

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION
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*Remember to turn in
your pledge card!*



the Messenger

Charleston, South Carolina

The Church of the Holy Communion

January 2021

FROM OUR RECTOR

At one time, I thought of January as a quiet month, a time that was allowed for getting prepared and used to the idea of a new year and a time to begin again to allow the light of the Epiphany to shine anew in our hearts.

While it no longer seems to be a quiet month, it is still, an opportune time to look forward to the year ahead and to consider how the light of Christ may shine through our lives.

This month, we will hold our Annual Meeting, at which time we will elect new Vestry members and Diocesan Convention delegates. And at this meeting we will be presented with reports of the past year's activities from the wardens, vestry persons and committee chairpersons.

The purpose of these reports is to briefly share thoughts on how we have grown as Christ's body, and to inspire plans for how we might continue to do so.

January, though harried, is an important time to think about how we, as a parish church, are to be Christ's light in the world. In the selection of vestry members, you are casting your vote for those who will make the decisions regarding the temporal affairs of the church. As leaders of the parish and trustees of the parish's resources, vestry members should exemplify responsible commitment in their own giving and as well as in the management of the resources of the parish. Perhaps, most importantly, vestry members are also spiritual leaders who are committed to building up the Body of Christ so that it can be an effective instrument of mission and ministry in the community. The Vestry is called to

have a vision of the mission of the church which is beyond the immediate interests and needs of the local congregation. These are vital responsibilities, thereby the nomination and election of committed individuals is crucial. The nomination and election of Diocesan Convention delegates is more important than ever as we endeavor to calling a Diocesan Bishop after a rather lengthy gap.

In considering the leadership of this church, do take some time to seriously look at your commitment and involvement in the work of the church. For your own spiritual health please do consider your own attendance at worship, your involvement in faith formation (Christian education) the stewardship of your time and resources, and your efforts in building community within the church and as well as reaching out to others. All of these are necessary for living into our baptismal call to "Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection and ...share in his eternal priesthood." It is apparent in time, that the closer we are to the light of Christ, the more we reflect that light into a world that needs it so desperately.

P.S. Please let me take this opportunity to express Patty's and my sincere thanks for the many thoughtful and loving expressions of kindness and support shown to us in this Christmas season. Likewise, please know how grateful I am for all who worked so hard in many various ways to make the masses, decorations, music, bulletin preparations, and all else, such a marvelous blessing this Christmastide.

Faithfully, Father Richardson+

Important REMINDERS:

All **MINISTRY REPORTS** need to be turned into the church office no later than January 15 for the annual meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING is January 31 immediately following the 9:15 a.m. Mass

There is **still time** to be considered as a **candidate for the Vestry** (a 3 year term) and/or delegate for the 2021 Convention

Contact: Sharon Dean, Frank Royster or Jan Schumann



We worship God with our heart, mind and soul.

All are welcome in this place.

We meet for Said Mass with choir on Sundays at 9:15 am. Safe Practices & recommended precautions are being used:

- The church is disinfected and sanitized prior to your arrival, and then again upon your departure.
- There are markings on the floor to ensure proper physical distancing,
- There is hand sanitizer at the entrances to the church
- We have masks available to those who need one

There will be a few choir members in place and our organist will be here to provide music for the Mass.

For those of you who are not quite ready to return to in-person mass, the service will be available on our YouTube channel later on Sunday: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCORN1r3JX8Va7aD-R60-HCw>

"THANK YOU"



- **Mark Gould** for repairing the playground structure and the toilet in the toddler's room.
- **Mary Neale Berkaw and Diane Reed** for continued preparation for the Mass by taking care of the Altar Guild responsibilities.
- **Patty Richardson** for the cleaning and care taking of the altar cloths.
- **Diane Reed, Frank Royster, Patty Richardson, and Martin Gramling** for videoing the Mass so our members who haven't returned to worship may view it from their homes.
- **Patty Richardson, Lisa and Sam Covington, Stephanie Jellico, Diane Reed and Mary Neale, and Sharon Dean** for providing for the Sunday Social which follows the Mass every Sunday
- **Sue Cavanaugh, Lewis Leary, Cappy Traywick and Joan Algar** for painting ornaments for the Day School students
- **Shirley Weaver, Patty Richardson, Roy Schmarkey, and Sue Cavanaugh** for putting together the gift bags for the HCDS students
- **Many thanks to Martin Gramling, Cappy and Ben Traywick, Sherry, McCartney, and Frank Royster, Jan Schumann, Lisa Covington and her granddaughter, Juno Covington, Stephanie and Jerry Jellico, Fr. Jeff and Patty Richardson, and Sharon Dean** who helped in the greening of the church.
- Thanks to **Joy Hume and Noah Sanderson** for the greenery, and **Terry Williams** for her contribution for the wreaths.
- And a warm thanks **to all who gave poinsettias and donations for the Christmas music.** The church was beautifully filled with Christmas cheer.

If you see someone doing a kindness within our congregation or elsewhere please consider letting us know who they are, so we may thank them! Email: syjellico@hotmail.com

PARISH RETREAT CANCELED for 2021

With great regret, we are canceling the 2021 Parish Family Retreat. Until there is widespread vaccination for the Covid-19 virus, it is not safe for us to gather.

If things improve dramatically, we will try to do something later in 2021.

Hoping for a healthy 2021!

~Jan Schumann

Baptized individuals interested in Catechism instruction are encouraged to contact Father Jeff.

The next **Messenger** deadline is the 20th each month. Please send information to Stephanie at syjellico@hotmail.com



...and this little fella even received a blessing...



CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION LEADERSHIP & STAFF

The Rev. Jeffrey R. Richardson, Rector
The Rev. Jerry J. Jellico, Deacon
Clara D. Godshall, Choirmaster/Organist
Dorothy Holland, Youth/Children's Minister
Mary Neale Berkaw, Coordinator of Altar Guild Ministries
Kimberly McAtee, Parish Administrator
Stephanie Jellico, Editor of the *Messenger*

HOLY COMMUNION'S DAY SCHOOL STAFF

Stephanie Jellico, Day School Administrator
Cappy Traywick, Day School Committee Chairperson
Belinda Dymek, Day School Teacher
Beth McKie, Day School Teacher
Emily Mills, Day School Teacher
Lisa Clarke, Teaching Assistant
Katherine King, Teaching Assistant

VESTRY MEMEBERS:

Christine Jennings, Sr. Warden
Mark Gould, Jr. Warden
Sharon Dean, 20
Frank Royster, 20
Jan Schumann, 20
Sue Cavanaugh, 21
Martin Gramling, 21
Patricia Henley, 21
Michael Jones, 22
Roy Schmarkey, 22
Skip Schumann, 22

VESTRY PERSONS OF THE DAY FOR JANUARY:

Jan. 3
 Martin Gramling
 Patricia Henley

Jan. 10
 Patricia Henley
 Christine Jennings

Jan. 17
 Christine Jennings
 Michael Jones

Jan. 24
 Michael Jones
 Roy Schmarkey

Jan. 31
 Roy Schmarkey
 Skip Schumann

VESTRY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Christian Education:
 Skip Schumann

Communications:
 Mike Jones

**Day School/Canons
& By-Laws:** Patricia Henley

Greeters: (not yet assigned)

**Outreach
Food Pantry/LOR:**
 Jerry Jellico & Stephanie Jellico

Parish Life/Hospitality:
 Lisa Covington, head
 Sharon Dean, liaison

Pastoral Care: Sharon Dean

Servers Guild: Frank Royster
 training/meeting with younger
 acolytes; chalice bearers

Website: Kim McAtee

Young Adults:
 Martin Gramling

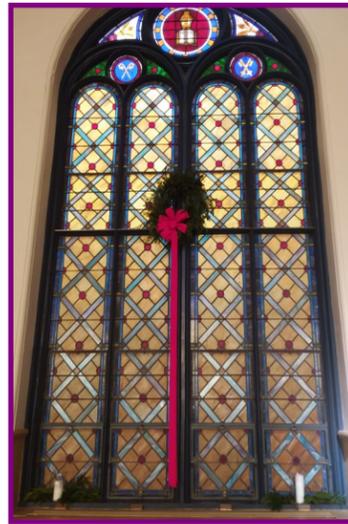
Inreach: Jan Schumann

"Submissions to the Messenger will be added after approval and will not be considered anonymous unless agreed upon by the editor, the Rector and the submitter. Also, submissions may be shared via any and all other electronic means, socially or privately."

CHRISTMAS HIGHLIGHTS: PREPARATION, DECORATING AND CELEBRATING!!!



Preparation begins in the Atrium with the children...



...and continues into adulthood...



True Vine Wreath -Dorothy Porcher Holland

I am the vine, you are the branches, whoever abides in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit: for without me you can do nothing. John 15:5

Jesus often taught in parables. These seemingly simple stories helped his followers to understand profound truths and weighty concepts. Timeless lessons, many of them are familiar even to people who have never attended church or picked up a Bible; they have entered the cultural consciousness. They remain relevant even in a culture that is vastly different than that of Biblical times and continue to offer Christians guidance and wisdom.

In my ministry to children and teenagers, I frequently teach with parables. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori-based approach to faith formation, has a strong focus on parables and a unique approach to sharing them with young people. One that we focus on, particularly with the six-to-nine-year-old students, is the Parable of the True Vine. Although there are a number of important messages in this story, the ultimate lesson is about being in a relationship with Jesus and abiding in his love. When we present to the children, before we even read the parable to them, we begin by saying, "Let's ask the question: Who are you, Jesus?" After reading the text, we go through it again, line by line, engaging them with questions to ensure that they understand and giving them opportunity for reflection.

Then, amid additional thought-provoking questions, we ask, "Have we heard an answer to the question 'Who are you, Jesus?'" and give the children time to ponder that in their hearts. The following week we will return to this lesson, this time focusing on the idea of abiding in him and what we can do to help the vine grow more branches, healthy branches, and take over the garden.

About ten years ago, I noticed a potted scuppermong grape vine at Costco. I was very amused because most people consider scuppermongs to be a weed; these vines grow wild all over the South! Who would buy one? Yet I stopped there in the aisle in front of the unassuming plastic pot, tiny trellis and curling tendrils of grapevine reaching out in every direction. I was transported to my grandmother's house in Bonneau, SC, which had an enormous grape arbor in the yard. In the summer the vines trailed down like curtains on all four sides; it was my castle, my playhouse, my fortress of solitude. It was shaded, secluded and snack providing. Many days, I played there for hours. As I stood in Costco, elbows resting on my cart, my thoughts moved on to the parable. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd presentation calls for some type of "viney" plant and a photo of grapes. In the many versions I have seen, there has been no mention of having a real grape vine because that is ridiculous. A grape vine in a pot? Where would you even find such a thing? Well, apparently, you find it at Costco.

That tiny scuppermong vine came home with me that day and then spent many weeks at Trinity Montessori School representing the True Vine far better than my Golden Pothos ever had. When the school year ended, it came home and was planted next to the gate into my front yard. I suspect my neighbors wish that it hadn't because it has taken over the gate and the fence, and if we are not careful, it will take over the yard. My husband, Jonathan, tends the vine; it is the only yard task he enjoys. He has trained it into a welcoming arch over the gate and grown it into a partial awning over our terrace, where it shields us from the summer heat. It provides shelter for birds, squirrels, anoles, the occasional snake and, one exciting day, a raccoon. Neighborhood children delight in picking the grapes in late summer, spitting the seeds on the ground with joy. By October, the leaves have turned and fallen, giving us a taste of autumn while the live oaks stand, ever green, overhead. The twisted brown vines have a spooky look in the dark on Halloween that is invariably enhanced with giant spiders and skeletons. In late November, Jonathan prunes the vine as it lies dormant, waiting for spring. This year, he had to trim it quite a lot — a good hard prune. He and my daughter, Eudora, gathered the scattered pieces and coiled them up into a wreath for me. I went to the boxes of Christmas decorations and found some bits and bobbles of Christmases past to adorn it. Because I am craft-impaired, I sent pictures to a talented friend and asked if I was doing it right. I got my answer an hour later when she showed up with a basket of greenery that she had gathered in her yard. She stood alone, wearing a mask, in my carport, and made it beautiful.

As we endure this final month of a very difficult year and look ahead to Christmas, we are abiding, together, in the season of Advent. It is providing a shelter for us from the outside world, reminding us what life really is all about, pointing us toward Christmas — not in the way of Cyber Week deals, Hallmark Christmas movies, and anxiety about how to see family and friends safely. No, Advent is reminding us to look inward, upward and outward, to prepare our hearts (this year, in so many ways, our broken hearts) to receive Christ anew. To relearn who he is. To find our way toward him and abide there in him and he in us.

He is the vine, and we are the branches.

Though it is the year with no parties, no hugs, no caroling, no great family feasts, even if the Christmas Pageant is held via Zoom, we have hope. When it feels as though the Grinch has stolen Christmas (and summer and school and so much more!), Advent is here to help us remember that when we truly abide in him, our joy will be complete. Advent gives us hope, which we need more than ever this year.

He is the vine, and we are the branches.

We are all connected by the True Vine. No matter how far away we are, we are held together, *bound* together.

There is a wreath hanging over my mantle right now that is made of love. Love of the God who created and provides for my scuppermong vine, love of the man who tends it, love of the husband and child who created beauty by binding yard trimmings together, love of a friend who took time out of her busy day to take the simple brown twisted wreath and make it into an expression of joy and celebration. Every time I look up at it, I am reminded that my connection to those I love remains. Even though I haven't hugged my parents in eight months or seen my in-laws in over a year, we are bound by love. When I wave at my church family from a distance and try to smile with my eyes, we are still in communion with one another. We will get through this, together, all of us, because love always finds a way. Just like it found a way into this world via a manger in Bethlehem.

KIM'S FAREWELL... we will bid farewell to our dear friend and Parish Administrator, Kim. Please join us after the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31 for a BBQ in the parking lot!!! Anyone wishing to contribute please make checks payable to CHC and on the memo line write: "BBQ".
(Please contact Lisa Covington or Sharon Dean for more information.)

FROM PASTORAL CARE

'No Man Is an Island'

*No man is an island
Entire of itself;
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.*

*If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less,
As well as if a promontory were:
As well as any manner of thy friend's
Or of thine own were.*

*Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.*

You may wonder about this notable poem from John Donne, but bear with me a moment. We all make up the Body of Christ. When you are absent from Mass or fellowship because of infirmity or complacency, we are incomplete. You are loved and missed and prayed for.

In this crazy time, we all need something in the realm of normal which for me, means being with church family and receiving the Holy Sacrament. We are one in the Body and one with each other.

I bid you peace,
Sharon Dean

**HOLY COMMUNION
PODCAST CLUB**

...like a book club, but for podcasts!

Church of the Holy Communion invites you to participate in our virtual podcast club (like a book club, but for podcasts!).

We gather over Zoom each Wednesday night at 8pm to discuss a pre-selected podcast episode on a spiritual or religious topic. Our conversations are a time to connect, ask questions, and learn from others. Over the past year, we have discussed podcast episodes ranging from the book of Job, intercessory prayer, systemic racism, and the water molecule.

Our first meeting of 2021 will be on January 13th - we will discuss an episode of *On Being with Krista Tippett* featuring an interview with Bishop Michael Curry and Dr. Russell Moore <https://onbeing.org/programs/bishop-michael-curry-dr-russell-moore-spiritual-bridge-people/>

To sign up to receive email notices and the Zoom meeting link, please contact Lauren Schumann at LaurenJSchumann@gmail.com. No long-term commitment is required - feel free to pop in any Wednesday that suits your schedule or interests you. We look forward to having you!

Time...

It takes **TIME** for all good things.

It's not *enough* to think about it, do it, come help.

CHC Food Pantry takes approximately 7-10 hours of work each month. **You** are necessary for this ministry to continue growing.

The first step is to **inventory and order** the food (1-2 hours) This is done days before the actual Pantry day.

(Thank you Janet Gallagher)

Next is to drive to the food bank to **purchase** the food, load it and drive it to the church to unload, sort and organize the pantry closet (2 hrs)

(Thank you Jerry and Christian Jellico)

Set-Up (2 hrs) set-up the tables, count and pull out the can goods (or bags), count the bags the food will go into, sweep the floor if any spills happened.

(Thank you Cappy Traywick and Stephanie Jellico)

On the 2nd Saturday, beginning at 7 a.m., **fill the bags** by walking back and forth as an assembly line, placing food items in the bags and grouping them together for distribution and delivery.

Clean-up after: putting away tables, breaking down boxes.(1 1/2 hrs)

(Thank you Mary Neale Berkaw, Mark Gould, Tim Carswell, Andrew Young, Peter and Debbi Everitt, Fr. Jeff, Jerry and Stephanie Jellico, and Diana Vincent)

At 8:00 a.m. **distribution** to our neighbors (30 mins) (Thank you Dawn Balsam)

At 8:30 a.m. **deliveries** begin(1-2 hrs)

(Thank you Morey Lent and John Ettlting, Andrew Young, Jerry and Stephanie Jellico)

For more information contact Jerry at

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1/01 Harrison Covington
- 1/03 Marietta Horres
- 1/03 Joey Mathis
- 1/05 J.R. Williams
- 1/06 McCartney Royster
- 1/08 Adam Moore

- 1/12 Kim McAtee
- 1/16 Catherine Ann Yaw
- 1/21 Jeff Richardson
- 1/22 Barbara Smith
- 1/23 Austin Barrington
- 1/29 Jennifer Randall

SUNDAY Social

Join us for light refreshments at the Sunday Social after Mass in the parking lot!

Prayers of the People

Please join us in praying for the following:

We most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor...

Barbara, Nathlyn, John, Monica, Christian, Sarah, Brad, Shirley, Mary, Johnny Lou, Betty, Ford, Katie, Kathleen, Sue, Lucia, Bob, Carol Sue, Noël, Mason, Abbey, the Hamilton Family, Michael, Linda, Ariel, Bill, Janice, Billy, Anna, Millie, Eliza, Richard, Dixie Ann, Steve, Kaitlyn, Randy, Patricia, the Christopher Family...

and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Lord, in thy mercy, Hear our prayer.

Life Changes...

We pray for Father Dan and Lisa Clarke and their family at the death of her mother, Angie Schilling, Saturday, December 12, 2020.



We pray for Donna Harrell and her family at the death of her husband, Kevin Harrell, on Friday, December 18, 2020.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them.

We celebrate with and extend our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Richardson, (Madison Wexler & Boyd Richardson), on their marriage Saturday, January 2, 2021.



Anyone wishing to share a celebration with your church family please email syjellico@hotmail.com with the details.