

KINGSTON CRIER

MARCH 2021

P. O. Box 471

Mathews, VA 23109

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www.kpepiscopal.org

Rector's Visions

Earlier in the pandemic the English comedian Michael McIntyre offered a skit in which he went to visit a fortune teller before March 2020. The fortune teller (Michael in a turban and mustache) tells Michael (who just looks like Michael) that a year from now he won't be a comedian any longer; instead he will be an amateur hair cutter and substitute teacher. The fortune teller uses words that mean nothing to Michael in his life like "lockdown" and "social-distancing." When the fortune teller sees in his crystal ball that Michael and his wife are excited about a trip, Michael lights up. He and his wife had been hoping to take a trip abroad for years now. But the fortune teller shakes his head and says, actually you're just leaving the flat to run errands ... with masks and hand-sanitizer.

Like much of Michael's comedy, this is both funny and painfully truthful. And I find myself wondering (with delight and perhaps a little fear) what might be Michael's skit a year from now after visiting the fortune teller again "before March 2021." Where will we be a year from now? What new words will we have to add to our vocabulary? Will we still be excited when we can do an outdoor worship with 12 people in attendance as long as we mask and social distance and use hand-sanitizer?

Our scientific fortune teller, Dr. Fauci, has said two things this week to both get my hopes up and then turn them to dust: 1. We should be doing something like normal by Christmas. And 2. We are likely to still be wearing masks in 2022. After hearing the first, I allowed myself the dream image of us all gathering with candles at church, being close together with great joy, and singing *Silent Night* in a way that would make life full and rich in a whole new way. Then, two days later, Dr Fauci said #2, and I figure we will be wearing masks and perhaps not allowed to sing at all yet! Still, like Michael's excitement about leaving the apartment to run errands, just having Christmas services would be something to celebrate!

All of this is to say: we are in a strange place. This wilderness of forty days that is Lent didn't quite end with Easter last year in 2020 and it doesn't look like it's going to end with Easter in 2021 either. Or maybe even Christmas! Who knows?

So what do we do? We can sit around and be sad. Or we can try to find someone to blame: Dr. Fauci, the Bishop, the Governor Or we can look for the angels ready to meet us in the wilderness. This year, it's hard not to notice that when Jesus ends his fast in the desert by returning to "civilization," he discovers immediately that his cousin, John the Baptist, is in prison. Yet, met with this difficult news he says: "The time is fulfilled! The Kingdom of God is near! Believe the Good News!" (See Mark 1:12-15.)

What resilience and adaptability! Jesus comes out of the wilderness famished and worn, hears of John's arrest, and still dances with the Gospel, the Good News! And we are called to follow this one.

As we move towards whatever this year ahead brings, let's use this month's motto: March! March, knowing that the normal that we miss wasn't ever really all that normal. March, remembering the history of the people of God who make it through flood, leave home, leave slavery, wander to the voice of a burning bush, are exiled in Babylon, and brought low by the Romans. And that only gets us through to the Acts of the Apostles and the birth of the church! The church has been born and reborn, formed and transformed through 2000 years. It's not the institution or trappings that is holy and unchanging; it is the people called to march in the Good News of God. What the church looked like to me when I first heard my call to priesthood about 36 years ago is thoroughly different from what the church looks like today. And these days,

between pandemic and everything else in the world, the church is changing so fast it's hard to keep up. We are called to march in these days with the Good News. We are called to march grounded in the unchangeable Truth of God. But the ground we are marching on is changing by the minute and will keep changing. We may be wearied by the changes and chances of this world, but the miracle of God's love marches on. God has planted us as individuals, as a congregation, and as part of a larger church marching in these very peculiar days. We cannot ignore these changes or we won't know how to bring the Good News to them.

Whatever comes, I am glad to be marching beside you all and behind Jesus. And I plan on believing in the Good News through it all. The trick is going to be, figuring out our marching orders in the world that moves faster and in ways we can hardly imagine. We cannot just fall back on habit or what we used to always do. We aren't in Egypt any more. And once we get through this wilderness of pandemic, we are going to arrive in the promised land with our God marching along with us the whole way.

Here's another dream image I have. Instead of Michael doing his comedy skit, I hope that in March 2022, I am standing, preaching beside you all and pretending to be a fortune teller talking about all the ways the people of Kingston Parish have lived with all the chances and changes to bring Good News to a community and a world nearly overcome by uncertainty. I want to be able to say that the faithfulness I see in you all this year has blossomed in new ways to meet new days in 2021 so that the Kingdom of God is nearer, and more and more people have discovered the Good News that not only survives masks and social distancing, online worship and closed church offices, but that has discovered the way of Christ to make of these changes and chances, these days, God's fullness. Let's march!

Gary+

Marching Orders

The vestry is beginning research and work on a questionnaire for our faith community as we begin to figure out how to be Kingston Parish in the days and years ahead. We'll be seeking to understand just where we are in the current days; where are the community and world needs and what are our own gifts to meet any of those? What are we excited about? Where are we called to focus? Might this

mean we let go of some of our old habits and ministries in order to take on something new? What have we learned in the pandemic about relationships and God that will be momentum to move us forward? What strategic actions and goals is God placing before us? What must we do in order to move forward in faith and prayer rather than simply into a grand new idea? Take some time in prayer to think about this and let the vestry know what you learn even now as we prepare the questionnaire and continue an ongoing conversation with one another, the world, and God as we find our way, find God's way.

Diocesan Updates

In our continually evolving circumstances, we've all been anxious to have the most current status updates, especially the status of worship protocols and regathering for public worship. Many of our policies are guided by the Office of the Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia. You are now able to get these **updates directly from the Bishop's office by [subscribing](#)** to the diocesan e-news service. (If this letter comes via email you should be able to click on the "subscribe" tab to sign up for these direct communications from the diocese. If not, go to the website: <http://bit.ly/DioNews>.)

Another important reason you should [subscribe](#) is that last year the Diocese made the difficult decision to discontinue the printing of the quarterly magazine, the *Virginia Episcopalian*. In a time of decreasing budgets, a costly magazine was simply not a luxury that our church or the Diocese could afford to continue.

The good news is that the monthly diocesan newsletter, the eCommuniq  , will now be incorporating some of the great storytelling and features you enjoyed in the *Virginia Episcopalian*, but without the lag time and hefty price tag of a traditional print publication. By subscribing to the diocesan news service, you will receive the monthly eCommuniq   plus announcements from your Bishops as they happen. The diocesan offices will never share your information with any other parties.

Thank You

I would like to express my deepest appreciation for all the thoughts, prayers, cards and telephone calls for Amanda and me during this most difficult period. They are all uplifting and strengthening. We love you all.

Jim Taylor

Vestry Notes from January 11, 2021

- Repairs are needed to stop the window leak and rot in the CC Narthex.
- The rectory has a roof leak and a defective thermostat; both are being repaired.
- The Parish House had a defective thermostat that was replaced.
- Inside wiring for the security system and internet installation was made. Starbrite Security is installing new fire sensors and upgrading the panel for the alarm system.
- The water treatment system was maintained.
- The vestry approved the Outreach Committee distribution of Fall Fair income as follows:

Hands Across Mathews	\$1,000
Christmas Blessing Fund	800
MVRS	500
MVFD	500
Glouc.-Math. Care Clinic	1,000
Rector's Discretionary	2,500
Meals on Wheels	1,500

 Approximately \$2,000 will be held in reserve for future needs.
- The vestry discussed the virtual worship services and how to proceed in future.
- The proposed budget for 2021 was approved by the vestry.
- The annual meeting will take place on January 24th. The annual report will be emailed to members and Fr. Gary and outgoing vestry will be at the Parish House on Saturday, January 24th from Noon to 3 PM to receive ballots.

Vestry Notes from February 15, 2021

- The new vestry held their first meeting via zoom. All were able to attend: Fr. Gary, Marti Bowen, Mary Ann Carr, Mary Chapman, Cindy Machen, Lisa McCann, Jan Mohr, Trish Reed, Tom Reed (Treasurer), Ray Stubblebine and Martha Ellen Trabant.
- Elected positions were approved by majority: Mary Chapman, Senior Warden; Jan Mohr and Ray Stubblebine, Junior Wardens Tom Reed, Treasurer; and Carol Swartz, Recorder
- A \$5,000 matching grant has been applied for from the Diocese of Virginia to help repair the Parish House driveway and parking area.
- Progress has been made in installing the new phone system at the Parish House.

- The Parochial Report for 2020 was looked at by the vestry; suggestions and corrections were made and sent back for revision (the vestry approved the revised report by email Feb. 17).
- The vestry discussed racism issues and what we can do as a church to reach out to build relationship with local black churches.
- We will continue our online worship services, and prepare for the Lenten/Easter season.
- Gary continues his Monday classes and the Wabington Clergy Klatch podcasts.
- The Outreach Committee requested approval to disburse \$750 to Avalon Services (a mental health counseling service) and \$300 to Mathews Social Services Christmas Store, which were approved by the vestry.
- Marti Bowen is preparing packets with Lenten/Holy Week/Easter devotions, crafts and activities for our children.
- Parishioners were sent emails with resources for Lent from our diocesan website and Living Compass.

Rachel Musick Update

Rachel has graduated from the Rehabilitation program in Yorktown and is now home with her mother in Hartfield. Hands Across Middlesex provided a ramp for access into the house. She has physical and occupational therapists visiting each week and a nurse who comes weekly to check on her progress. As Rachel texted, "I have a long road to recovery, walking, and full independence again but I'm still determined to get back to where I was." You may continue to reach out to Rachel through her mailing address, PO Box 231, Mathews VA 23109.

Lenten Practice

Remember to go to the Episcopal Relief & Development website to access online Lenten devotionals: www.episcopalrelief.org.

The red box located in the Parish House foyer is available for you to donate dry and canned foods for Hands Across Mathews.

The Labyrinth located next to the Old Rectory has a different Lenten devotional in Donna Messer's box each week for you to use as a worship guide.

Also, www.lentmadness.org is another place to do Lent, learn about saints, and laugh.

Remembering Amanda Taylor



From Eleanor Woollard: When I was first hired to be Organist at Kingston Parish I was very insecure because in reality I had been a pianist. The organ was overwhelming and I did my best but was very awkward, especially for the first year. I remember the graciousness with which Amanda and Jim treated me, always saying to me each Sunday as I left the church how “nice” the music was when in reality we both knew better. She was so encouraging and gracious. I also remember feeling the blessing of their obvious commitment to each other and the sacredness of their marriage. I am sure she is still encouraging people in heaven.

From Mary Chapman: I moved permanently to Mathews county after my husband died in 2009. I only knew one or two people, but I somehow knew this is where I belonged. Somewhere in that first year, I met Amanda Taylor, probably at a Bay School event. With that irresistible smile, she enticed me to help her at the annual Bay School Auction, the next year I co-chaired with her, and the following year, I chaired the event...there is a trend here. Amanda was directly responsible for encouraging me in every endeavor. I always consulted with her before taking on a challenge! Amanda knew everybody and everybody knew and loved Amanda. She loved her Mathews community and was involved in every aspect. She also loved Kingston Parish and wanted me to at least attend one service at Christ Church. I finally agreed and when I walked in, there were Jim and Amanda waiting, saving me a seat in the pew directly behind them, a

seat that I took every Sunday from that day forward. They introduced me to everyone and after the service we went out for brunch....a tradition that continued until Amanda’s health and Covid prevented it. Amanda and Jim always made a point to include me in their plans, dinner at the Yacht Club and Wednesday night dinners at South Wind. Amanda was always interested in what I was doing and how my family was. She was somehow able to ask about my grandchildren by name (I can’t even remember their names—there are 9 of them!). I used to think that I was her best friend until I quickly realized that there were many friends in her life just as special to her. I could go on and on, there is so much to say about this remarkable, positive woman and her indefatigable energy! I will cherish our friendship forever. I am so grateful for the role that she and Jim have played in my life here in Mathews. God’s blessings, my friend. Rest in the peace and beauty of the eternal. I will miss you!

From Trish Reed: I wrote this to the Outreach Committee this past week.....”We are all saddened to learn of Amanda Taylor's passing. She and Jim have been such a vital part of the Mathews and Kingston Parish community touching on the lives of all residents with their benevolence and goodwill. It is not possible to pause on the front porch of MCVIC, enjoy the beautiful summer baskets hanging from the light poles along Main Street, kneel at the Communion rail at Christ Church, or consider the grants from Fall Fair proceeds awarded to deserving Mathews organizations without thinking of Amanda. And I know this is just a small bit of the legacy she has created. Her memory is with us forever and this committee will continue to carefully review and award grants to those most in need in Mathews County as Amanda would. I know all our thoughts and prayers are with Jim and their family. Peggy Hudgins, Kippy Gilbert, Mary Kathryn Diggs, Dorothy Jeffress, Wendy Super, and Janet Bullen all agreed, Amanda is one in a million!..... and we will miss her friendship and leadership.

From Nan Cross: Amanda's beautiful words for life, “step up and help where you can,” were so embodied at every Red Cross Blood Drive. She was available to work at the front desk for hours at a time, even when it was hard and painful to get there. She welcomed friends and strangers with a smile and was confident, calm, and efficient on the computer. Having her there ensured a smooth sign in. I was so thankful for her and miss her.

(Continued on next page)

Remembering Amanda Taylor, continued

From Becca Brown: How can one possibly share a “little” about Amanda Taylor? She was so many things all wrapped up in one small package with a huge smile and I loved her dearly.

She was a wine enthusiast but not stuffy or pompous. She and Jim, along with Willie and Mary Ann Hubbard, did the most wonderful Wine Tastings at the Bay School for several years. Complete with six to seven different wines and a sheet of descriptions so perfect you could almost taste the wine before you took a sip - plus lovely cheeses and unique crackers....you were in for a wonderful evening. She knew my affinity for white wine and always had a bottle or two on the list that were perfect. Amanda always said, “There are no bad wines. If you like it, it is good.” And, “It doesn’t have to be pricey to be good”.

She was the consummate hostess...with her number one helper, Jim, by her side. An invitation to dinner, a party, or even an afternoon on their lovely screened porch was to be treasured. The conversation would be lively, the table beautifully appointed, and the food superb.

From time to time, we would share vegetables from the garden or a filet of fresh fish... sometimes even a bit of wild game. They were always so appreciative and made you feel you had given them a real treasure. And oh, how we loved to share steamed crabs with them on our porch.

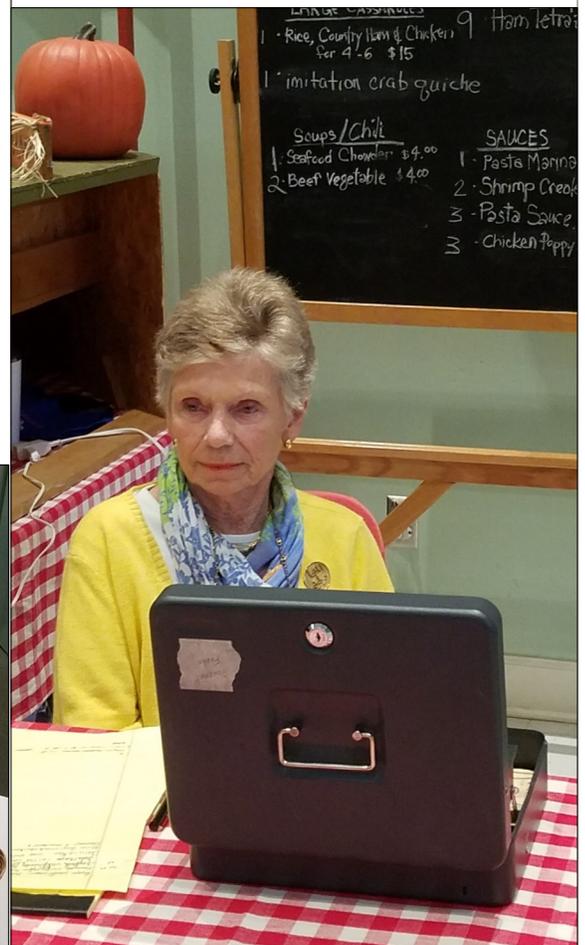
Amanda and I shared a love of needlework. It was such a joy to work with her on the kneelers for Christ Church. Knowing exactly what was needed and how it should be done, she tackled that project with a sense of humor, kindness, and determination. I always hoped she would not look at the back of my work, but she was always gracious.

Amanda was always honest and frank...so many times I went to her for help and always came away knowing I had the best advice in the world. It would be proper, it would be straight forward, and it would be kind.

And her vision for Mathews was amazing. From the creation of the Visitor’s Center and the purchase of Sibley’s to the lovely baskets that decorated the street signs every summer, Amanda loved our county so. You would almost think she was a native.

I am so thankful I have had Amanda in my life and will always treasure my memories of her.

From Karen Jones: How did a person who had to remain seated most of the time get so much done?!! Amanda was a true force for good in our parish and our county. In the left picture below she and Jim are greeting our Soup with Love participants, and in the picture on the right she is helping Cindy Machen and me in the gourmet booth of the Fall Fair, 2019. When Cindy and I were sometimes there, sometimes off bidding or buying, Amanda greeted our customers and made sales. Love her. Miss her.



Prayer List

Pray For Our Parishioners

Hank Furniss for non-tremor Parkinsons (by Mairi Furniss)
 Paul Gibson for heart issues (by Jan Mohr)
 Nina and Pete Guy recovering from falls (by Nina Guy)
 Peggy Hudgins for pulmonary fibrosis (office)
 Frank and Donna Jemmison for coronavirus (office)
 Martha Knight for return of cancer (office)
 Ron Lambert for surgical procedure March 1 (by Debbie Lambert)
 Cheryl Lamport having trouble standing/getting around (office)
 Deirdre McElroy for treatment of cancer (office)
 Rachel Musick recovery from auto accident (office)
 Tom Neiger for cancer of esophagus and stomach (by Pat Neiger)
 Dick and Adele Pogue dealing with illness and a move (office)
 Ginger Richards for heart issues (by Karen Geddes)
 Mary Ellen Stimson for dislocated hip (by Paul Stimson)
 Will Story for illness (by Martha Story)
 Jim Taylor grieving (office)
 Larry Treadwell for coronavirus (office)

Pray For Our Family and Friends

Steve Buis for cancer (by Debbie Lambert)
 Mickey Burchell for lung cancer (by Valerie Lewis)
 Duncan Campbell for colon cancer (by Mary Kathryn Diggs)
 The Carter Family (by Vicki Carter)
 Frank Comme - young man who had a stroke (by Signe Langschultz)
 Yolanda Conaway (by Kathy Yent)
 Linda Crowe for lung cancer (by Duffy Crowe)
 Livia Gama de Moraes for kidney transplant (by Kathy Yent)
 Nancy Donnelly (by Kathy Yent)
 Mary Doyle for hydrocephalus (by Valerie Lewis)
 Tommy Dutton for hip repair (by Becca Brown)
 Glenda Flippin for ovarian cancer (by Jay Black)
 Walker Linden Ford for Sturge-Weber Syndrome (by Kathy Yent)
 Lori Fuller for cancer in lymph nodes (by Joe Mereness)
 Peggy Gallagher for recovery from Coronavirus (by Kathy Yent)
 Helen Graves for congestive heart failure (by Paul Gibson)
 Cathy Heach for breast cancer (by Shannon Kirschbaum)
 Carole Hirose for anxiety (office)
 Jerry Johnson for Huntington's Disease (by M Bowen)
 Michael Johnson for throat cancer (by S. Langschultz)
 Carolyn Jones (by Josie Thorpe)
 John Michael Jones (by Shannon Kirschbaum)
 Rick Jones recovering from injury (by Richard Jones)
 John Kratzer for rotator cuff surgery (by Kathy Yent)
 Skip Lewis (by Valerie Lewis)
 Joy Long (by Jan Mohr)
 Don Loving for multiple illnesses (by Jan Mohr)
 Dave Martin (by Gay Butler)
 Robert McCreary for cancer (by Willie Hubbard)
 Sudy McKnight for cancer (by Reed Lawson)
 Michele Meanley for return of cancer (by Kathy Yent)
 Terry Messer for pneumonia (by Lois Gibson)
 Janet Mikionis for cancer pain (by Kathy Yent)
 Art Miller for 3rd degree burns on legs (by K. Yent)
 Kristen Moran for breast cancer (by Jan Mohr)

March Birthdays

Jan Mohr	4
Lori Black	5
Jane Cargill	6
Mairi Furniss	6
Martha Story	6
Erik Provinsen	8
Carole Gregg	11
Donna Jemmison	15
Vivian Quinlan	15
Carrie Poe	17
Beady May	17
Vicki Carter	21
Paige Morris	23
Adele Pogue	23
Bill Leary	24
Jay White	25
Paul Gibson	26
Luke Morris	26

Serving in the Military or Diplomatic Corps

Colin Bucknor
 BJ Cavazos
 Yvette Gaither
 Chris Ivy
 Joe Kraynak
 Megan Kraynak
 Hib McNeilly
 Joey Plotino
 William Story Scarlett
 Zach Schmidt
 George Truscott
 William Truscott
 Dawson Turner
 Nicholas Webster

Keith Morgan for prostate cancer (by Josie Thorpe)
 Kathy Nelson for pulmonary fibrosis (by Kathy Yent)
 Pete Nieman for kidney cancer (by ?)
 Lisa O'Connors for lung cancer (by Kathy Yent)
 Elizabeth Perkins for brain tumor (by Pat Elliot)
 Stefanie Powers (by Lisa McCann)
 Josiah Raub for heart issues (by Hank Furniss)
 Ginger Shackelford for Hodgkins lymphoma (K Yent)
 Tracy Shackelford for lymphoma (by Kathy Yent)
 Sue Ann Singleton (by Kathy Yent)
 The Studer family for daughter's suicide (by Neigers)
 Charlie Szeglin for heart surgery and memory (by Sig)
 Marsha Threlkeld for terminal cancer (by D. Lambert)
 Richard Wahl for metastasized cancer (by MK Diggs)
 Harry Ward for brain tumor (by Jay Black)
 Kate Warfel for auto-immune disorder (Jen Kimball+)
 Jack Williams for pneumonia (by Kathy Yent)
 Catherine Worley for breast cancer (by Gay Butler)
 Kristina Zaruba for bypass surgery (ME Traband)

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In The Diocese of Virginia and the Upper Tidewater Region

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, Bishop Suffragan
The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor, Assistant Bishop

The Very Rev Gary Barker, Rector
(757)371-9382; barkergaryj@gmail.com

THE VESTRY

Senior Warden	Mary Chapman
Junior Warden/Preschool	Jan Mohr
Junior Warden/Worship	Ray Stubblebine
Christian Formation	Marti Bowen
Outreach	Trish Reed
Worship & Spirituality	Mary Ann Carr Ray Stubblebine
Serving At Large	Cindy Machen Lisa McCann Martha Ellen Traband
Treasurer	Tom Reed
Recorder	Carol Swartz

TRUSTEES

Vicki L. Carter Timothy W. Hudgins John Machen, Sr.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL & REGION II

Mary Chapman, Lay Delegate

STAFF

Jim Andrews	Choir Director/Organist
Karen Jones	Parish Secretary
Vicki Carter	Bookkeeper

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

After 8 a.m. Online Worship Service on Facebook and
YouTube.com
11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

*The Office is closed during this time. Please contact Fr.
Gary at (757)371-9382 or Karen at the office (804)725-
2175 or her cell phone, (804)725-8480.*