This year for Lent we are offering several different ways that in one way or another address the theme of “unexpected holiness.”

Sunday Forum
March 1, 8, 22, 29 | 9:00 a.m. | Meade Room
God is big enough to deal with and work with actual compromised and imperfect people. This is at the heart of how we approach the characters and the story that form the events of Holy Week. At the pinnacle of Christian faith and practice is the death and resurrection of Jesus which occur against a backdrop of several betrayals, a show trial, and numerous people trying to be compassionate and faithful. Yet, nothing is truly lost when it comes to how God uses even the most imperfect people to bring about our healing and redemption through Jesus’ passion. Our Lenten forums will examine several characters from the events of Holy Week and explore how God does indeed deal and work with compromised people. Join us for a time of exploration and discussion on how a series of intersecting stories inform our experience of the crucified and resurrected Christ.

Stations of the Cross
March 4, 11, 18, 25 | 6:30 p.m. | Church
The 14 Stations are part of a long Christian tradition of pilgrimage providing a visible representation of Christ’s passion and death. Each station captures a moment along Christ’s journey to the Cross—from His condemnation by Pilate to His death. Images will be set up along the aisles of the church. As we walk to each station, we will pause and pray from the Episcopal Book of Occasional Services, also adding a moment of personal prayer. The Stations offer us a way to pray and reflect on how the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus opens us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Led by the Daughters of the King.

Labyrinth
February 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 | 6:30 p.m. | Auditorium
Walking the Labyrinth is an individual pilgrimage. Our Labyrinth is a circular pattern printed on a large canvas laid out on the floor. The lines form a path that wind toward a center point where it turns and leads out again. Slowly walking along the

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Fowler House Agreement to Lease is Signed.

What Happens Next?

This update is based in large part on John Weaver’s report to the parish at the All Parish Meeting in February.

On February 18, the Vestry authorized the Christ Church Trustees to counter-sign a long-negotiated Agreement to Lease with Kensington Senior Living. This is a first critical hurdle toward the final execution of a binding 99-year Ground Lease with Kensington and its redevelopment of the Fowler House as an assisted living and memory care facility. Under the Agreement to Lease, Christ Church will maintain free use of 10,000 square feet in the new building during the 99-year Ground Lease.

At the All Parish Meeting on Feb. 23, John Weaver of the Fowler House Committee explained where we go from here:

“Kensington has posted a $100,000 refundable deposit and now has 18 months to design and obtain all governmental approvals for the project. If during the next 18 months Kensington is not successful in obtaining the requisite approvals, the company has the right to get back its deposit and terminate the deal. If it is successful, then approximately three to six months later, the 99-year Ground Lease will be executed and irrevocably go into effect.

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Rejoice is the official monthly publication of Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia, an Episcopal church in the Diocese of Virginia.

The Rt. Rev. Susan Ellyn Goff, Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority
The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson Bishop Associate
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Steve Humphrey ’20
Sandra Thomson ’20, Jane Baird ’21
Kevin Metz ’21, Julie Zahn ’21
Bob Cady ’22, Carol Donlan ’22
Mary Dixon Hutcheson ’22
Kenneth Knapp, Treasurer
Del Turner, Assistant Treasurer

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The Rev. Dr. Lyndon Shakespeare, Associate Rector
The Rev. Seldon Walker
Associate Rector/Curate
The Rev. Dr. Richard Jones
Parish Visitor
The Rev. Dr. Diane Murphy,
Rev. Dr. William B. Roberts
Priest Associates

Director of Music
M. Jason Abel

Christ Church embodies God’s unbounded love by embracing, liberating, and empowering people, whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith.

The Rejoice deadline is the third of the month preceding publication.

Please email proposed articles to mbracco@historicchristchurch.org. Those accepted are subject to editing for length and content. Susan Hahn edits Rejoice while Craig Keith provides design and layout. Carol Donlan gives her time and talent as an advisor. Meredith Bracco is the staff liaison.

Lent continued from page 1

Labyrinth in a candle-lit room offers a time for personal deep prayer and thought. Some are working through life decisions or personal problems, confusion, fear or doubt. Some simply need the time to talk with God and listen intently. Daughters of the King will be available to help as you begin your Labyrinth journey.

Lent Quiet Day
March 28 | 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Fowler House

We invite you to join us for a few hours as we sit at the feet of Christ and gather with one another to prepare our hearts for the spiritual journey from Bethany to Jerusalem that we encounter at the end of this Lenten season. Our retreat will focus on methods of prayer from St. Benedict and St. Ignatius of Loyola as we explore our relationship with God. The time of penitence and fasting, as marked by Lent, is intended to draw us closer to God. This is a moment of great opportunity and growth in our lives with Christ. We invite you to take advantage of this time and space. Come, take some time away to pray with others and experience the nurturing silence of time with God. In preparation for Holy Week, we will be reflecting on the themes of the Biblical text and the Words of Christ that mark the end of the Lenten season.

Our leader for the day is The Rev. Margaret Peel-Shakespeare, interim rector at St. Margaret’s, Woodbridge, and a spiritual director in the Ignatian tradition.

Lunch will be provided. There is a $30 suggested donation for the day (made out to Christ Church with Quiet Day in the memo line). Please sign-up here: http://bit.ly/CCQuietDay

Fowler continued from page 1

Simultaneously, Kensington will give us a notice to vacate the lower level. What are the chances of Kensington getting all the needed approvals? These are early days and there are many steps, but a meeting in February between Kensington and the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review seemed to go well. Fowler House Committee Chairman Chris McMurray, and members Jim Coakley, and John Weaver attended that initial meeting. City officials focused on the Washington Street façade (which the City staff considers historic and wants largely retained) and on the traffic pattern near a proposed Columbus Street drop-off door.

“I can report that Kensington’s presentation was well received,” said John. “It was clear that Kensington understands that this project will be high profile in Old Town and the company appears ready to listen to comments and suggestions to the maximum extent feasible to move the approvals along.

“After the Fowler House Committee’s extensive marketing efforts over the last five-plus years, we can report that to be economically viable, any project on the Ross parcel will be five stories and cover most of the site. A big part of the City approval process will involve the details of what that building will look like.”

The rent would be $200,000 per year for the first two years and then a fixed amount between $311,000 and about $370,000 per year for the next eight years, with inflation-based escalators every 10 years thereafter. The final rent would be based on the ultimate square footage the City of Alexandria grants Kensington for its design concept.

John added, “It’s important to note that the income from the Ross parcel is not ‘gravy.’ It is vital to the mission and ministry of our Church and, not incidentally, the upkeep of our historic properties.” The Fowler Committee will keep the parish informed as the process moves along. Please keep the future of Fowler House and Christ Church in your prayers.
Reaching for New Goals to Grow the Miracle of Our Little Roses Mission

By the Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons, Rector

Someone recently said to me, “When I look around Christ Church, I see little green shoots everywhere.” It is a happy, hopeful observation and one I share wholeheartedly. We have all – staff, Vestry, committees, volunteers, congregation – been working hard to position Christ Church forward into a place of joy, challenge, and growth in Jesus Christ. Our hard work is paying off little by little and I hope you see it too.

Over the last three years, Director of Mission & Outreach Melanie Gray and I have been looking at the history and future of our mission relationships in Uganda, South Sudan, and Honduras. This labor has confirmed what we knew: our mission relationships have deep roots in faith and mutual love, roots that we can be very proud of.

We also discovered that like everything that continues over decades, there are some policies and attitudes that need to be updated in order to better serve our mission partners and our parish. Melanie and I are currently working on updating our mission relationship with Our Little Roses Home for Girls. We are bringing our practices in line with best practices outlined by mission experts in the Episcopal Church and beyond. We are working with our friends in Honduras to ensure we are moving towards a model that serves and protects those precious girls in the best ways we know how, a model that also holds Christ Church to high standards of accountability and faith formation that we expect from our community.

Specifically, we are working on three main goals for the OLR mission relationships:

- Financial sustainability, including thoughtful practices about how we spend our resources for mission trips.
- Faith practices, including advance preparation and prayer for each group and group member
- Community focus, making sure that the members of each mission team are trusted members of the church and church community

I am grateful to Sarah DeCamps and everyone she recruited over the last decade to join in the miracle that is mission work at OLR. Because of her organization and the tenderness and passion with which she connected with the girls at Our Little Roses, our mission relationship stands poised to enter its next chapter strong and filled with faith. Melanie and I, along with new interim leaders Anne Reed and Jane Baird, invite you to join in this mission this year (from July 6-13) or in years to come and witness for yourself the miracle that is OLR.

Onward and upward.

Bromley Organ Update

By Jason Abel, Music Director

The first full week of January saw a team of workers spending long days working to remove the Austin Organ from the church. And, it is now gone! One of the men leading the effort at removing the organ commented that in his 40 years in the business, this was the most difficult organ he had ever had to remove. If you’ve been upstairs in the church, you’ve seen the exposed bare walls and the large holes in the flooring. We will live with this for a little while as we do not want to spend money repairing the flooring when it would have to be removed again for the installation of ducts for wiring and wind to the new organ.

We are still waiting on some estimates for the work that needs to be done in preparation for the installation of the Bromley Organ. But, that work should begin before much longer.

Harrison & Harrison has begun work on our instrument in their shop in Durham, England. In the pictures below are some of the first pipes which they have made for our organ. Also, the display outside the gift shop is being updated with new information we have discovered about some of the previous organs and organists. I invite you to take a few minutes to learn about some of the interesting music history associated with Christ Church. As we prepare more earnestly for our musical future, we are learning fascinating things about our musical past.
As Sarah DeCamps steps down from her leadership of the Our Little Roses Committee, I was asked to reflect on her impact on OLR and on Christ Church.

By Kris Amundson

Sarah DeCamps made her first visit to Our Little Roses Home in Honduras when she was 15. And part of her heart has lived there ever since. OLR provides a home and an education for more than 60 abused, abandoned, and orphaned girls from age 10 months to 26 years.

Sarah says the young women of Our Little Roses are part of her familia. She has known many of them since in the more than 20 years since that first visit, and they know she will be there for them – even years after they have left the home.

When the husband of one OLR alumna was killed in a drive-by shooting, Sarah flew to Honduras to be there as he was laid to rest in a tiny mountain village. When another OLR graduate faced the prospect of raising her new baby alone, Sarah made sure there were diapers and baby clothes. And this month Sarah will be in Honduras for the wedding of Jensy Maldonado, an OLR graduate who is now a dentist. (Jensy preached at Christ Church in 2015.) As Sarah says, it’s just what families do.

From 2003-2006, when she served as the Director of Mission & Outreach at Christ Church, Sarah strengthened the bond between our church and OLR. Over the years, she has led hundreds of parishioners of all ages to San Pedro Sula for the 10-day OLR Mission trips. She has hauled hundreds of duffel bags filled with needed supplies. She has made sure every girl had athletic shoes, cute pajamas, and new dresses. She has rolled many gallons of paint onto the walls of bedrooms and classrooms, watched hundreds of hours of the latest telenovelas with teenage girls, and applied countless layers of sunscreen to protect little ones at the beach.

She also built strong relationships with Hondurans outside OLR. When our longtime van driver tragically died, Sarah saw that his daughter received a scholarship so she could fulfill her father’s dream and attend college.

This year, the OLR Mission Committee will have new interim leadership as Anne Reed and Jane Baird assume the responsibility of guiding members of our parish to form an OLR committee and on the 2020 OLR visit. If you are interested in getting involved with the OLR mission or learning about this year’s trip from July 6-13, please contact Jane Baird bairdjf@verizon.net or Anne Reed anneftreed@gmail.com. And as our church again answers the question, “Who is my neighbor?” we will have 20 years of Sarah’s example to help us along the way.

Kris Amundson has been going to Our Little Roses since 1995.
How Christ Church is Helping to Nourish Children Around the World

By David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World

Last May about 100 members of Christ Church wrote letters to Congress in support of U.S. efforts to reduce child malnutrition. Hundreds of other churches and tens of thousands of individual Bread for the World members across the country reached out to their members of Congress.

Congress is divided on many issues, and President Trump wants to cut programs like this. But this Bread for the World campaign recruited 205 members of Congress from both parties as cosponsors of global nutrition resolutions. Most of these cosponsors were recruited, one by one, by caring people back home. In most cases, the members of Congress learned for the first time that the world is making dramatic progress against child stunting because of new style, evidence-based nutrition programs (many of them funded by USAID).

Christ Church helped engage Senator Mark Warner and Representative Don Beyer as cosponsors.

I had opportunity to visit nutrition programs in Ethiopia and Guatemala last fall. Mothers bring their babies to be weighed and measured. If a baby shows signs of malnutrition, the mom is given fortified baby food. All the mothers learn about nutrition – lessons such as the benefits of extended breastfeeding and handwashing with soap. Thanks to the spread of nutrition programs like this, the number of stunted children in the world declined by 22 million over the last 10 years!

The last thing the U.S. Senate did just before the impeachment trial was to unanimously pass the global nutrition resolution. It urges stronger USAID efforts to improve child nutrition. In the House of Representatives, our resolution has passed the Foreign Affairs Committee and is poised for approval by the full House.

Bread for the World used this demonstration of broad, bipartisan support to increase the annual appropriation for USAID’s nutrition program by $25 million. With funding from the Gates Foundation, Bread for the World Institute staff have also been working with USAID to inject new knowledge about child nutrition into the design of humanitarian, health, and agriculture projects.

In 2020, Bread for the World and its network across the country are pushing Congress further to strengthen child nutrition countries in around the world – and in our own country. The Christ Church forum on May 10 will be a chance to learn more and write letters to our members of Congress. May 10 is Mother’s Day, a fitting time to focus on babies and their mothers around the world.

Our nation’s democracy gives each of us far-reaching influence, a gift from God to be used for God’s purposes – and our loving God clearly wants all children to get the nutrition they need to thrive.

Join our Director of Music, Jason Abel, at The Lenten Gathering on March 19

By Susan L. Hahn, Communications Committee

Christ Church Director of Music Jason Abel will join us as the featured speaker at The Gathering for the Lenten Lunch event at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19 in the Auditorium. All are invited by The Hospitality Committee to join in fellowship and lunch. Jason, our music director for the past 15 years, returned from his post-Easter spring 2019 sabbatical just before the beginning of the 2019-2020 program year last fall, having had the opportunity to learn new organ repertoire in preparation for the next Christ Church organ. At the Lenten Gathering, Jason will share stories from his sabbatical experiences and also provide an update on the status of our new organ project. Jason will provide pictures of the work being done on our new instrument and also provide some explanation into the workings of an organ and things to look forward to in the coming months musically.

You can review the fascinating history and future of Christ Church organs and music directors on the history exhibit, being updated regularly, located in the Gift Shop Foyer, to prepare for hearing more about it in March.

As we enjoy the piano during services now during this time while the new instrument is constructed, we also look forward to the new organ expected to arrive in October or November. It will take several weeks of installing the new instrument, followed by a meticulous process of voicing each of the organ’s pipes to be ready.

Come to the Gathering and hear about the Music Ministry, enjoy longstanding friends and make new friendships while enjoying a delicious lunch. RSVP to Cindi Bartol at cindibartol@comcast.net.
History Corner: George Washington and Christ Church

By Sue Johnson, History Committee Member

When the Vestry of the Fairfax Parish received the completed church from the builder on February 27, 1773, it “sold” ten pews to the highest bidders. George Washington purchased pew number 5 for £36.10 ($5,762 in 2019 dollars), the highest price paid.

Washington was 41 years old when construction on what he called the “Church at Alexandria” was completed. According to his diary, he attended his first service at the church on June 13, 1773. He attended services numerous times over the next two years before receiving his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army in 1775, which kept him away from Alexandria for eight years.

After returning to Mount Vernon in 1783 at the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, Washington attended services at Christ Church when he was in Alexandria for business, pleasure or, according to his adopted granddaughter Nelly Custis Lewis, “when the weather and roads permitted a ride of ten miles.” During his Presidency (1789-1797), the Washingtons worshipped at St. Paul’s Chapel and Trinity Church in Manhattan, at St. Peter’s Church, and Christ Church after the government moved to Philadelphia. When he was based in Philadelphia, he attended a July 4, 1793 service held at Christ Church as part of Alexandria’s July 4 festivities.

Washington also financially supported Christ Church beyond his purchase of a pew. He and seven other pewholders signed an agreement in 1785 stating that their pews “shall be forever, charged with an Annual Rent of five pounds Virginia Money each” in anticipation of the passage of the 1786 Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, which completed the separation of Church and State in Virginia, ended secular duties of the Church of England, and completed the abolition of the former system of tax support for the Church of England. During his Presidency, he donated money as part of an effort to buy the church’s first organ.

According to Mount Vernon historians, Washington was described as “attentive” and “respectful” during church services. He generally stood “as was then the custom...during the devotional parts of the service”, while his wife followed the training of her youth and knelt.

Washington’s last recorded visit to Christ Church was on November 17, 1799, about a month before his death. The Rev. Thomas Davis, Rector of Christ Church, spoke at community memorial services at the Presbyterian Meeting House and at his funeral and interment at Mount Vernon.

Today, when newcomers attend a Christ Church service, they often are seated in Washington’s pew as a gesture of welcome. All visitors are invited to sit in the pew during the hours that the church is open for tours, creating a personal connection to our nation’s first President.

Objects of Faith and History – The Baptismal Font

By Chris Zavrel, History Committee member (excerpt from the first of three 2020 forum presentations)

Colonial Anglican churches were originally designed to be more auditory than liturgical spaces where the spoken Word took precedence. The Word was prominently featured in tablets, books, and commanding pulpits. The unadorned and spare architecture of Christ Church places it squarely within the canon of Georgian architecture. The interior design of a colonial Anglican church conveys an understanding of the nature and role of God in the lives of the congregants; beauty resided principally in “regularity, uniformity, and proportion” - in the liturgy, the architecture, and the music. Christ Church’s tradition of baptism through affusion, where water is poured over the head of the person being baptized, does not require a large piece of liturgical furniture. The marble baptismal font was purchased by the Christ Church Vestry in 1818 from James Croudhill. Baptism during this time was seen as a largely private, or family centered, occasion. In fact, until after the Civil War, it was the fashion for baptisms, like weddings, to often take
Rites of Passage

Deaths:
- William Seale
- Anne Gray
- Brints Wommack
- Evalina Hines-Bates
- Ham Hamilton
- Emily Hubbard
- Majok Mading Majok
- Charlotte Biggs
- John King
- Geraldine Argrett
- Pam Harman
- Paul Dillon
- Randal John Soderquist
- Michael Hoare
- Ginny Hammell
- Wendy McMillan
- Erika Frade
- Roger Reeves
- Richard Bradley
- Eric Scorce
- George Vassos

Baptisms:
- Benjamin Dedrick Baize
- Kiran Thatcher Edwards
- Miles Stephen McMurray
- Susannah Mae Cable Fake
- Hunter William Slifka
- Robert Ricky Beckwith
- Gideon Walker Floyd
- Zoë Sabine Eleanor Luken
- Paul Angelo Luken
- Gwendolyn Gail Harden
- Calla Rowan Green

Births:
- Eleanor Jean Harger, daughter of Haley & Kyle Harger
- Samuel Brooks Keith, son of Emily and Rob Keith, grandson of Craig & Sherley Keith
- Ella Thea Jennings, daughter of Kari Foote & Stephen Jennings
- Thomas and Patrick Byrd, grandsons of Tom & Betsy Hahn
- Connor Andrew Abram, grandson of Doug Mitchell & Kitty Dillon

place at home. There is no mention of the location of the baptismal font in the early historical record of Christ Church.

Post-Civil War renovations to Christ Church reflected an arrangement of the church interior called a “Hobart Chancel” that was popularized by John Henry Hobart, Bishop of New York from 1816-1830. Bishop Hobart supported the High Church Movement within the Episcopal Church, which emphasized the significance of baptism. Hobart’s ecclesiastical architectural design placed the pulpit against the east wall with the altar in front and the baptismal font along the same architectural axis within the chancel rails. All three liturgical centers were elevated and visible to the congregation throughout the rites. Because this formalized chancel design is reminiscent of medieval English churches, they connected the Episcopal Church in America to a long, unbroken continuity with Anglican tradition, which in turn reached back to an idealized “apostolic and primitive church” which also helped set the Episcopal Church apart from other Protestant denominations.

The first recorded image of the font in its current location is from a photo dated 1870. The font was knocked over and damaged by a tourist in 1897 and repaired shortly thereafter. An 1898 restoration of Christ Church to its original Georgian colonial architecture resulted in the construction of the current wingless pulpit, but the chancel layout, including the placement of the baptismal font remained unchanged. The silver liner which covers the 1898 replacements to the font was donated by Helen Chapman Calvert, the great-great-granddaughter of John Alexander, who donated the land in 1765 that became the site of Christ Church in 1773.

History Corner References


New Gift Shop Items

The goodies the Gift Shop has been promising for the past month are now in stock - and were they worth the wait! A new and unique selection of the ever-popular Crosses by Woody are each 5-1/2 inches tall and sell for $38.50 apiece. Six inspirational styles are available: Cross of Hope, Cross of Spirit, Cross of Healing, Cross of Creation, Cross of Peace and Cross of the Immigrant.

Also new are scarves and Pashminas in soft, Easter-egg colors ranging in price from only $14 to $24.50.

And while you’re draped in your new scarf, your children could be cuddling with a “Warmie” – a stuffed puppy, kitten, or even a stuffed sloth, that you heat for a few seconds in the microwave and then give to your sad, sick or injured child (or spouse!) to hug. The Gift Shop even has Warmies for babies and infants; they are made without button eyes, nose and mouth to avoid any danger of swallowing. The Warmies sell for $10.50 to $21 depending on their size.

And what’s cozier than cuddling with a Warmie while reading a great book (from the Gift Shop, of course) and sipping a hot cup of specialty tea from the Tea Can Company that comes in “skinny tins” of six sachets for $12 and “mini tins” of four sachets for $6.25 (each sachet makes two cups of tea).

Finally, ladies – and the men who like to shop for the ladies in their lives – we have LOTS of new jewelry in multiple designs and various price points!