

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

tel 540.576.4242 www.christfamily.org

Newsletter May — June 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

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Governing Council	2
Pastor's Perspective	3
Prayer List	4
Outreach	5-11
Security	12
Did You Know?	13
Bible Study	14



GOVERNING COUNCIL

Tempus Fugit! Yes time does fly.

Birds are nesting. Grass is growing. Summer is here.

We have survived one year + of this pandemic and the end is hopefully in sight. Worship services at Christ Community Church look considerably different and Car Church remains an option. You, the Church staff and committee leaders have adapted to changing conditions to keep worship at Christ Community Church safe and full of energy and enthusiasm.

It's always a joy to welcome new members. Joel and Shirene Gentry, although no strangers, joined Christ Community Church as Associate Members in February. Welcome Joel and Shirene !

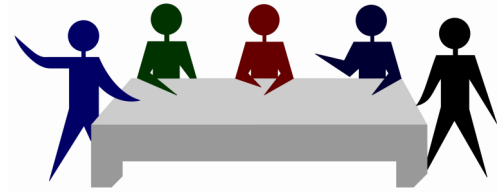
Hopefully you've noticed the completion of our new Children Playground and beautiful painted wall murals. The playground, first envisioned and promoted by member Erlene Keene, was filled on Easter Sunday with playful children before and after the 10:00AM Worship Service. Consequently, Heather Layman's Children's Classroom later was literally filled to capacity. Another big thank you to all playground contributors and the Playground Special Committee members Anne Wood (chair), Jody Barbour, Linda Simpson and Norma Gilbert for making the playground a reality. The Governing Council recently voted to dedicate the Children Playground to the memory of Erlene and Bud Keene. A commemorative stone will be placed in the near future.

Upward and onward. Momentum, progress, growth and more are on the horizon at Christ Community Church. Plans continue to develop for a proposed multi function Picnic Pavilion, Sanctuary audio visual upgrades and a new covered handicap Sanctuary entrance. Most churches, like most businesses, cannot survive and prosper now days standing still. Prolonged status quo can actually mean going backwards, whereas progress and growth are usually essential for survival. Many share a vision that progress and growth can be achieved at Christ Community Church without foregoing the values, mission, beliefs and desires of our founding members. Modern times will require gradual changes. Change can be good.

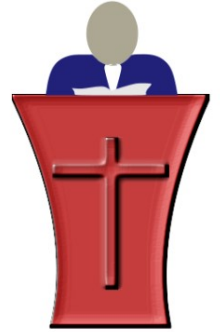
What are your ideas for the growth of Christ Community Church and how to achieve? What changes are you willing to support? What would you like to see done differently? I'd love to hear from you. Even if you've only visited a few times, we'd still like your ideas and suggestions. Send to me at gilbert2141@yahoo.com .

For The Governing Council,

Bruce Gilbert, Chairman



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE



Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24 ESV)

Why tailgate when you can tailpipe? These words served as the slogan for an invention that never caught on. The inventor of the Exhaust Burger attempted to solve the problem of providing an economical meal with limited time. Imagine this common scenario. Mom and Dad both work full-time jobs. The kids have soccer practice in the evenings after school. How will they find time to prepare dinner? Easy! The Exhaust Burger! Simply connect the apparatus to the car's exhaust, insert a hamburger patty, and head to practice. The burger will cook while you spend valuable time driving!

We live in a microwave society. We want everything instantaneously. I am a member of Amazon Prime. Why? Simply because I want expedited delivery at no charge! I want what I want as soon as I can get it. I am not alone. It is indicative of the society in which we find ourselves living. Many adults act like toddlers when their covetous appetites are not immediately satisfied. We put high value on efficiency and timeliness. Often, we are willing to take shortcuts to obtain the things we want in life. Although the Exhaust Burger is a creative invention, I am not sure how practical, or safe, it is.

Paul informed the readers of his letter to Colossae to work hard in whatever they found themselves doing. He instructed them to work "heartily" as unto the Lord, not unto man. This word in the original language implies our work should be "from the soul." In other words, Paul suggested his readers should not be taking shortcuts. Likewise, our work, whatever it may be, should be done with excellence. We should take pride in everything we do and strive to do our very best. As Christ's ambassadors on earth, others will evaluate Him based on our workmanship. We are His representatives. We are His hands and feet. He will be judged based on our actions, or the lack thereof.

Blessings ahead!

Derek

<https://www.hotcars.com/10-crazy-car-inventions-that-failed/>

<https://www.bonappetit.com/trends/article/exhaust-burger>

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



BACKPACK PROGRAM

Christ Community Church provided two months of weekend backpack food for 18 children at Glade Hill during February and March and 40 children every week at the Rocky Mt. Elementary School for the month of March. We were also able to provide nutrition for 66 middle schoolers during the month of March with assistance from Penhook United Methodist for 15 of the children and from the Trinity Episcopal Church for one child. Going forward with the month of April and May, Redwood United Methodist church will provide food for 20 students, Penhook United Methodist will provide for 15, the Episcopal will sponsor two children, and Christ Community will provide for the remaining 29 students. We are fortunate to have neighboring churches partner with us for this important support of our future. Please acknowledge such with your friends and neighbors who may attend these churches.

At some point, the Schools may ask for assistance with packing the backpacks and we will send out a call for volunteers. This will only occur when the schools are able to ease their restrictions. Until then, we continue to ship food directly to the schools and the backpacks are assembled by teachers, guidance counselors and aides.

Comments from schools:

Benjamin Franklin Middle School - “children were so excited to see the resumption of the Backpack program”; one Middle School child is very private about her need for nutrition and the teacher has been able to devise a method for the backpack to be placed in her locker and the student is given time to secure this privately”

Rocky Mt Elementary: “We are so grateful for your church’s support of our children. It makes such a difference for them.”

KROGER BAGS

If you use Kroger for online Grocery shopping, please save the special bags they are using for the children’s Backpack program. Bring them to church or give them to Emogene Weller.

OUTREACH



CARING CRAFTERS

As nature is beginning to awaken from a long winter's rest, so are our Caring Crafters getting anxious to get back to work providing God's blessings to many in our community. This is all possible because of those who have been led to donate their time or monies to our busy group. An extra thank you to our generous donors and to our members who have taken work home to complete during the times we were unable to meet at my home. I thank God that my family was able to make it through this past year without adding Covid to our present medical issues.

To begin, Caring Crafters just gave 125 Easter greetings to the residents of Franklin County Nursing and Rehab facility. Each card included an attached bag of Easter holiday M&M's. The residents received these on Thursday with their noonday meal.

We have been giving each resident a wheelchair lap blanket for their birthday for several years. Due to Covid, it was impossible to do this last year and this year to date. Our Caring Crafters are presently stockpiling blankets so that upon reopening of visitation we will be able to visit with the residents and give each one of them a blanket. At present we have approximately 60% of these completed thanks to our members that do the sewing. I have been exchanging blankets with them in the parking lot on Sundays. Pat, Denise, Anne and Marilyn thank you for your faithful sewing of these blankets!

Presently, we are working on using the scraps accumulated from our projects to stuff dog beds. If anyone has old pillow cases they are getting rid of, we can use them for liners in the dog beds. Thank you to Kim for the donated material for these beds. The animal shelter is very appreciative of the beds for their residents.

We will be working on supplies for the NICU during the month of April. Scent pads are in need again and we have an abundant number of squares cut for positioning the infants in the incubators.

A new project to work on will be hats for this fall for the children at Rocky Mount Elementary. These will be made from larger scraps of fleece and also from yarn.

(Emogene Weller)

An extra note from Emogene:

Caring crafters will be meeting on the 17th of May at Emogene's home. Times are flexible, but we will be meeting between 9 am and 12 pm. No skills required; feel free to join us.

OUTREACH

BOX TOPS

Continue to support the collection of Box Tops and Coke tops. They add up to make a difference for others.

QUILTING GROUP

We will not meet again until September 2021. 14 quilts have been given to those in need of comfort. Please let Barbara Armstrong know if you are aware of any person that could use a comfort quilt.

(Barbara Armstrong)

FOOD PANTRY

The next drive-thru Food Pantry will be April 8. Randy Agee is assisting Penhook United Methodist Church at this time but may need to call on others in the future. Monetary donations are always appreciated.

(Randy Agee)

YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Y.EP. has been extremely busy with flowers for the altar, learning about healthy eating and meal planning. They also have discussed Saving Plans in order to prepare for the future. They are supporting “Go Fund Me” for a teacher, coach, and mentor, Matt Foutz as well as providing a meal for the Foutz family. The Youth supported the Girl’s basket ball team by using their funds to pay for a meal for the team. Go YOUTH! You are our future and we are so proud of your service for others. You are shining STARS!

(Kim Cassada)

OUTREACH

LAKE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

LCM received a generous donation from Christ Community due to a very caring CCC member's contribution. LCM met the goal for their fund raiser with the matching donations.

FRANKLIN RESOURCE CENTER

FRC received ample paper products and cleaning supplies in March due to the contribution of CCC members. This was a requested need and thank you to all who responded.

EASTER BASKETS

Easter Baskets filled with Easter meal staples were provided to two families as well as sustaining gift cards. We are thankful that we have the ability to be of assistance. Jody Barbour is the fabulous designer of collection boxes and gift baskets!

During the month of April, CCC will issue **monetary funds** to the following agencies selected by the Outreach Committee to support during 2021: Family Resource Center, Free Clinic, Heavenly Manner, Faith Networks, Lake Christian Ministries, Helping Hands, and God's Pit Crew.

WARM COATS FOR CHILDREN

Planning for the acquirement and distribution of Warm Coats for Children is underway.

(Sharon Agee)

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 our community.

Jody Lawson Barbour and Anne Wood, Co-Chairs

OUTREACH



Santa was delivered to our LIFES Academy students in their homes! The students were thrilled. Special thanks goes to: Tom Ulbrich; Randy Agee; Christ Community Church, Penhook; Carter Bank & Trust; and STEP, Inc. Board of Directors for making "Project Santa" a success. All of you helped to make a difference in the lives of our students. We couldn't have done it without you!



Carter Bank & Trust

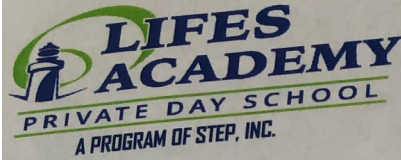


STEP, Inc.



Christ Community
Church, Penhook, VA

OUTREACH



00 Dent Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151
Phone: 540-483-0086
www.stepincva.com

Empowering People
Changing Lives



DEAR RANDY AND CHURCH MEMBERS,

THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROUS GIFTS OF
COATS YOU GOT FOR THE STUDENTS. IT IS
NICE TO SEE THEM WEARING THE COATS ON
THESE COLD MORNINGS. THEY REALLY
APPRECIATED THE COATS AND IT WENT A
LONG WAY IN MAKING THEIR CHRISTMAS
EVEN MORE SPECIAL AND THEIR WINTER
WARMER!

Thank You!

Mike Meredith

Our Mission
STEP, and our partners, facilitate solutions that empower people to overcome their barriers to economic, educational and developmental success within the communities we serve.

OUTREACH

2499 North Main Street
Danville, Virginia 24540
www.godspitcrew.org



434.836.4472 Office
434.836.4475 Fax
contact@godspitcrew.org

January 2021

Christ Community Church of VA
PO Box 100
Penhook, VA 24137-0100

Dear Christ Community Church of VA,

What you have done this past year is nothing short of amazing!

Your compassion and generosity touched people experiencing disastrous storms, fires, floods and COVID-19. I can never thank you enough for your prayers and support.

Here are a few of the good things you accomplished this past year through your support of God's Pit Crew:

- You helped deliver Blessing Buckets, flats of water, and other essentials to people impacted by the devastating wildfires in Oregon and California.
- In response to Hurricane Laura, Blessing Buckets and bottled water were distributed to storm victims. Volunteers from God's Pit Crew removed debris, helped place tarps on roofs, and cleaned up damage from the storm.
- On Easter Sunday, a tornado destroyed several homes in Cleveland, Tennessee. You helped send relief supplies and Blessings Buckets. And, in October, you helped rebuild one of the homes of storm victims there and another home will be built there soon!
- You brought much-needed supplies to people affected by numerous storms, including Hurricane Delta, Hurricane Zeta, Tropical Storm Marco, and Hurricane Sally.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus to people experiencing a crisis. I am so thankful you are part of the God's Pit Crew family!

Enclosed with this letter is your 2020 impact report and a statement of your charitable giving to God's Pit Crew in 2020. If you have any questions about this statement, please contact our offices at (436) 836-4472.

Thank you so much for delivering hope, healing, and restoration to people experiencing a disaster. **You are God's Pit Crew!**

Delivering Hope in His Name,

Randy Johnson
Founder and President

God's Pit Crew, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. Unless otherwise noted, no tangible donor benefits, including goods or services, were associated with this gift. A financial statement for God's Pit Crew, Inc. is available by calling 434-836-4472 or by visiting godspitcrew.org and view our financial accountability policies.

SECURITY TEAM

Hello CCC,

On April 10th the Security team met for a training day. Initially a review of first aid practices were gone over relating to a mass shooting, heart attack, or any medical emergency inside or outside of the church. Then reactions to a mass shooting inside and outside the church by the security team, along with internal security procedures and COVID response. Parking and seating inside the church though mostly relate to COVID also have security related connotations. Please cooperate with ushers as they seat you or show you where to park.

Onto COVID. One of the factors of relaxing the safeguards is to know the number of people that have completed their vaccinations. We have had some people already help with this, but not enough to give a positive picture. 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?

Do you know how Penhook got its name??

I will tell you!

The name Penhook relates to the community's ties to the tobacco trade. The community had large holding pens for tobacco. Farmers would roll their crops to the pens in barrels.

The tobacco buyers were known as “pinhookers” and they arrived by railroad. They would select the tobacco to purchase.

If a farmer did not receive the price he had expected for his crop, he would say he had been hooked.

Edward C. Murphy, the community's first postmaster, (in 1854) was charged with sending the name to the Post Office Department. Legend has it, he neglected to dot the i in Pin Hook and the name Pen Hook was born. The two words were later put together as one word, Penhook.



Linda Simpson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Education Committee is excited to announce a summer Bible study!

It will be a 5 week study on Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 pm with a start date of July 15th. After a short time of fellowship, the men and women will be separated into two study groups. We are blessed to have Joel and Shirene Gentry leading.

Joel will be using the book *Man In The Mirror* and Shirene will be using her book *Identity Unveiled: Daughter of the King of Kings*. The focus of both books is based on our identity in Christ and how to live with confidence, worth, and hope. Please sign up on the table that has the offering plates as you leave the sanctuary.

We need a head count to order books. Christ Community Church will provide books for those who do not have one. As a reminder, masks need to be worn and you must sign a CCC Pandemic Liability Waiver. Hope to see you there!

Heather Layman

