

# The Angelus

January 2018



## What's Inside?

**From the Rector** – Father John's asks us to remember three things and a valediction / farewell – his last service at Christ Church will be January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Capital Campaign** – An update about this historic and important campaign

**Adult Forum** – Three upcoming events in January (7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>) please join us!

**Acolytes** – Please come to the 9:00 a.m. service on January 14<sup>th</sup> for the installation of new acolytes

**Environmental Stewardship** – The Roman Catholic Church announces its divestment from fossil fuels

**Save The Date** – Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. is Father John's last service at Christ Church – this is followed by a reception in the Murdock and Dining Rooms to celebrate Father John and wish him well on his new adventure

The **Bargain Box** – The Bargain Box turns 60! Also, the next Outreach Sunday is on January 21<sup>st</sup>

**We love you Fr. McDuffie!!**  
Reflections Across 19+ Wonderful Years

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The *Angelus* is published 10 months a year.  
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## From the Rector



*Fr. McDuffie*

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is my last letter for the Angelus. I thought and thought about what I wanted to say to you, the church family I've had the privilege of being with and serving these past nineteen and a half years. I thought about sharing notable memories – but there were too many, and maybe I will do some of that in the Adult Forum I'm leading on January 14<sup>th</sup>. So before offering a simple valediction, let me mention three things that are on my mind.

- 1) Please make sure you make a financial pledge to Christ Church for 2018. If you love this church, and have found something that has been good for your life in this place, you can help maintain its strength and vitality in coming days. Don't say to yourself, "Somebody else will have to bear the weight of supporting the budget, and not me." I pray that my successor in ministry will be wise, gifted, and commissioned to bring a creative new pair of eyes, ears, and hands to serve. The more stable the church is financially, the more attractive it will be to a capable priest who may be discerning a new call to ministry. We are a church in transition, with many older members moving on, and newer individuals coming in. There may be a shortfall in anticipated pledge income for 2018, so everybody is important in supporting the life of the parish.
- 2) I hope a lot of you will come to Jazz Vespers on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. I started this service ten years ago, after my 2007 sabbatical. Jazz is a wonderful experiment in how the Holy Spirit can inspire spontaneous, hitherto unimagined moments of creativity. This is our last offering, and it will benefit Community Ministries of Rockville. We had a splendid attendance at our December 3<sup>rd</sup> service, raising over \$1000 for Interfaith Works, and I hope that we can do something similar for our friends at CMR.
- 3) Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, is my last service – just one that morning, at 10:00 a.m., followed by a farewell reception. There is a theme in the scriptural lessons I have chosen for the day, and it is "the love of Christ in community".

And now, a valediction. We will bid one another "Good-bye" (God be with you) on January 28<sup>th</sup>. At farewells, I'm invariably reminded of the song "Some Other Time" by Leonard Bernstein, Adolph Comden, and Betty Green, from the musical On the Town. Some of the lyrics:

*Where has the time all gone to,  
Haven't done half the things we want to,  
Oh well... we'll catch up, some other time*

*Just when the party's starting  
Comes the time for parting  
But let's be glad for what we've had  
And what...is to come.*

Of course, we won't catch up some other time, in the way that we have known each other over the years. But at the same time, there is really no farewell. Wherever I go, wherever I am in the remainder of my days, I will carry Christ Church with me in my heart. And if my ministry has been a welcome part of your life, I hope that wherever you go, you will also carry me with you. Love never dies, and that is one of the great truths of our faith. "Nothing good ever ends", says Mrs. Macauley to her son Ulysses in the movie The Human Comedy (a 1943 film that is one of my all-time sentimental favorites). "If it did, there would be no people; there would be no life at all." I know that what I take away from Christ Church that is good will always remain with me.

I can't say much more as I write this letter, because I do not wish to descend into clichés and pious platitudes – so I will close with one of the great old blessings that was used in our tradition in days gone by:

*Go forth into the world in peace;  
Be of good courage;  
Hold fast that which is good;  
Render to no one evil for evil;  
Strengthen the fainthearted;  
Support the weak;  
Help the afflicted;  
Honor everyone;  
Love and serve the Lord,  
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
Be among you and remain with you always.*

Ever Your Friend in Christ,

John+

## **Adult Forum – Sunday Mornings** **10:10-10:55am Murdock Room**

**January 7<sup>th</sup> – "Christianity and Other Religions" with Dr. Michael R. Slater**, Associate Professor of Theology, Georgetown University

Join in a lively conversation with our esteemed parishioner/professor as he discusses some of the theological challenges that the fact of religious diversity presents for Christians – for example, that religions make different truth-claims – and some of the different ways that these challenges can be approached.

Dr. Slater is a Christ Church parishioner along with his wife Dr. Erin Cline, who is also a member of Georgetown University's faculty, and their children Patrick, Bridget and Siobhan.

## **January 14<sup>th</sup> – Parting Devotions, Prayers, and Blessings from Fr. McDuffie**

Don't miss this LAST FORUM with our beloved Rector as he heads toward the new horizon of retirement. What a wonderful opportunity to reminisce together across a span of nearly two decades.

## **January 21<sup>st</sup> – Episcopal Schools Sunday celebrated in Worship at the 9:00 a.m. Service!**

Worship with our school community and share in Serving Others Sunday together as well!

## **Environmental Stewardship**

### **Roman Catholic Church to make record divestment from fossil fuels**

More than 40 Roman Catholic institutions are to announce the largest ever faith-based divestment from fossil fuels, on the anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi.

The sum involved has not been disclosed, but the volume of divesting groups is four times higher than a previous church record (<https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2017/05/11/nine-catholic-institutions-divest-fossil-fuels-ahead-g7/>), and adds to a global divestment movement, led by investors worth \$5.5T.

This divestment is in addition to those religious institution efforts to respond to climate change reported in the June, 2017 issue of the Angelus:

<http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/religious-statements-on-climate-change/>

## **Christ Episcopal Capital Campaign**

### **Update: New Year Resolutions and our “Firm Foundation, Bright Future”**

As this update is being written, it is mid-December and people are scurrying from place to place, enjoying holiday parties, picking those ‘perfect’ presents for family and friends, and anticipating the glorious arrival of Christmas Day. Once the celebrations and festivities come to a joyful end, we face the promise of a new year, and one that holds many opportunities for all of us. Many people will form their personal resolutions list, maybe looking like this:

- Learn Something New Each Day
- Make New Friends
- Play More
- Move More
- Read More Books
- Meditate More

All of these promises (and more) to improve our personal lives are also reflected in the hopes and wishes we have for our church and school family. The Capital Campaign classroom and educational resources’ improvements will support the Christ Episcopal School students as they, too, learn something new each day, make new friends, play more, and grow spiritually as well as physically stronger. Gifts to the Capital Campaign will also help solidify the financial position of Christ Episcopal Church, and revitalize its most used areas of gathering and worship. With this rejuvenation, both Church and School will continue as vital members of the Rockville community for another 50 years.



As of this writing, the pledged amount for our combined Christ Episcopal Capital Campaign is \$2.4 million. We've come a long way since the campaign kicked off in August, but the goal to implement all the needed improvements is still ahead.

**Make YOUR New Year's Resolution count for the Christ Church community.** If you have not done so yet, please call the Church office at 301-762-2191 to request someone come visit with you and tell you all about our exciting plans. If you have comments or questions, please contact us at [capital-campaign@cecrockville.org](mailto:capital-campaign@cecrockville.org).

Please pledge to the Christ Episcopal Capital Campaign now.  
(<http://www.christchurchrockville.org/capital-campaign/>)

## Acolytes

**New Acolytes to be Installed:** Please join us at the 9:00 a.m. Service on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, when Fr. McDuffie will install this year's class of new acolytes. This is the one service in the year when we try to get all of the acolytes to attend. The new acolytes participated in a seven-week training program in the Fall on liturgy and church history, as well as covering the mechanics of serving as we practice it at Christ Church. During the service, the new acolytes will be vested with white cottas and receive a simple wooden cross on a black ribbon which will be worn during their first year of service. Acolytes who have served for six years receive a special cross.

This year six acolytes will be awarded six year crosses: Will Fowler, Juliana Martin, Mandy Mossman, Megan Mossman, Alina Philip, and Aliza Philip. We have six new people to install: Jean Claude Dinda, Kyle Glynn, Kristian Glynn, Abigail Keenan, Teddy Lin, and Christine Ngandu. Additionally, we will be welcoming three transfers from other parishes: Louise Keenan, Teddy Keenan, and Rachel Pepper.

We invite you all to attend this service to give your welcome and support to this great group of people. – Bob James, Acolyte Master, 301-493-9283, Ext. 116

## Save The Date



January 28<sup>th</sup> is Fr. McDuffie's last day as our Rector. There will be one service that Sunday, at 10:00 a.m., followed by an All-Parish Reception in the Murdock and Dining Rooms. You are all invited to attend the service and reception to wish Fr. McDuffie a fond farewell and a happy retirement.



**398 THRIFT SHOP**  
**THE BARGAIN BOX**

**THE BARGAIN BOX TURNS 60!**

This year, 2017, marks sixty years that the Bargain Box has been in operation. Quite an achievement for an all-volunteer organization! On Sunday November 12, Fr. John McDuffie and the Reverend Cindy Simpson blessed the store during a volunteer appreciation party.



**OUTREACH SUNDAY**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month**



The third Sunday of the month is Outreach Sunday at Christ Church. We will be in the Dining Room on Sunday, January 21 with a winter-themed raffle.

**The Bargain Box**  
**Thrift and Consignment Shop**

*An Outreach Ministry since 1957*

398 Hungerford Drive, Rockville 20850


301-762-2242

Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 4:30 pm

Donna Wolohojian, Manager

Email: [bargainbox@cecrockville.org](mailto:bargainbox@cecrockville.org)

On the web: [www.bargain-box.org](http://www.bargain-box.org)

 Follow us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/BargainBoxRockville](http://www.facebook.com/BargainBoxRockville)

*All our profits fund outreach projects  
in the community and diocese.*

# Children's & Youth Ministries

## Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>



**Worship Services at 7:45am, 9am and 11am** in the Church  
**Nursery is available 9am – 12:15pm** for infants & toddlers  
**Children's Church begins at 9am** in the Murdock Room  
**Sunday School from 10:15 – 11am** in the Classrooms

## Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>



**Worship Services are at 7:45am, 9am & 11am** in the Church  
**Nursery is available 9am – 12:15pm** for infants & toddlers  
**Children's Church begins at 9am** in the Murdock Room

## Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

**Day of Service from 12pm – 4pm** Meet in the Parish House – a day to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King doing service for those in need. We will work on a variety of projects around the Rockville area. SSL hours will be given for work completed and friends are welcome with lunch included. **RSVP** to Mrs. Craig by Jan 8<sup>th</sup> at 301/762-2191 #15.

**Youth Summer Mission Trips Planning Meeting at 7pm** in the Youth Room. The meeting is for all youth in 7 – 12<sup>th</sup> grades who are interested in participating in a mission trip. A discussion about locations, costs, service and projects. Bring your calendars and ideas!!!

## Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>



**Worship Services are at 7:45am, 9am & 11am** in the Church  
**Nursery is available 9am – 12:15pm** for infants & toddlers  
**Children's Church meets at 9am** in the Dining Room

**SOS – Serving Others Sunday at 10:15am** in the Murdock Room

**Smart Sacks, Sandwich & Granola Making, Cards for the Troops** - We make 350 sandwiches and 300 bags of granola for McKenna's Wagon and fill 340 bags of food for 84 children at Meadow Hall Elementary School who need food on the weekends. We'll make Valentine's Cards for the Troops serving in Afghanistan, too!

**Youth Group Jazz Vespers & Dinner from 5 - 7:30pm** in the Parish House





# Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>



**Worship Service at 10:00am** in the Church – Rev McDuffie’s Last Sunday!!!  
**Nursery is available 9:45am – 11:15am** for infants & toddlers  
**Reception for Rev McDuffie at 11:15am** in the Murdock Room for All!  
**Ice Skating for EVERYONE from 6 – 8pm** at the Rockville Town Center

Join us for an evening of  
**Ice Skating, Hot Cocoa,  
Cider & Donuts**

**Cost is \$5.00 pp (skates included!)**

Meet at the Rockville Town Center\*  
**Family & Friends are welcome!**



**RSVP by Jan 15**

**Hosted by Christ Church, Rockville Youth Group**

**301/762-2191 #15 or [mcraig@cecrockville.org](mailto:mcraig@cecrockville.org)**

**\*Directions & Skating Rink Info\***

**<http://www.rockvilleiceskating.com/contact.html>**

For questions relating to  
**Children’s & Youth Ministries – please contact:**  
Michele Craig  
Director of Children’s & Youth Ministries  
301/762-2191 #15 or [mcraig@cecrockville.org](mailto:mcraig@cecrockville.org)



# We love you Fr. McDuffie!!

## Reflections Across 19+ Wonderful Years

Our parish Wardens, staff members, Vestry, Head of School, ministry committee chairs, other parish leaders and former seminarians were invited to write reflections upon Fr. John's 19+ years of ministry with and for us, noting how the many areas of our parish life have developed and flourished, and sharing what his rich ministry has meant personally to each of us. Such writings give us a wonderful chance to survey the vitality and depth of our communal life and to celebrate John's shepherding that has led us, with God's help, to a good and broad "land." Enjoy the following in no particular order.

### **Reflections from the Head of School**

To Fr. McDuffie, with love and gratitude for,

Giving me a chance as a brand new head of school;

Shepherding me through the intricacies of church/school relations and helping me to appreciate the beauty of how Christ Church and the school are so intricately woven together;

Loving and supporting Christ Episcopal School;

Sprinkling the CES children with Holy Water every fall as a reminder that they are bathed in God's love;

Keeping me focused on our higher calling of service;

Supporting the efforts of the ambitious *Firm Foundation; Bright Future* capital campaign;

Sharing your love of music and helping me to develop a greater appreciation for jazz;

Having faith in my leadership and encouraging me to embrace that same faith;

Being willing to step out to try new things and create new traditions;

Teaching me that being a leader at a church and school means that we receive many professional growth opportunities as we learn about asbestos, asphalt, HVAC systems, boilers and chillers, energy-efficient lighting, plumbing, plastering, fire alarms, latex vs. oil paint, steeples, roof repair, zoning, city ordinances, the importance of the number of parking spaces needed for an office building, tenant relationships, and traffic patterns;

Sharing your wonderful sense of humor;

Quoting the perfect line from poetry, a book or a movie that sums up the beauty or absurdity of the moment;

Being my friend, mentor and guide. I will be forever grateful.

Caroline

## **Reflections from a long ago Senior Warden**

Nineteen years have come and gone. Time's passage does not improve recall, but this I know. Christ Episcopal Church was ready for new leadership. The Parish was recovering from the difficult departure of our former Rector. Although almost a year had passed, mixed feelings remained. The Vestry had charged the search committee to identify and interview several prospective candidates. Search processes can seem to go on and on, but they are complicated, and patience is necessary. In the end, the top three were brought in to meet us all. From that process a consensus emerged around one man, John McDuffie.

We deliberated. We prayed. And then we extended an offer. John came in. We discussed timing and the particulars of his contract. Budget constraints are not a new phenomenon. In the end, we were blessed with John's acceptance of our call. You could say, "The rest is history." Actually, a more accurate statement would be, "And so began, a rich and blessed history, full of ups and downs, baptisms and funerals, weddings and divorces, budgetary surplus and budgetary shortfall."

Ministries grew and flourished. Our youth traveled and served across the country, outreach expanded to help many more in our community, our School earned accreditation and grew. Our new Rector brought stability we yearned for and inspired renewed confidence in our missions. I am grateful that he chose to serve God here. He has been a blessing for our Parish.

George Wolohojian  
December 2017

## **Reflections from the Current Chair of the Outreach Committee**

The Outreach Committee serves as tangible evidence of God's love by providing joyful opportunities to give of our time, talents, and treasure. We strive to make a difference in the lives of people in need, respecting their dignity, promoting justice in common human needs such as food, clothing, housing, and medical care. As stewards of the financial resources entrusted to us we will join with selected established local, national and international agencies in order to satisfy short-term needs and effect long-term changes.

This was the mission statement that the Outreach Committee developed after a months long discernment process in 2016 that began shortly after I began as chair of the Outreach Committee.

Father John has been there for the Outreach Committee when we needed him and yet he let us find our own way when we were ready. I began as chair of the Outreach Committee in January 2016 after some changes in leadership. I knew I could turn to Father John for advice when I needed it. We began a discernment process to develop a mission statement and the team met with Father John to develop a strategy. From the beginning, we drew on his advice and experience. He guided us as we got started, recommending working with parishioner Sam Ireland who was able to help us through the strategic planning process.

He provided input as we brainstormed, without telling us how to proceed. He set us in motion and made sure we were okay. The result of that gentle leadership was a mission statement that we all could work from to ensure that Christ Episcopal Church would help the poor and promote justice in common human needs. Thank you Father John.

Benjamin Shuman  
December 2017

### **Reflections from a Former Chair of the Outreach Committee**

It was about the year 2000, if I recall, and while the Bargain Box and Michele Craig's Youth Group were heavily involved in social outreach ministry, and there were some other specific outreach activities being supported by Christ Church parishioners, the parish did not have a formal coordinated Outreach Committee. So, a few of us approach Father John with the idea of launching such a committee. John's answer was immediate: "Absolutely. Let's do it!"

So began the Christ Church Outreach Committee that is still going strong under the capable leadership of Ben Shuman. Within a very short time back in the early 2000's, we had a very active group that met monthly to coordinate outreach activities for the parish not already operated by the Youth Group or the Bargain Box. The existing outreach activities were soon augmented by a number of others. It seems like in no time we had the following folks involved in the referenced programs:

- Rebecca Browning – Diocesan Hunger Fund, committee co-chair
- Mary Belknap – transition housing, Samaritan Ministry, English Conversation Class
- Ron Tipton – Samaritan Ministries
- Kelvin Dowd – committee chair, Loaves and Fishes
- George Wong – started Stop Hunger Now for us, Loaves and Fishes.
- Mike Hinds – Loaves and Fishes, Stop Hunger Now. and committee treasurer
- Melissa Oprysko – Hope in Richmond, South Africa
- Linda Rhoads – transitional housing, Loaves and Fishes
- Ralph Veale – Rockville HELP aka Fish
- Linda Wright – Loaves and Fishes
- Caitlin Rancier – Community Ministries of Rockville
- Bill Thompson – committee chair, Loaves and Fishes, and some of the other activities

CEC's development as a parish known for its broad range of outreach activities and relatively robust outreach budget has been a direct result of Father John's leadership, and the active encouragement of Rev. Cindy Simpson. All of us who have been involved in those ministries are forever grateful to John for enabling this expression of our faith to flourish in the Christ Church community.

William Thompson  
December 2017

## **Reflections from the Current Senior Warden**

While I have been a member of Christ Church since 1986, I only became an active participant in 2002. The fact that I have rarely missed a Sunday since coming in January of 2003 is largely due to Fr. McDuffie. For the first time, not only did I listen to the sermon instead of planning the week ahead of me in my head, but I actually heard the sermon. Many were the times that some, or all, of the sermon reached out to me directly and touched a part of me that needed that particular message that day. I would wonder, and continue to, how he knows the messages I need to hear on a given day. Gradually, as I became more involved in the church and came to know Fr. John better, I came to appreciate many of his other gifts – his uncanny ability to remember names and faces, his rich grasp of theology, his boundless recall of arcane facts, his remarkable ability to imitate voices, his quirky sense of humor, his pastoral skill, to mention only a few.

In 2005, I became the Vestry secretary to a very contentious and highly uncongenial Vestry. Those meetings were frequently painful to sit through and to observe the lack of respect that abounded for everyone, but especially for Fr. John. I often wondered why he stayed, but stay he did, and gradually wrought significant changes not only in the Vestry but in the church in general. Today, Christ Church is a very different place than it was when I first became involved. We are a strong congregation with a beautiful music program and an enviable Youth Program. We have active ministries that involve many people and engage in tangible activities that benefit the congregation and the world outside the church. There are no longer turf wars among the ministries for money, attention, and yes, bulletin board space. Most of this is due to Fr. John. He has encouraged the formation of new ministries to address environmental stewardship and animal welfare. He has strengthened existing ministries like Pastoral Care and Outreach, often merely by his active participation.

I have served two stints as Senior Warden during the last 10 years of Fr. John's tenure. During this time, I have come to know John and Mary well. I count them both as good friends. John has earned his retirement. No one is sadder or more reluctant to see him go than I am. He actually brought me back to Christ, he nurtured my growth as a servant of Christ, he recognized what talents I might share with the church, he annoyed the daylights out of me at times, but always, he has been there as a steady pastoral presence to guide his flock.

Christine K. Carrico  
December 2017

## **Reflections from the Newcomer's Committee**

Our greatest champion second to our Lord has been The Rev. John McDuffie. He has a heart for newcomers with his warm welcome, phenomenal capacity to recall names, and engaging manner of getting to know people. Two committee members also offered these warm and heart-felt thoughts from their individual experience.

From Kenneth Ekechukwu:

The news that Fr. John McDuffie will be retiring was received with mixed feelings. On one hand, Fr. McDuffie has touched the lives of many at Christ Church so profoundly that they will not want him to retire any time soon. On the other hand, Fr. McDuffie has made the decision and who are we to deprive him the right to do so.



Personally, when I found myself at the crossroads not knowing which way to go, Fr. McDuffie provided me with a spiritual compass. The compass guides and helps one to keep to the right course. Collectively, our congregation has been blessed tremendously under Fr. McDuffie, which prompts me to invite everyone to join me in asking Fr. McDuffie to prayerfully consider postponing his retirement for a few more years. Who can turn down the opportunity to be doubly blessed? Like the Prophet Elisha, I will always ask for *a double portion* - 2 Kings 2:9.

From Laura Spears:

Fr. McDuffie is the most caring, sensitive person I have ever met. When I discovered that my heater needed replacing, he bought one for me.

While we will sorely miss Fr. John and his marvelous leadership, we will carry the torch onward in showing newcomers in our midst what a wonderful, faithful (with God's help), and friendly community we are.

The Rev. Cindy Simpson  
December 2017

### **Reflections from a Current Vestry Member**

After a brief search early in 2007, my husband and I chose Christ Episcopal Church for its exceptional music. Nearly 11 years later, and after nearly five years on the Vestry, I am saddened by your decision to retire though I understand that only you, like all of us, can choose the time for that step. I have had many opportunities to reflect upon the demands placed upon the rector of an Episcopalian church. He or she must care for the parishioners of the church, keep the church strong, and make us a force for good in our community.

John, your conscientiousness in all of these areas is remarkable. You pour out a very personal level of caring when things go wrong for people. When I was hospitalized for a week with a serious case of pneumonia, you were there for me. When I received a diagnosis of cancer but didn't yet know the prognosis, you were there for me. As a vestry member, I have witnessed countless difficult management decisions you have had to make. Did I always agree with you? Of course not. But you consistently met two essential tests: you always, always tried to do the right thing; and before deciding, you truly listened to and considered the opinions offered. In terms of a presence in our community, two things that come through are the efforts you make for our church to contribute time as well as financial resources to various community ministries, and the amount of time you devote to developing and maintaining relationships with faith communities of all kinds. Finally, the resources required to keep an older church building functioning are enormous, and require constant attention. I have been tremendously impressed both by the efforts of our Junior and Senior Wardens, and by the number and importance of choices you must make. The level of coordination you must ensure and the degree of cooperation required are impressive. All of these qualities are difficult to find, and more difficult to find in a single individual. All that, and Jazz Vespers too! I will miss you, and can only hope we are lucky enough to find these qualities in your successor.

Peggy Gilliam  
December 2017

## St. Francis' Flock Reflections on Father John McDuffie

St. Francis Flock expresses gratitude for the love and support of Father John McDuffie. We will miss him dearly.

We are so grateful that we had church leadership that supported (and continues to support through our own clergy liaison, Reverend Cindy Simpson) our animal welfare ministry. Father John played an instrumental role in not only the approval of the ministry's formation, but as an active participant in most, if not all, of our key events. We will always be grateful for the homilies he provided at our groundbreaking Pet Memorial Services, blessing our beloved animal companions at the Blessings of the Animals, and attending our first ever "Celebrate Animals Fair" which occurred on a highly unusual cold, windy, and



rainy day in May 2017. We had worked so hard to put the event together and our 14 animal welfare non-profits had faithfully shown up with their tents, tables, umbrellas, and animals. Attendance by the general public and parish was low, understandably, taking into account the undesirable weather.

While some of us manned booths, others were securing tents that had been blown over by the wind, and checking in with our non-profit guests to ensure they had what they needed, while conveying to them that their participation is greatly appreciated and that their work is valued and celebrated within our small, but passionate ministry, and within the greater Episcopal church.

For me personally, one of the highlights of that challenging but heartfelt day was when I looked up and in the midst of the chaotic, dreary weather saw Father McDuffie walking around with his umbrella visiting the booths. It warmed my heart to see that he (and Father Athanasius Choi who later stopped by) cared enough to come to our event, even though he/they had no formal role in it and the weather was so disagreeable.



Father McDuffie stopped by every booth to talk to all 14 participating non-profits.

He will always be remembered as a calm presence at our functions. He was always approachable, always pleasant.

Father McDuffie donated pet supplies, participating in our donation drives to support local animal shelters and pet food banks. For our Pet Memorial Service in 2016, not only did he provide the homily, but he also submitted a picture of his beloved cat, Naim, and beloved dogs, Lulu, Rosie, and Winston McDuffie to be honored/remembered. I'll never forget as we were about to begin our very first Pet Memorial Service in 2015, we were naturally nervous, anticipating the unfolding of this unconventional event that we had created from scratch. Father John said softly with a smile, "Let's do this". And we did.

In Memory of  
*Naim McDuffie*



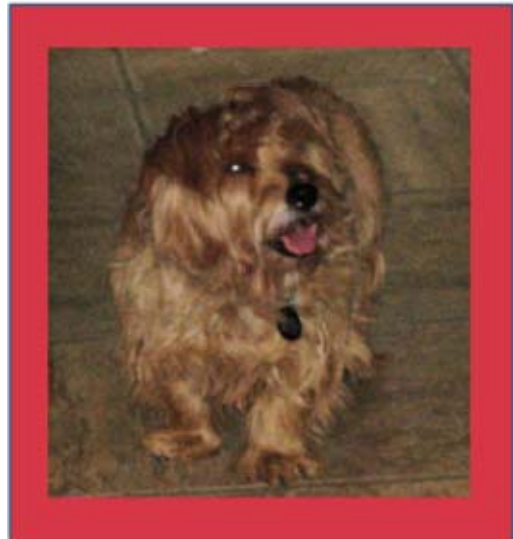
In Memory of  
*Lulu McDuffie*



In Memory of  
*Rosie McDuffie*



In Memory of  
*Winston McDuffie*



Father McDuffie also served as a calming presence at other animal welfare gatherings – for people and for animals.



*Father McDuffie Blesses Gina Tolerton (left) and a Guinea Pig Held by Benji Wong (right) at the 2017 Blessings of the Animals*





*Father McDuffie Presides over the 2017 Blessings of the Animals While Marie Matulka-Nicely Reads from Genesis*

During his leadership, we formed in 2014 as an informal animal welfare ministry and were approved as a formal ministry in 2015. We are so appreciative that he and others were open to not only a new ministry for Christ Episcopal Church, but a somewhat atypical and progressive ministry. Father McDuffie will be remembered for his compassionate and progressive Christian views. He was always supportive of the Flock and of me and my family.

The Flock will miss him and I will miss him.

Lori Nicely, Chair

With Gratitude on behalf of St. Francis Flock Animal Welfare Ministry

December 2017

### **Reflections from Pastoral Care**

Dear Father John – It is with very mixed feelings I write as you are about to begin a new journey. Your presence as my priest for the past nearly 20 years has certainly been such a Blessing, not only to me, but to our entire church community. You have such a huge and loving heart for your family at Christ Church and I've seen it personally many times over. Working with you on Pastoral Care has been so rich and so positive. You pour out your heart to all of us in our times of need. You don't consider "it's my day off" or any excuse if one of your flock is in a difficult position. You are there to support, comfort, anoint with oil or offer Eucharist. I have been on the receiving end personally a number of times.

We traveled to Annapolis one day to visit Carolyn Duter and you offered communion and prayer as they took her off oxygen. No question there was a palpable presence of the Holy Spirit to each of us at that time, even an unbeliever was deeply touched.

Another remembrance was when Geraldine Stark was hospitalized. You came back to the Parish House to get a prayer shawl for her and took it over immediately as she was one of our faithful on Pastoral Care who actually got us started on that very special ministry. Over the years, many have been recipients of those prayer shawls that were prayed over as they were being made and before they were presented.



Another big event was when Jeanette Coppa went home unexpectedly after her surgery. I will always cherish the prayers offered over her at Suburban Hospital, prior to her return home. You didn't hesitate to come as soon as you got word. It was the day before Easter when we celebrated our Lord's resurrection.

The memories remain of your constant concern for your beloved flock. You will be greatly missed by all of us who have been privileged to know you and your dear Mary. This is not an ending but a new beginning and we can all celebrate your ministry. Well done, faithful servant, with our hearts full of gratitude and thanksgiving for your many years of faithful ministry among us. Loving You Forever,

Kaye Kubas (Pastoral Care)  
December 2017

### **Reflections from a Greeter for Newcomers**

There are so many reasons to be grateful for the ministry of John McDuffie, I could fill an Angelus. However, in the interest of sharing this space, I will confine myself to the thing I will miss most: his rare and precious ability to speak to any and all of us with the voice of gentle acceptance and understanding.

As a greeter for newcomers, I am sometimes stationed at the exit as folks say their Sunday goodbyes after the 11:00 a.m. service. I don't mean to eavesdrop, but when there are no newcomers to greet, I do find myself wondering at John's gift for meeting each of us with such unwavering kindness and good will. He has got to be tired after three services, yet he greets us all – the old and the young, those who appreciated the sermon and those who didn't, those who have attended Christ Church forever and those who have just spent their first Sunday with us – with gentle good humor, with patience, and with a sense of reverence for the importance of such a weekly benediction.

We have been richly blessed to have a rector with this inimitable gift.

Kate Albus-Yeatman  
December 2017

### **Reflections from the Bargain Box**

John's ministry has blessed, supported and expanded the Outreach mission of The Bargain Box for one-third of its sixty-year history. Here are some highlights. In 2003, the development of Town Center meant the Bargain Box had to relocate or close its doors. John and the Vestry approved the relocation to our current home, under the leadership of Nellilewis Quay (and her broom!). In 2007, the store celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. John honored volunteers in a service and a reception in the Murdock Room. One of the hymns chosen was Hymn 541 – "Come Labor On....Servants, Well Done!" A brick was placed in the All Saints Walkway in recognition.

Two years later, in June of 2009, the Bargain Box was renovated by several high school seniors as a community service project. New carpet, shelves, racks and paint brightened and modernized the sales floor and work areas. Prior to our grand reopening, John and Cindy toured the store and offered prayers and blessings for all volunteers with a liberal sprinkling of holy water.

Less than a year later, in the spring of 2010, the store front next to the Bargain Box became available for rent. John and the Vestry approved the expansion of the Bargain Box into this space, a HUGE leap of faith. The expansion project took several months, and in December, we were ready to celebrate the “new big store”. John and Cindy led a volunteer parade with bells, candles and holy water throughout the store. For months, there were drip lines of holy water marking our front windows.

In May 2010, thanks to an idea by Jeanette Coppa, and with John’s approval, the Bargain Box set up its first sales table in the dining room during coffee hour. Outreach Sunday expanded to Serving Others Sunday (“SOS”) and we now need three tables. Each month, volunteers share information about the store and ways to volunteer, sell a few items and hold a themed raffle. Now the Bargain Box is sixty years old! In November, John and Cindy came to the store to celebrate, reminisce, and join in fellowship with volunteers and supporters. Prayers were offered and once again, holy water was sprinkled liberally in every nook and cranny, on every volunteer and granny!

In closing, I must mention that John has also been a faithful Bargain Box customer. Over the years, he has purchased many books and jazz CD’s. However, I think he’d tell you that his most treasured find is a “glow in the dark” Jesus figurine! You can’t get one of those just anywhere!

Donna Wolohojian  
December 2017

### **Reflections from the Current Fellowship Committee Chair**

Reflecting on the past 19+ years Father John has been our rector is rich in so many ways. To name a few is his leadership skills, compassion, and showing us so many times that looking at an issue sometimes from different points of view may bring forth the correct answer to a problem. One of his strongest qualities is his ability to comfort families when they have lost a loved one.

All good things must come to an end. As the Irish say:  
*May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again.*

Blessings to you and Mary.

Bobbie Power  
December 2017

## Reflections from the former Chaplain of CES and Associate Rector of Christ Church

John Stouffer McDuffie was received into this Diocese from the Diocese of Ohio in December of 1989. I met him almost right away at a WECA meeting and I still remember my first response: Thank you, God! He was personable, engaging, and came across as the genuine article – a priest eager to *nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come* (BCP p. 531). And I've been thanking God over all the years since. Here are some of the reasons.

In those early years, we were often at clergy meetings, conferences, Diocesan events, days away, and the like. We were in the same Region, he as Rector of St. Dunstan's, I as Rector of St. Anne's and both of us were active participants in WECA. So there were lots of opportunities to get a sense of who each other was. Sometimes we worked together. And as the years went on, I grew to value him as a treasured colleague who had a wise voice, a pastor's heart, a believer's faith, a counselor's savvy, and a servant's disposition. As I had intuited upon first meeting him, he was the real deal – a veritable disciple of Jesus Christ.

When I came to Christ Church, it was a time of turmoil and transition. The Rector left under a cloud within a couple months. An ensuing interim period followed with its own share of upheavals and challenges. As the time approached for seeking a new Rector, John and I had conversation. I hoped and I prayed that this authentic disciple might be called. And nineteen years ago he was!

Over our years of working as a team, new insights into his gifts emerged. His liturgical presence communicated The Presence in small services up in the choir, Great Feast Days of packed pews, in CES Thursday worship and the school's seasonal Eucharists, in pastoral offices, and bedside Communions under Special Circumstances. And his sermons? Some – like his homily at Taffy Berrien's funeral – I'll never forget! One more thing that has to be mentioned is what he does with that tenor sax. A stunning moment for me was my first hearing of his *Sometimes I feel like a Motherless Child* at a Good Friday Liturgy. Everything else fell away – it was Golgotha expressed in music.

Perhaps what stands out most, however, is that with all these gifts, John remained an unpretentious humble servant. He became a confidante in whom I could share deep concerns, personal sadness, even embarrassing confessional troubles. What a gift to be working with someone with whom vulnerability and honesty were experienced as sacred trusts. And there were occasions when he ventured similar confidences in me as well. I believe it is exceptional for a Rector and a Staff Associate to enjoy such collegial friendship.

I thank God for this man, and I thank John for more than these words can say.

The Rev. Karen Johnson  
December 2017

## **Reflections from a fellow Priest**

Almost 20 years ago, we first landed at Christ Church on the occasion of John's initial Sunday service. Impressed with the Rector and the church, we decided to return in the hopes of making Christ Church our worship home. On a Sunday not long after, John began his sermon by imitating different salespeople calling his home looking to speak with "Mr. McDuffie." I was surprised to hear an imitation coming from the pulpit. I honestly didn't know that a priest could even do that. But more importantly, I also remember that, in addition to being funny and insightful, the imitations effectively helped to illuminate the gospel text that day (I am not sure after all these years, but I think the point was something about one's true identity versus the one's people assign to you). Many of you know that John is a skilled imitator. In fact, to the delight of many, John recently served up a few character impersonations drawing from the classic western "Shane" while preaching at my institution this past November. But his ability as an imitator is far surpassed by his ability to use a stunningly wide range of gifts in the service of faithfully and fully living into his call as priest and pastor. Over the years, I have continued to be surprised by the scope of his many gifts, interests and experiences. John covers a wide waterfront encompassing poetry, prose, movies, art, politics, social science, travel, theology, sports (really, baseball) and, of course, jazz to name a few that come to mind. Also known to many is his uncanny recall of facts, places, events, and people. He resourcefully and creatively employs all these things in his practice of ministry. Having made the turn under his watch into ordained ministry, more than seminary or any other formational influence, among the many things he has offered me is the permission to draw from my own interests and experience in my preaching, teaching, and pastoral care.

On a more personal note, I have been greatly blessed by John's care as a deeply empathic and caring pastor. John doesn't run away when the winds kick up and the seas get stormy. He has a big heart for those who are sick, troubled or in need. In collaboration with Cindy Simpson, Kaye Kubas, and a host of faithful parishioners, he has nurtured a vibrant Pastoral Care ministry that by virtue of being deeply grounded in prayer and active expressions of compassion is second to none. That is the highest tribute and kudos I might give a priest, and really, any person who seeks to serve Christ. As John makes the transition and takes on yet another role, I believe that, as he does with so many things, he will do this well with authenticity and humility, along with a sense of humor, and that he will continue to have a profound impact on those around him – those who understandably see God reflected in his being.

John, Godspeed as you embark on the next phase of your life journey and may it be filled with much joy, wonder, and fulfillment. Many, many blessings to you, Mary and all your loved ones.

With deep gratitude for your presence in my life and friendship,

The Rev. George Wong  
December 2017



## **Reflections from a former Senior Warden**

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”  
— Mahatma Gandhi

John Mc Duffie has been my friend for more than ten years and friend and spiritual leader of the Christ Church congregation for more than nineteen years. As our pastor, Father John has officiated at and celebrated with our family at the marriage of Rebecca and JT on Block Island, the baptism of Elliot, and the double baptism of Von and Avery at Christ Church. We feel very fortunate to count him as a true friend and counselor.

In these tumultuous times for the Church (and the country), Father John’s ministry has been dynamic and enlightened; modern, yet respectful of church tradition, innovative, without compromising the achievements of the past. Navigating past and present challenges for the Christ Church and Christ Episcopal School has been no easy task, but with confidence and conviction, diplomacy and tenacity, he has lead us through some very difficult times, giving us reason to look to the future with cautious optimism.

Father John is caring and compassionate, discriminating, yet inclusive. In an era when it is ever harder to identify a good role model for our children, we need look no further than John McDuffie, who by example, is that model. Taking the lead from the Mahatma on living and learning, Father John does “learn as if [he] were to live forever”. His interests – Christ Church, the Rockville faith community, the Diocese, golf, modern jazz, theater, classic films, the Nats and even the Redskins – are protean. He is certainly the best read person I know. Not surprising then, this parish priest, this role model, this very human person, is something of a “Renaissance Man” for our times and our community.

Personally, I will miss Father John very much. I will miss our formal and informal chats, our shared angst and shared laughter, our triumphs and tragedies. I will miss him at the altar and at the pulpit. But I/we won’t miss his friendship, as that will surely endure, not only for me, but for our entire congregation.

Buzz Von Arx  
December 2017

## **Reflections from the Assistant Rector & CES Chaplain**

### **Top Ten Things I Love about Fr. John McDuffie**

1. He’s the real deal: a faithful priest who believes what he says and seeks to follow God in all things.
2. He’s given me the gift of freedom in ministry--in preaching and worship leading, in ministering with committees, in making pastoral calls, in projects from Capital Campaign to serving on diocesan-level enterprises, in exploring new callings toward care of the planet & its creatures, and other dimensions of Christ Church and School life.

3. He is hard-working and deeply committed to quality ministry whilst always able to lighten the day with playfulness, spot-on impressions and delightful humor.
4. He loves people and brings oceans of compassion and wisdom to his shepherding and guiding of parishioners and staff members both.
5. He's introduced me to fabulous sermon resources.
6. He regularly inspires me via his preaching, and insightful grasp of many realms from politics to music, liturgy to baseball, theology to films, Pinky and the Brain cartoons to The Stupids and much more.
7. He's willing to be vulnerable and very courageous in preaching and beyond.
8. He has generously shared in worship leadership with me and taught me much about the Episcopal Church.
9. He invited me onto the staff of this parish, providing me with a deep blessing that I will cherish forever.
10. He has poured out the best in himself for us, in the name of Christ, and made us a better, stronger people for it.

God bless you, Fr. McDuffie! I am deeply grateful for the gift of journeying with you these past 10+ years!!!!!! With much love, Cindy Simpson

**January 2018**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



**JANUARY 2018 WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Regular Sunday Schedule  
Services at 7:45, 9:00 & 11:00am**

- 7:45 AM** Holy Eucharist Rite I  
*a spoken service with Sermon*
- 9:00 AM** Holy Eucharist Rite II  
*with Sermon, Service Music, Hymns, and Anthems  
Choristers of Christ Church*
- 9:00 AM** Children’s Church – Murdock Room  
*a service for children, using a story-telling theme with music  
for young children. 9:00-9:30am*
- 11:00 AM** Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
*with Sermon, Service Music, Hymns, and Anthems  
Christ Church Choir*
- Nursery** 8:45am – 12:15pm *for infants and toddlers  
6 months to 4 years old*
- ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS**
- 8:25 AM** Choristers Warm Up – Choir Room & Church
- 9:00 AM** Studies in Christian Faith (*led by Fran Palmer-Hill*)
- 10:10 AM** Adult Forum – Murdock Room
- 10:15 AM** Sunday School – Classrooms Preschool-7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
(1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)
- 10:15 AM** Choir Rehearsal – Choir Stalls
- 10:15 AM** Coffee Hour – Dining Room

**REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

- Monday**  
7:00 PM English Conversation Practice (CEC DR)
- Tuesday**  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting (PH)
- Wednesday**  
11:00 AM Bible Study (PH LR)  
12:10 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II (Church)
- Thursday**  
12:00 PM AA (PH)  
4:30 PM Chorister Rehearsal (Church)  
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Church)

**OTHER PARISH EVENTS**

*(Date/Event/ Time/ Location)*

- 1 New Year’s Day (*office closed*)
- 2 CES Classes Resume  
Pastoral Care Committee Meeting **7:30pm** (PH LR)
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6 Epiphany Hat & Mitten Collection Begins
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 Adult Christian Formation Committee Meeting **7:00pm** (PH LR)  
Outreach Committee Meeting **7:30pm** (PH DR)
- 11
- 12
- 13 Adult Supper Club **7:00pm** (hosted by Gary & Emily Correll)
- 14 Acolyte Installation 9:00am (Church)  
Adult Forum w/Fr. McDuffie **10:10am** (MR)  
St. Francis Flock Meeting **12:30pm** (PH LR)
- 15 Martin Luther King Day (*office closed*)  
Dessert & Deal **6:30pm** (MR)  
Workcamp Meeting, Parents & Youth **7:00pm** (YR)
- 16 *The Angelus* Submission Deadline for the February 2018 issue  
Pastoral Care Committee Meeting **7:30pm** (PH LR)
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21 “MANNA” Sunday (*Third Sunday of each month*)  
Loaves & Fishes carpool **10:15am** (leave from Church)  
Bargain Box Outreach Table **10:15am** (DR)  
**SOS** - Serving Others Sunday **10:15am** (CEC DR)  
Farewell Jazz Vespers **5:00pm** (Church)  
Youth Group Event **5-7:30pm** (PH)
- 22
- 23 Vestry Meeting **7:30pm** (PH LR)
- 24 Holy Eucharist at Collingswood **2:30pm** (Rockville)
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28 Fr. McDuffie’s Last Sunday  
**One Combined Service at 10:00am**  
**followed by a reception in the Murdock & Dining Rooms**  
All Parish & Youth Group Ice Skating Party **6:00pm** (Rockville)
- 29
- 30
- 31

<b>KEY</b>	<i>CEC = Christ Episcopal Church</i>
<i>PH = Parish House</i>	<i>CES = Christ Episcopal School</i>
<i>LR = Living Room</i>	<i>K = Kitchen</i>
<i>DR = Dining Room</i>	<i>N = Nursery</i>
<i>MR = Murdock Room</i>	<i>YR = Youth Room</i>