continuation of the mural on the cemetery side of the garage. The area can be further enhanced with landscaping and placement of stepping stones during the coming months.

We look forward to an official Ribbon Cutting and Blessing for the playground this Spring!

Happy Playing for all!

Anne Wood and Jody Barbour

progress photos:



FELLOWSHIP

Dear Friends,

It has been over a year since we have hosted a fellowship event. When we cancelled the chili luncheon last February, we thought we could reschedule it for March of 2020, and now March 2021 isn't even a possibility. But we will be hosting once we get the word from Glenn that it is OK to congregate. So in the meantime, Bruce suggested I start a recipe column.

Today, I'm posting my most-often asked for "Texas Sheet Cake" recipe. This recipe is from Ree Drummond, the Pioneer Woman, and is easily found online. I would love to get some of your favorite recipes to share as well. Send them to me (Denise Wilson) at pickleswil@gmail.com and Laura will incorporate them into the newsletter under the Fellowship Report.

Recipe on next page...



FELLOWSHIP

Texas Sheet Cake

Cake:

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 cups sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup buttermilk
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 large eggs
2 sticks butter
4 heaping tablespoons cocoa powder

Icing:

1 3/4 sticks butter
4 heaping tablespoons cocoa powder
6 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 pound powdered sugar
1/2 cup finely chopped pecans, optional

Directions:

- 1 For the cake: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
- 2 In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar and salt. Stir together and set aside.
- 3 In another bowl, mix the buttermilk, baking soda, vanilla and eggs. Mix with a fork and set aside.
- 4 In a medium saucepan, melt the butter and add the cocoa. Whisk together to combine. Meanwhile, bring 1 cup water to a boil. When the butter is melted, pour the boiling water in the pan. Allow to bubble for a moment, then turn off the heat. Pour the chocolate mixture into the flour mixture. Stir together for a moment to cool the chocolate, then pour in the egg mixture. Stir together until smooth, then pour into an ungreased jelly roll pan (or rimmed baking sheet) and bake for 20 minutes.
- 5 While the cake is baking, make the icing: Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the cocoa powder and stir until smooth. Add the milk, vanilla and powdered sugar. Stir together. Dump in the pecans and stir until well combined.
- 6 Immediately after removing the cake from the oven, pour the warm icing over the top. You'll want to avoid doing much spreading, so try to distribute it evenly as you pour.

Denise Wilson

PROPERTY

We have changed the broadcast system to FM 90.1 for car church to provide a better signal for those people remaining in their cars. When the system was tested, we had complete coverage of both parking lots with a clear signal. We will continue to use the portable antenna until this spring, when we will install a permanent mount on the roof of the church.

Work on our three large projects is progressing. We are currently working with two construction companies to get rough costs of the covered handicap walkway and pavilion. Lionberger Construction is refining the quote for the covered walkway and we should be able to present that project to the governing council at the next meeting. They are also looking at some alternatives for the construction of the pavilion.

The final project is the playground. The structural problems with the garage and the enclosing of the eaves have been completed. The playground equipment has been ordered and Anne Wood is coordinating the installation.

Mike Kordich



SECURITY TEAM

Hello CCC,

Currently there are no known threats as far as violence or crime directed against the church. The Security team remains vigilant to the unknown threat. Team members are connected by radio through out the service and will react to any and all threats.

Our response to COVID is a conglomerate of the Governing Council, other committees, and teams of the church. The first task of the COVID response is to keep you the congregant safe to the utmost of our ability. Also now since vaccinations have started to be administered, relaxing the safeguards will be a future consideration.

One of the factors of relaxing the safeguards is to know the number of people that have completed their vaccinations. We would like to compile data on who has been vaccinated in the church. If you have finished your vaccination sequence please e-mail me at lgulman@mindspring.com or text me at (540) 243-1388 with "Vaccinated" and your name. All information will be kept confidential. This is totally voluntary ,but the more people that help, the better the picture for returning to normal the Governing Council will have.

If you are not on the list for text alerts and would like to be; please either e-mail me at lgulman@mindspring.com with your name and your cell number or text me 540-243-1388 with Alerts and Your Name. After you are added I will send you a verification text.

The security/usher team is always looking for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer or have questions about the teams, security of the church, or COVID response please see me or use my e-mail or text options from above.

Thank you and stay safe.
Glenn O. Ulman



DID YOU KNOW?

We have a new feature for the newsletter!

Linda Simpson will provide interesting information about CCC that many of you may not have heard about!

Can anyone remember our first Easter sunrise service for Christ Community Church?

It was held at the public boat landing off Smith Mountain Road.

The date was April 16, 1995. That is when it was decided we should have a Easter sunrise service every year.

