

# The Bellringer

Christ Episcopal Church  
66 Middle Haddam Road/P.O. Box 81  
Middle Haddam, CT 06456-0081  
(860) 267-0287

May 2021



**A welcoming community committed to worship, mission and Christian formation in today's world**



I start my vacation this week. At this point most times I am quite elated to break away from everything and recharge. It has always been a nice feeling to begin the countdown to day one of a vacation (which is today) and begin to mentally rest.

But it is difficult to think about shaking off the cares of the world right now when the world is in such a terrible place. Needless to say I do not have to list them; this past week alone is fresh with hate spilled out in homes, businesses and streets. It is hard to imagine that along with an insidious virus there are countless victims of gun violence. But it is reality.

I have a choice. I can go away, sit around and stew over a broken world or I can go away and re-direct my energy to something a lot more productive—God. I don't have to be home to pray. Prayer is always at the tip of my tongue. God is always with me—even though I may not feel it all the time. When that happens, there is a prayer that hangs in my office at home that helps me over the hump:

*"Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock. You wait for me and only I can let you in. I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with presence. Feed me with your body and unite in your blood, that I may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen"*

This is a way to move me into prayer when so many people are suffering and it feels futile to pray. It isn't. It's what God wants us to do. So, this week I will rest, eat, recharge and pray to our awesome, loving God!

Peace, Ann †

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## THE **TREASURER'S** REPORT



### As Of March 2021

Pledges for March were \$9,800.00, over budget by \$2,025.83. Year to date pledges stand at \$30,650.00 over budget by \$7,327.49.

March income was \$14,800.95 over budget by \$5,386.61. Total year to date income is \$38,946.68, over budget by \$10,703.66.

March expenses were \$7,412.64, under budget by \$1,793.37. Total year to date expenses are \$22,934.34 under budget by \$5,933.69.

*Barry Edmonds*, Treasurer

# Alternative Church Sunday



## JOIN US ONLINE

On the fifth Sunday of any month the diocese will be holding selective services at the Cathedral in Hartford and other churches throughout the diocese. The Bishop has asked that all priests take a day off on these Sundays and asks that their congregations attend one of these services on Zoom.com. The dates of these services are May 30, 2021, August 29, 2021 and October 31, 2021. To attend one of these services you would need the ability to log into Zoom.com. Further instructions on how to login will be contained on the Constant Contact weekly updates that Rev. Ann will be sending out as we approach the above dates.



# PLEDGE STATEMENT



Quarterly pledge statements will be mailed out the week of April 19th. When they arrive, you will notice a big change in the format.

Our church switched to new accounting software last year that not only improves our accounting functions but also allows us to record and report pledge payments and other donations made by parishioners.

Your new statement has three sections that I will briefly explain:

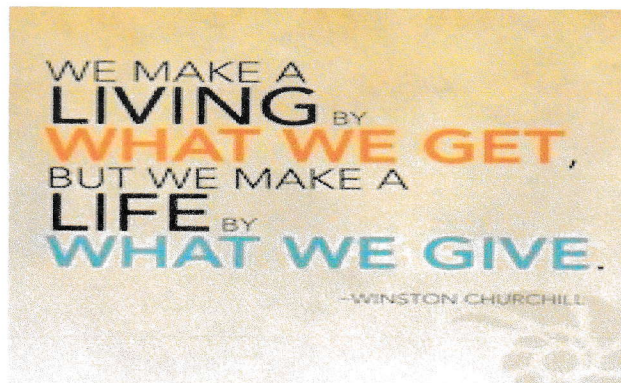
The first section is labeled "Contributions". This will list all donations that we have received from you, the date the donation was deposited into the church checking account and the amount.

The second section is labeled "Fund Summary". This will take each donation from section one and break it out according to how the donation was made (pledge, flowers, Mission, holiday etc.). The amount will be a YTD amount, showing all your contributions to each fund.

The third section is labeled "Pledge Summary". This will give you an update as to where your annual pledge to the church stands. Displaying your annual pledge and the actual amount of payments we have received to date.

If you have any questions about the new statements, contact me.

Barry Edmonds, Treasurer  
bwedmonds@comcast.net  
860-301-9070



# History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2021 will occur on Monday, May 31.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

## Early Observances of Memorial Day

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries.

By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

*Did you know?* Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.

It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. And some records show that one of the earliest Memorial Day commemoration was organized by a group of freed slaves in Charleston, South Carolina less than a month after the Confederacy surrendered in 1865. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day.

Waterloo—which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

## Decoration Day

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed.

The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there.

Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor

*(Continued on page 5)*



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their dead on separate days until after World War I.

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, The Vietnam War, The Korean War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

## Memorial Day Traditions

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C.

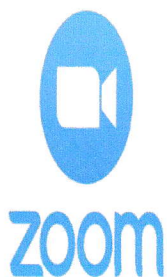
Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem. On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because Memorial Day weekend—the long weekend comprising the Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day and Memorial Day itself—unofficially marks the beginning of summer. The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries.

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**SUNDAY  
SCHOOL**



**All of our children received a Resurrection set to color, cut and assemble. The characters act out the Easter story. This set was made by Gavin Lynch for Sunday School on Easter Day.**

**Here you have pictures of two versions. One set is appropriate for Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. The other is for the Day of Resurrection**

**Can YOU tell which is which??**

**Blessed Easter Season!**

**Joanne and Regina**





# MISSIONS

## News

The Missions Team is pleased to report that we have raised close to \$1000 for St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities in Haiti. We've received \$865 in checks and the bottles and cans receipts plus the sale of Dawn's lovely cards and masks have netted another \$124. Thank you so much, Travis, for redeeming all those bottles and cans and thank you so much, Dawn, for donating the proceeds of your sales.

Our goal is to send a check for \$1200, matching what we sent in the past, before last year's pandemic, and we are closing in on making it. There is still time for you to help by sending in a check to Christ Church and putting "Missions" or "Haiti" in the memo line.

We are renewing our Covenant with Covenant to Care and our DCF Social Worker, Kelsey Brewer, on April 25. We are waiting to see what Kelsey's needs will be but we will let you know. Kelsey has mostly babies in her caseload so we may be doing a diaper drive in the future!

Thank you to Sue Pugatch for continuing to deliver our Food Bank donations and to all of you who have put food in the bins and bottles in the recycling. It has been truly a group effort to continue to help those in our local and greater community in need.



### "FEED MY SHEEP"

Spring is coming upon us. Slowly the weather is warming - the snowdrops, daffodils and crocus are awake. And we, as Christians, have just celebrated the most sacred and solemn season in our church calendar.

We joyously take up the cross to serve our Lord. And we are grateful that this time of isolation, sickness, job loss, and hunger is coming to a slow end. As much as we rejoice in the miracle of COVID-19 vaccines, those shots will not cure all, and certainly not alone. The tragic effects of this virus will persist for a long time. We are not out of the woods and neither are our neighbors - far and wide.

We do not need to know people to offer help. We should not need to know a person to help them in any way we can, large or small.

The two bins at the back door of our church for donations to the East Hampton Food Bank were almost empty during Holy Week and the week after. Not because Susan Pugatch who weekly takes our donations to the Food Bank has been there, but because few of us had been there.

It matters not if your donation is large or small; it will help. It will be greatly appreciated. We are a small church with a big heart. We can have a big impact on the lives and welfare of our neighbors.



## SCRIP GIFT CARD ADVANTAGES

For over two years, members of Christ Church have participated in the Scrip gift card program to help raise money for our church programs. Folks have purchased cards as gifts for birthdays, anniversaries and holidays or for everyday needs.

Gift cards are available from over 700 retail companies countrywide. To view a complete retail list go to: and at the bottom of the page are 2 pdfs for an alphabetical list of stores and a listing by category as well. In either listing, you will notice the rebate amount for every company. Individual companies choose these varying amounts that range from 2-16%, and Scrip immediately reduces the cost of each card by that percentage. In other words, our Church never has to wait for that money to be returned. There is no limit to how long you keep the cards. They do not expire.

**Did you know?** When ordering items from Amazon, you can use Amazon gift cards and order using AmazonSmile. Christ Church will receive the normal rebate from the card and a percentage of the purchase price of the item. Here's how to sign up for AmazonSmile: Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. Choose Christ Church Middle Haddam, CT as your charity. From then, make sure you sign in using AmazonSmile. Encourage your family, friends or your business to select Christ Church Middle Haddam as their AmazonSmile recipient. It costs nothing. The prices are the same!

**Did you know?** When you purchase cards as gifts, make sure to let us know so that we can include special gift card envelopes. They're beautiful, aren't they? Thank you so much to Julie Trowbridge, Ellen Little's sister, who makes and donates these cards to us! The envelopes alone are worth the order; of course they come at no extra cost.

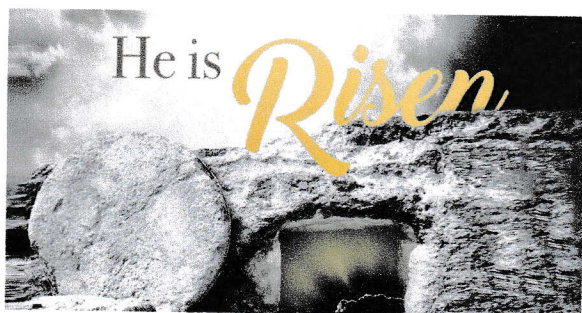
**Did you know?** Instacart is a shopping/delivery service for a wide variety of stores such as Stop & Shop, Big Y, CVS, The Vitamin Shoppe, ShopRite, Bed, Bath & Beyond and others. You can purchase Instacart gift cards to be used for their service when ordering from participating stores. This, of course, gives you the option of using one card for several stores as long as you are using the Instacart service. Especially during this continued time of Covid-19 isolation, this is quite convenient.

We have continued to order Scrip gift cards at least once a month, usually during the 1<sup>st</sup> week. It just takes a little planning. Email me or call me with your order. We can arrange all other details. Have special needs? We try to accommodate your needs.

Thank you for supporting our Church through the Scrip program and AmazonSmile. Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me: . I look forward to hearing from you. And until we 'see' each other in church, be well, be safe, be blessed.

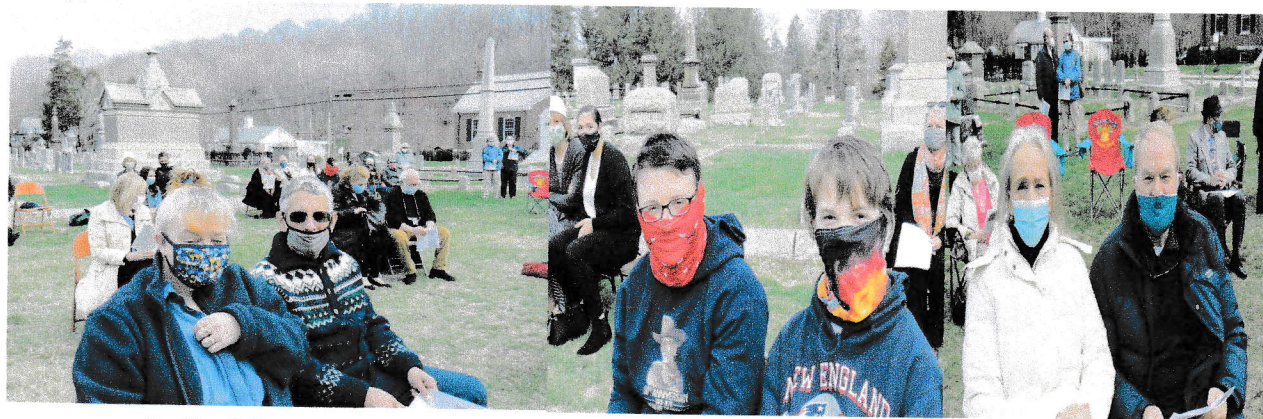
Bobette Reed Kahn





## Combined Easter Services at Saint Stephen's

This year we were invited, by Rev. Erin Flynn, Priest-In-Charge, to participate in a combined Easter Sunday service at Saint Stephen's church in East Haddam. Here are some pictures of those attending from Christ Church.



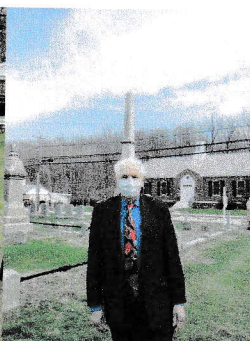
Jenifer & Doug Bevins

Travis & Ty Bevins

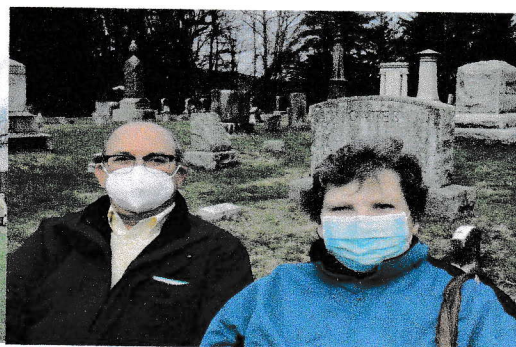
Cindy & Paul Strickett



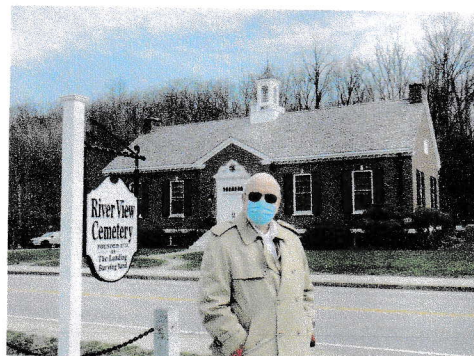
Dottie Currie & Mark Garafalo



Godfrey Perrott



Winnie & Barry Edmonds



Bruce Dubay



Susie Cordon Karl



Bruce Dubay & Liz Garafalo

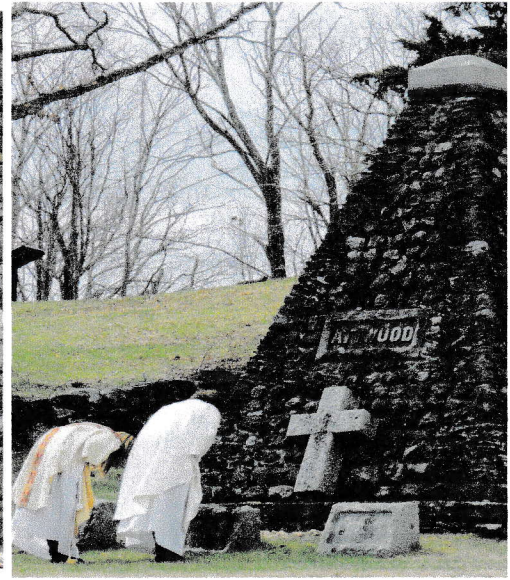
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Rev. Ann & Rev. Flynn



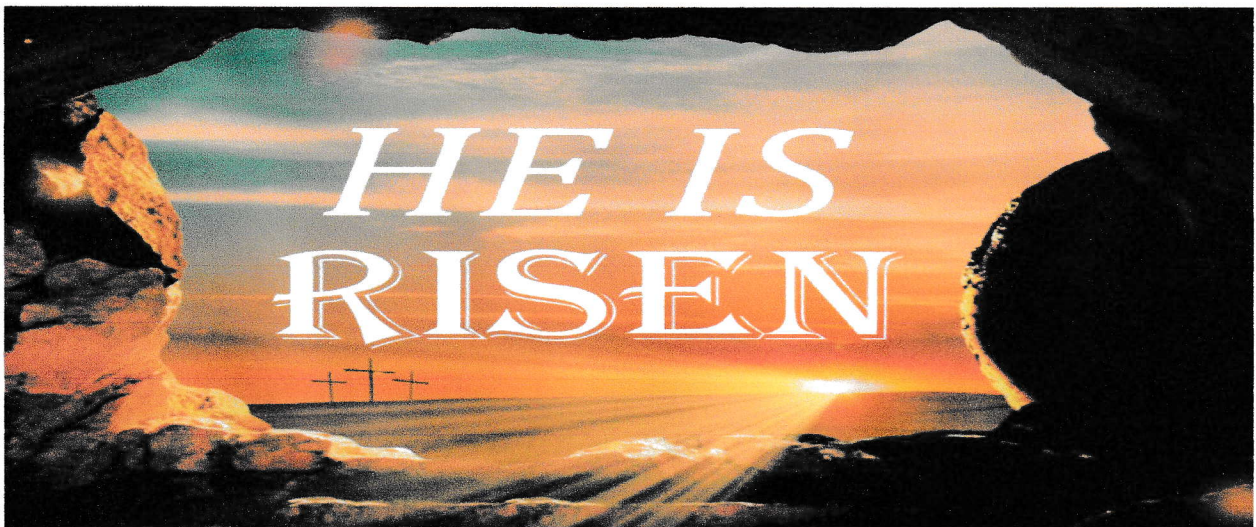
Returning the elements to the earth



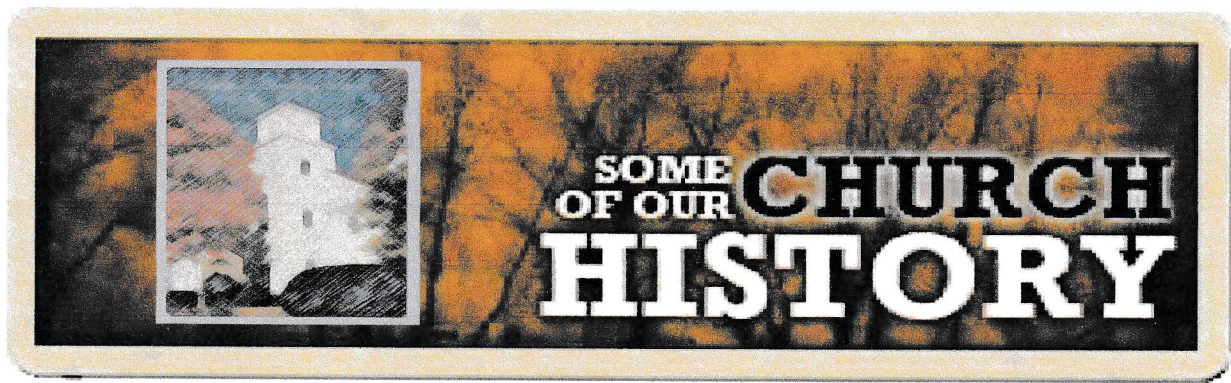
Dawn & Gordon Gingras



Patti Stannard & Guest







**Christ Church has a long and distinguished history in the village of Middle Haddam, Connecticut. Some of our parishioners may not be familiar with that history. Here is the start of our journey into it's history from start to the present.**

The *Reverend Sylvester Nash* was rector the two succeeding years until 1846, when the *Reverend F.B. Woodward, M.D.* took over. He served for twelve years, not only as rector but also as the town's doctor, taking care of bodies as well as souls.

In 1856, while *Reverend Woodward* was in charge, the church was repaired and furnished with new pews. A low desk and high pulpit were removed, and a reading desk and pulpit were placed on either side of the chancel. The walls were also frescoed under the direction of John Steward, a prominent member of the church.

The *Reverend I. F. Davies*, who was with the Berkeley Divinity School in Middletown, was rector immediately following *Reverend Woodward*. He was well liked by the congregation and served from 1858-1861. The *Reverend William A. Hitchcock* followed *Davies* and was rector 1861-1862. From 1862-1863, *Dr. Henry Dekoven* offered his services. He presented the church with a large Bible.

For the next ten years The *Reverend William H. Vibbert* was rector. He built up the largest Sunday School attendance that the church had ever seen. *Mr. Vibbert* worked hard to make his church free, and in 1871, the free church system was adopted. A memorial window to him remains in the church today.

The *Reverend John Binney*, also connected with the Berkeley Divinity School in Middletown, was rector 1874-1876. *Reverend Binney* was instrumental in persuading the congregation to acquire a resident rector, believing that the church as a whole would benefit having a clergyman living in close proximity.

The *Reverend E. B. Taylor, 1876-1878*, was a resident rector who came to the church under Deacon's orders. He was advanced to the priesthood by the Bishop in Christ Church. *Reverend Taylor* was very interested in the Sunday School program, and worked to procure the rectory, but resigned before it was purchased in 1880.

The *Reverend A. P. Chapman* who came to the church in 1879 was the first to reside in the newly acquired rectory. Next The *Reverend F. R. Sanford* took charge in 1882 while still a Deacon, and was admitted to priest's orders June, 1882 in Christ Church. *Reverend Sanford* was followed by The *Reverend R. C. Scaring*, who stayed one year.

The *Reverend F. D. Harriman*, who came to serve on July 20, 1884, was well liked by his people. He oversaw improvements to the church, which included re-fencing. *Reverend Harriman* was the first rector to preside over church meetings on a regular basis. At the Centennial Anniversary of the church,

*(Continued on page 12)*

*(Continued from page 11)*

**June 17, 1885**, he was offered praise and gratitude in an historical sketch presented by John Stewart.

The first century of Christ Church saw over twenty-five men serve as rector. The next one hundred would see over twenty. Below is a list of rectors, interim rectors, supply priests and two lay readers, who served our church for the next one hundred years and brought it to its present day.

The **Reverend Herbert L. Mitchell, 1891-1894**. During his stay a new organ was installed at a cost of approximately fifteen thousand dollars.

There was a gap of two years. Apparently during this lapse thirteen ministers turned down appointment to this rectorship.

The **Reverend J. D. Ewing, 1896-1900**. He was appointed by the Bishop.

The **Reverend Everett B. Smiffen, 1900-1901**.

The **Reverend S. R. Colloday, 1901-1905**.

St. John's church was formed in 1902, and **Reverend Colloday** ministered to both congregations.

The **Reverend Floyd Kenyon, 1905-1906**.

The **Reverend E. H. Fitzgerald, 1906-1907**. He left the following year to do missionary work in China, where he died.

The **Reverend S. R. Colloday** again in 1907 until 1908. He later became Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford.

The **Reverend William P. Waterbury, 1908-1910**. He succeeded in raising money to build St. John's Mission.

The **Reverend Anton Gesner, 1910-1919**. **Reverend Gesner's** son was confirmed in Christ Church, and later became Bishop of South Dakota (1963). **Bishop Gesner** visited Christ Church for confirmation while assisting in Connecticut after his retirement as Bishop of South Dakota. In 1910 the church celebrated its one hundred and twenty fifth anniversary.

The **Reverend George Heyn, 1921-1924**. Under **Reverend Heyn**, Ida Lawson became the first woman Clerk of Parish in the Diocese.

The **Reverend Percy M. Binnington, 1924-1928**. During his rectorship the church voted to have both Intinction and Common Chalice.

The **Reverend Leon Mansur, 1928-1935**. For years, Christ Church and St. John's were under the leadership of Portland's Trinity Church rectorship. The **Reverend Mansur** changed that when he became Priest-in-Charge of Middle Haddam and East Hampton. Mr. Mansur died at 33 years of age after a short illness while serving Christ Church Parish. St. John's Parish House was a memorial to **Reverend Mansur**.

**TO BE CONTINUED...**



# Calendar of Events

## Sunday, May 2, 2021 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. - Spiritual Communion with Rev. Ann Perrott  
(This will be a virtual celebration on Zoom.com)



## Sunday, May 9, 2021 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day

10:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer with Rev. Ann Perrott  
(This will be a virtual celebration on Zoom.com)



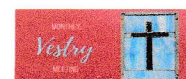
## Sunday, May 16, 2021 – The Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer with Rev. Ann Perrott  
(This will be a virtual celebration on Zoom.com)



## Tuesday, May 18, 2021 - Vestry Meeting

6:30 p.m. - (This will be a virtual meeting on Zoom.com)



## Sunday, May 23 2021 – Pentecost Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer with Rev. Ann Perrott  
(This will be a virtual celebration on Zoom.com)



## Sunday, May 30, 2021 – The First Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 a.m. - Spiritual Communion with Rev. Ann Perrott  
(This will be a virtual celebration on Zoom.com)



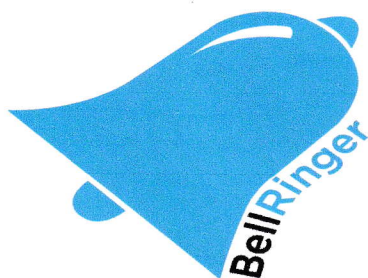
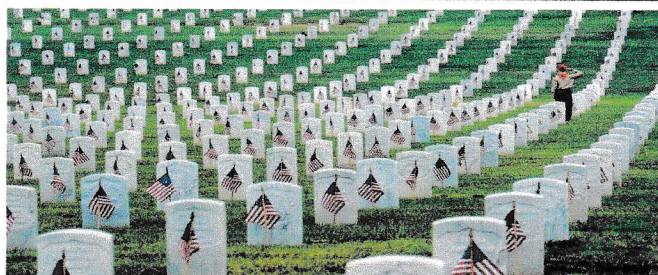
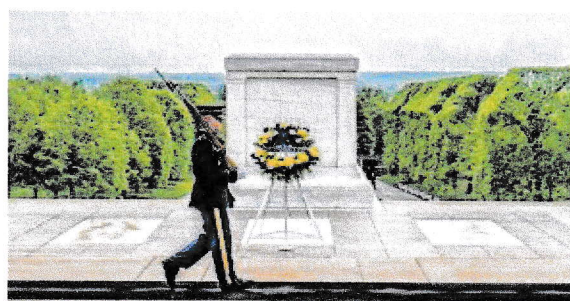


# Birthdays of the Month

# Celebrating Anniversaries this Month

<b>Joanna Cecilio</b>	<b>05/05</b>
<b>Pamela Jayne Strickett</b>	<b>05/09</b>
<b>Bud Curry</b>	<b>05/10</b>
<b>Mary Boretz</b>	<b>05/11</b>
<b>Veronica Pietruska</b>	<b>05/12</b>
<b>Gavin Lynch</b>	<b>05/17</b>
<b>Kenna Wanat</b>	<b>05/18</b>
<b>Alexia Leon</b>	<b>05/20</b>
<b>Andrew Briere</b>	<b>05/25</b>
<b>James Van Cott</b>	<b>05/28</b>
<b>Michael Lynch</b>	<b>05/31</b>

<b>Linda &amp; Dick Napoletano</b>	<b>05/11</b>
<b>Karen &amp; Rick Wanat</b>	<b>05/13</b>
<b>Cindy &amp; Paul Strickett</b>	<b>05/24</b>



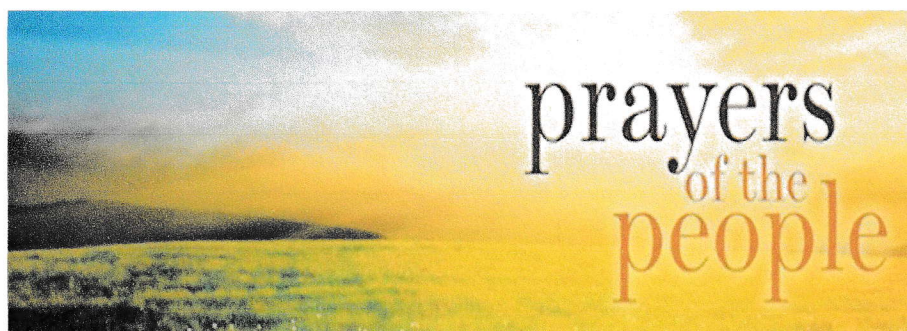
The deadline for the submission of all articles and/or items of interest for the June 2021 issue of the Bellringer is May 15, 2021.

Send all submissions to:

**DEADLINE**

[christchurchbellringer@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbellringer@gmail.com)





Amanda Hill; Angela Connelly and family; Barbara Chesky; Barbara Kataoka; Betsy Pinder; Betty Smock; Brennen Van Cott; Bud Briere; Cindy Strickett; Connie Thomas; Dana Vick; Daniel Hastings; Denise; Elaine and Bob Gray; Gerry Leddy; James Lustig; Jenn & David Mulcahy; Jill; Judy Newsoroff; Julia Cushing; Julie; L.V Horton; Nancy; Neil; Ozzie; Sandi Eddy; Sandra; Sarah; Shirley; Sue Steath; Terry; Tom Brown; Willie Fuqua.

For all who have lost their jobs, especially due to Covid 19.

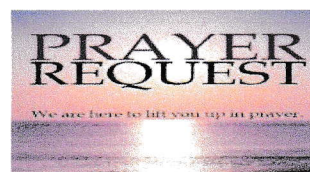
For all suffering from the effects of racism, and violence throughout the world.

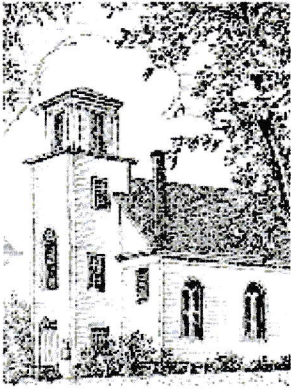
Let us give our thanks, and prayers, for

- the dedicated people on the front lines helping those affected by Covid 19, first responders, hospital staff, doctors, nurses and care givers;
- the “essential service workers”, often working long hours for low pay so we can live our lives, teachers who continue to teach students virtually and in-person during challenging times



**If you know of someone that needs prayers and you would like them added to our prayer list, please contact Joal Lentz in the church office by email at [ccmadmin@gmail.com](mailto:ccmadmin@gmail.com) or by calling 860-267-0287. Each request will be placed on the prayer list for a period of 30 days. If, at the end of 30 days you wish to have the individual remain on the prayer list, you will have to initiate a new request.**





*Christ Episcopal Church  
66 Middle Haddam Road  
PO Box 81  
Middle Haddam, CT 06456-0081  
860-267-0287  
ccmhadmin@gmail.com*

## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH INFO:

### Officers:

Susie Cordon Karl, Sr. Warden  
Donna Dube Hryb, Jr. Warden  
Barry Edmonds, Treasurer  
Bruce A. Dubay, Parish Clerk

### Church Office Hours:

Monday: 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
Wednesday: 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

### Church Website:

[christchurchmiddllehaddam.com](http://christchurchmiddllehaddam.com)

### Church e-mail:

[ccmhadmin@gmail.com](mailto:ccmhadmin@gmail.com)

### Sexton:

Brian Donaldson

### Vestry:

Bobette Reed Kahn  
Donald (Bud) Briere  
Regina Starolis  
Clive Connor  
Jennifer Bevin  
Geri Cecilio

### Choirmaster & Organist:

Martha Brundage Alimi

### Parish Administrator:

Joal Lentz

### Bellringer Editor

Bruce A. Dubay

### Bellringer e-mail:

[christchurchbellringer@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchbellringer@gmail.com)