

# THE GOSPEL GAZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND ST. BARNABAS CHAPEL

OUR MISSION IS TO KNOW, LIVE, AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS STORIES OF JESUS CHRIST.



## CHRIS'S CORNER

### A WORD FROM OUR REVEREND....

Rev. Christopher Scott  
Clergy



Happy New Year! Every new year means that we are walking into the unknown. It's a time where we can let go of past hurts and disappointments, and trust in the goodness of God for our future. So many of us make new year's resolutions, committing to exercise, reading more, or deepening our daily walk with Jesus. Most of us know that many of these resolutions are abandoned or altered significantly by the end of February.

In the year ahead, I am not asking you to take on any specific resolution. I'm not going to ask you to pray more, exercise more, give more, or come to church more regularly. Instead, I will simply remind you of a resolution that Jesus makes to us. Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew, "surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." The resolution that Jesus makes to us is trustworthy and true. No matter what 2024 might hold, Emmanuel, God with us, will be with us the whole year through. Even when we struggle to be faithful to our

commitments and our promises, Christ is always faithful to us. My own challenge to you in 2024 is to trust in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. No matter what ups and downs we might face, we can trust that Jesus walks alongside us. As Christians, our whole lives are lived in response to that promise. The promise that God took on human flesh and dwelt among us and that God will not forsake or abandon us.

We do not need to rest our hope in our own laid plans, promises, or resolutions. Rather, let us place our hope in what Christ has already done for us. Let us commit ourselves to living our whole lives in response to the truth that God has not abandoned this world, but has come to dwell with us in the person of Jesus Christ. Imagine how differently we would live if we took a moment each day to remember this simple truth. We could surrender our fear, because we know that the one who conquered sin and death itself lives among us. We could surrender our worries, because we can trust Him for our daily

daily bread. We could surrender our anger and our hurts, because we know that we have been forgiven when we did not deserve it. We could surrender our selfishness, because we know that Jesus will supply our every need. This certainly does not guarantee that the future will be smooth sailing. It does mean that our Savior will guide us and lead us through even our darkest valleys.

This does not mean that the year ahead won't be rife with challenges to face, obstacles to overcome, and tasks to be accomplished. Yet we can find joy in knowing that we do not face this journey alone. This is indeed what it means to take the spirit of Christmas with you the whole year through. Finally, let us commit ourselves in the year ahead to the work of Christmas. Hear these words from Howard Thurman, Christian mystic, writer, and mentor of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr: "When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the

shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart." Amen.

If you are struggling in this season, or if you're having trouble trusting in Jesus' promise, please know that I am always available to pray and to listen. You can reach me any time at (304)646-9597.

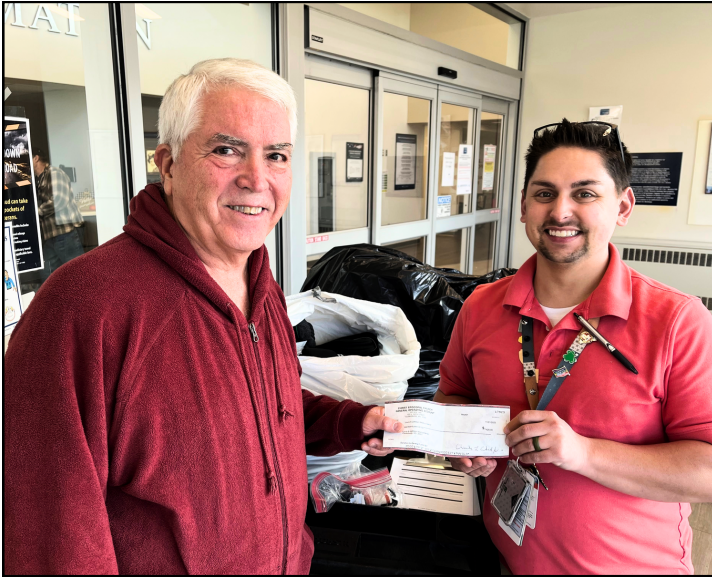
Grace and Peace,  
+Fr. Chris

**INSIDE**

- EVENTS.....2-4
- READINGS AND COLLECTS.....5
- MEMBERS WORD.....6
- OUTREACH, ANNOUNCEMENTS .....7



# LAST MONTH'S EVENTS



Bill Saviers giving donation to the VA hospital.



Church members prepare for the Christmas Parade. *L-R Lyle Blake, Chuck Critchfield (hiding in the back), Nate Critchfield, Marilyn Blake, Bill Saviers*



Special musical guest, Suzanne Mazer Stewart.



Bill Saviers receiving recognition plaque from the Vestry.



# LAST MONTH'S EVENTS (CONT.)

## Collage of Rev. Chris Scott's Ordination





# LAST MONTH'S EVENTS (CONT.)



Rev. Chris Scott posing in front of the beautiful Christmas decorations put together by members of the church.



Kipp Martin and Becky Durrett having quality time together at the "Caroling and Cookies" event.



Nancy Cotten and Deborah Bergstrom enjoying their time at the "Caroling and Cookies" event.



Rev. Chris Scott REALLY likes cookies.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY 1

New Years Day - Office Closed

### January 8

Vestry Meeting - 6:00 PM at Christ Church  
Girl Scouts - 6:00 PM at St. Barnabas Chapel

### January 15

Martin Luther King Day- Office Closed

### January 22

Girl Scouts - 6:00 PM at St. Barnabas Chapel



## JANUARY 7TH

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

- [GENESIS 1:1-5](#)
- [ACTS 19:1-7](#)
- [MARK 1:4-11](#)
- [PSALM 29](#)

## JANUARY 14TH

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

- [1 SAMUEL 3:1-10\(11-20\)](#)
- [1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20](#)
- [JOHN 1:43-51](#)
- [PSALM 139:1-5, 12-17](#)

## JANUARY 21ST

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

- [JONAH 3:1-5, 10](#)
- [1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31](#)
- [MARK 1:14-20](#)
- [PSALM 62:6-14](#)

## JANUARY 28TH

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

- [DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20](#)
- [1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13](#)
- [MARK 1:21-28](#)
- [PSALM 111](#)

**Wednesday night bible study begins January 10th at 5:30PM at the Bridgeport Panera. Each week we will discuss the meaning of Epiphany though the lens of our upcoming lectionary readings.**



## A GIFT FOR CHRIS

By: Chuck Critchfield – Senior Warden

We wanted to update the Parish about the gift given to Chris during his reception after the ordination service on December 21. Events have moved quickly and not everyone was aware of the gift.

As planning for the reception got underway, it was evident that there were not enough funds left in the Parish Life Committee budget to fund the reception. Parish Life sent out an appeal earlier this month for donations to help fund the reception. The Parish response was overwhelming. The amount donated exceeded the cost of the reception by over \$500. As a result, the Vestry voted to give to Father Chris, a cash purse of \$500 as a gift. I had the pleasure of giving him that gift on behalf of the Vestry and the Parish the night of the reception.

Some parishioners, who may not have had a chance to donate to the reception, have expressed a desire to give Chris an additional gift. Our tradition in these occasions has been to give a gift that the parish priest can use in his or her ministry. And the Vestry will talk with Chris to get an idea of what may be useful to him going forward.

Anyone, parishioner or not, who would like to



**Chuck Critchfield handing Rev. Chris Scott his gift after the ordination service.**

make a donation can do so during January. Checks can be placed in the plate, or sent to the office. Please make a notation that the check is for Chris' Gift.

Finally, the offering that was made at the ordination service will be deposited in Chris' Discretionary Fund, for his use as he sees fit in ministering to the congregation and the community. If you have any questions, please let me know.

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

By: Chuck Critchfield - Senior Warden

The ordination of a priest is a moving and beautiful service in the Episcopal Church. Although the spoken words are beautiful, moving, and inspirational, the "physical" parts of the service in which the candidate lies face down on the floor and the laying on of hands during the consecration are even more emotional and meaningful to me. I had the privilege of being invited to participate in the wonderful service of December 21. Now, supporting our priest-in-charge, let's go forth with the mission of the parish.

Thank you to the parishioners and the Parish Life Committee who worked behind the scenes to get the church campus ready for the ceremony and the reception which followed. A lot of work went into getting things ready for the visiting clergy, guests and parishioners to celebrate this joyous occasion.

Thank you to Suzanne Wilson who has served as the Treasurer for our Parish for over ten years. She has helped with the parish finances and

provided advice to over a dozen vestries. Marisa Richardson has stepped up and has been appointed by the current vestry as Treasurer. She is working with Beth Ann to learn the duties of the position.

We rely on our Parish committees to help the priest-in-charge with the mission of the church. The Vestry and Father Chris have established the committees for 2024. Chris will be reaching out to the chairs to begin the work for 2024. I ask each parishioner to consider how they can participate in the life of the church by participating on one or more of the committees.

Finance and Stewardship Committee  
 Building and Grounds Committee  
 Parish Life  
 Outreach  
 Worship/Altar Guild  
 Christian Education  
 Long Range Planning  
 Gift/Memorials  
 Communications

Lent comes early this year. February 14 to be exact. This means Shrove Tuesday is just seven weeks away!

## LECTOR LIST FOR JANUARY

1/7 - Lukas Thompson-Moore

1/14 - Chuck Critchfield

1/21 - Jenn Hertz

1/28 - Ira Richardson

## FATHER CHRIS'

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Father Chris would love to connect with you! If you ever need to reach out to him, call or text him at (304)646-9597 or email him at christo.scott@gmail.com

### CHURCH E-MAIL LIST

Are you getting email correspondences from Christ Episcopal Church or St. Barnabas Chapel?

If you're not, we need your email address!

Please send us an email at christchurch1853@aol.com

#### OFFICE PHONE:

304-622-3694

#### OUR WEBSITE:

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

#### WV DIOCESE WEBSITE:

[www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org)

#### ADDRESSES:

Christ Church: 123 S 6th St., Clarksburg  
St. Barnabas: 745 Hall St., Bridgeport



## NEEDS AND CONCERNS FROM THE PARISH

In mid-December, Marilyn Blake received a request from a friend to help a person new to the area: a female veteran with a disability who is planning to train service dogs. She had obtained an apartment and a bed. She needed almost everything else. Marilyn volunteered to gather cleaning and household supplies. She contacted 6 ladies of the parish. By that weekend, they had donated \$90+ of various cleaners, paper products, a bucket, etc. Many thanks to those who made someone's Christmas brighter and shinier!

A member of the church has reached out asking if anyone would have a usable computer (preferably not APPLE). Slow is not a problem. If you are able or willing to help out, please contact the parish administrator.

## *Backpack Blessings*

### *Week 1*

Delivery Driver

-Jan. 11-

*Dick Clovis*

### *Week 2*

Delivery Driver

-Jan. 18-

*Beth Sickles*

### *Week 3*

Delivery Driver

-Jan. 25-

*Beth Sickles*

### *Week 4*

Delivery Driver

-Feb. 1-

NEED VOLLUNTEER