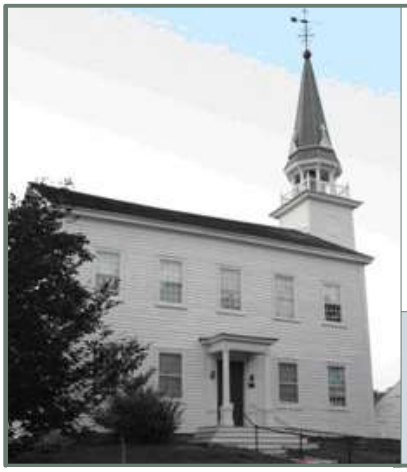

THE MESSENGER

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY OF
CHRIST CHURCH, DUANESBURG, NEW YORK

✠ OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020 ✠

Photo by Christine Chandler

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

With the 2020 Presidential Election coming up on November 3 some of you may be asking how should Christians vote? Is there a Biblical position advocating voting for either a Republican or Democrat? The short answer is 'no'. However, Scripture gives a clear picture of what we should expect from those with political authority. In Romans 13:1-7 Paul defines the proper role of government as promoting good and punishing evil. Problems arise if we disagree with the governing authority or candidate we didn't vote for. Prayer is the place where we hold before God those we would naturally support as well as those with whom we disagree. Even if we don't get the election result we want, we are still called to pray on behalf of those who are elected that they may work for the good of all.

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Pray before you Vote

- ✠ Give thanks for your right to vote (many countries don't have free elections).
- ✠ Pray for the issues that matter to you and which candidate(s) best represents your views.
- ✠ Pray for each candidate on the ballot paper (even the ones you don't like or disagree with!) giving thanks for their willingness to serve the people with their talents.

Vote

Pray after you Vote

- ✠ Pray for those elected to places of authority, "that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Tim 2:2)

- ✠ Also pray that those elected serve their constituency with compassion, humility and dedication.
- ✠ Pray for a spirit of unity and bipartisan cooperation at all levels of government.

Blessings,

Fr. Alistair ✠

For additional information about voting in your district, including early voting and polling locations, visit the New York State Board of Elections at https://www.elections.ny.gov/

Dear Christ Church family!

Operation Christmas Child Collection Day: 11/22/2020

"And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"

Matthew 25: 40

Boxes and packing suggestions/instructions will be placed on the round table in the parish hall.

Deacon Debbie

CHRIST CHURCH IN THE NEWS

A CAR SALESMAN BECOMES RECTOR OF CHRIST CHURCH

The article below appeared in the Daily Gazette on January 29, 2007. It was a rewrite of a previous article from the then Schenectady Gazette, likely published around 1962:

Car salesman kept job while training to be Episcopal priest

SID BROWN/GAZETTE FILE PHOTOS

Christ Episcopal Church parishioners greet Vicar Higgins after a service.

BY JEFF WILKIN
Gazette Reporter

Capital Region Scrapbook

John V. Higgins spent part of his day helping people travel. He was a car salesman during the winter of 1960.

The personable, dark-haired young man also spent time preparing folks for spiritual destinations. As a vicar-in-training at Christ Episcopal Church in Duanesburg, Higgins put parishioners on the highway to heaven.

The church needed a man in the pulpit. The Rev. James Rowland had left the church during the late 1950s, and a new rector had not taken his place. In 1959, Higgins began conducting limited services as a lay reader. That fall, he decided to study for the Episcopal priesthood.

"The vestry had been considering possible candidates for the rectorate for several months," the Schenectady Gazette reported, "when it became known that Higgins for some years had aspired to the priesthood but could see no way clear to continue supporting his family and read for orders at the same time."

Episcopal leaders encouraged Higgins. Soon, the vicar and his family — his wife and five small children — moved into the rectory. The large farmhouse had been built near the crest of a hill on Route 20, just west of the church.

"Back in the days when men of the cloth helped out their churchly stipend with some farming on the side, the rectory's 88 acres of rich farmland furnished a handsome addition to what the vestry could pay their priest," wrote the Gazette's C.W. Andrews. "Today, however, farming in these parts isn't what it used to be, and Vicar Higgins says he'll stick to car selling until he becomes a full-fledged man of the cloth entitled to receive a rector's salary."

Higgins, 30, attended classes at All Saints Cathedral in Albany and learned about rector's work from Rev. George E. DeMille, canon of the cathedral. DeMille was probably rooting for Higgins' success; he had once been rector himself at the Duanesburg church.

The vicar also received help on the weekends. Rev. Ernest B. Pugh, pastor of

(Continued on page 4)

Reverend Higgins, sometimes known as "Jack" by a number of his parishioners, was successful during his tenure at Christ Church, as measured by attendance and parish activities. However, by 1963 he had been called to St. Phillips Episcopal Church in Norwood, NY, located in St. Lawrence County, near Potsdam. Other aspects of his tenure at Christ Church included working as a substitute bus driver for Duanesburg Central School, as well as being the last rector to occupy the former Rectory, as noted in the article. Reverend Higgins eventually left both the Albany Diocese and the priesthood and lived his retirement years in Florida.

Pastor Ernest B. Pugh, left, rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Schenectady, confers with Vicar John V. Higgins during the winter of 1960. Higgins was studying for the Episcopal priesthood at the time.

Christ Episcopal Church in Schenectady, conducted Communion services at the end of each month. Pugh was in charge of the Duanesburg parish and presided over all rites that required the priestly office.

Higgins helped his superior, conducting morning prayer services in the Schenectady church.

"The vestry has an arrangement with Vicar Higgins whereby he will continue to serve the parish on a lay basis during the next two years or so until he shall have completed his studies and be ordained," Andrews wrote.

Higgins persevered. He was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal church on April 29, 1961.

But after that year, no other newspaper clips mentioned the new pastor. The Episcopal Diocese of Albany said Higgins' name does not appear on any roster of current or retired rectors in the area.

Reach Gazette reporter Jeff Wilkin at 395-3124 or at wilkin@dailygazette.com.

Several years ago, one of his daughters, Karen, visited Christ Church and left a photograph of her father taken when he was rector. The picture is now displayed in the Parish Hall along with the other former rectors. ✠

VESTRY MEETING NOTES

OCTOBER 21, 2020 MEETING

- Ladies Auxiliary – Heather MacDougall presented an update on the Ladies Auxiliary and its fundraising plans in lieu of having no Rummage Sale this Fall.
- Sunday Service Live Broadcasting – John has researched microphones and a transmitter to help improve the quality of our weekly broadcasts.
- Draft Spending Plan – Laura (Treasurer) presented a draft Spending Plan for 2021. The vestry will vote on the plan at the November meeting.
- Operation Christmas Child
  Collection Day: 11/22/2020. Materials on round table in the Parish Hall
- Income and Expenditure - September 2020
  - Total Income - $ 5,570.78
  - Expenditure - $ 9,066.12 ✠

✠ OCTOBER 2020 ✠

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	**2** Phil & Jenna Sayles	**3** Jane Weyers
4 PENTECOST 19 **Holy Eucharist – 10am**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8** Paul & Theresa Munson	**9** Joan & John Langston	**10** Linda Dow
11 PENTECOST 20 **Holy Eucharist – 10am**	**12** Christine Chandler	**13** Brendan & Amy Walsh	**14** Jasmyn Hart	**15** Judy Breitenstein	**16** Michele McKinley	**17**
18 PENTECOST 21 **Holy Eucharist – 10am** Bobby Chandler	**19**	**20**	**21** **Vestry Meeting** Cal & Jane Weyers	**22** Bill McHugh, Amy Walsh	**23** Stephanie McKinley	**24** Debbie Beach, Adam Acevedo Denny & Chris Wolfe
25 PENTECOST 22 **Holy Eucharist – 10am**	**26**	**27** Bob Chandler	**28** Marge Cummings, Jim Featherstonhaugh, Chris Wolfe	**29**	**30** Sharon Smith Lisa & Bill McHugh, Ryan & Kelly Powers	**31**

✠ NOVEMBER 2020 ✠

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ALL SAINTS **Holy Eucharist – 10am** Daniel Menzies, III, Tim Fischer	**2**	**3 ELECTION DAY** Ryan Moses, Drew Palluti, Nellie Kosier Bruce & Sharon Smith	**4**	**5**	**6** Sarah Langston	**7** Cheryl Lennox, Zachary Therrion
8 PENTECOST 24 **Holy Eucharist – 10am**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14** Cindy Skala
15 PENTECOST 25 **Holy Eucharist – 10am**	**16**	**17**	**18** **Vestry Meeting**	**19**	**20**	**21**
22 PENTECOST 26 **Holy Eucharist – 10am** Jenna Sayles	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26 THANKSGIVING** Cindy Creasy	**27**	**28** Art & Camille Crandall
29 ADVENT 1 **Holy Eucharist – 10am** Jeffrey Hunt Raul & Janet Bastiani	**30**					

SERVICE OFFERINGS

As a reminder, there are a variety of worship settings available to you and may be chosen based on your personal preference:

- Worship in the church building. Christ Church is implementing the Episcopal Diocese's guidance for safe practices.
- Worship from the carpark. Audio of the service will be broadcast in the carpark as well for those wishing to remain outdoors.
- Worship at home. The Sunday services are live streamed and viewable on the Church's Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchDuanesburg/
- Communion is offered as a drive through option following Christ Church's 10:00 service, in the church carpark from 11:30 to noon. Enter from Duanesburg Churches and exit down the driveway onto Route 20.

Christ Church is a worshiping community of friends, joyfully serving, encouraging and healing others in Jesus's name.

The parish is located at:
132 Duanesburg Churches Rd,
Duanesburg, NY, on the corner of Rt. 20 and Duanesburg Churches Rd.

Rector:
Fr. Alistair Morrison
revajmorrison@gmail.com

Deacon:
Debbie Beach (518) 372-1352
or (518) 669-1898
dbeach21@verizon.net

Vestry members:
Cindy Creasy – Sr. Warden
John Weiler – Jr. Warden
Judy Breitenstein
Tim Fischer
Laura Lucia
Nancy Palluti
Andrea Salisbury
Phil Sayles
Steven Schrade

Treasurer:
Laura Lucia

Parish Hall Ph.: *(518) 895-2383*

Christ Church
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Duanesburg, New York 12056-0092