

Christ Church Parish, Kent Island
830 Romancoke Road
Stevensville, MD 21666

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February 2023 Connections

- ✙ Grounded in Christ
 - ✙ Growing in Faith
 - ✙ Giving in Community
- 410-643-5921 www.ccpki.org



A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton

LENT: GRATITUDE, COMPASSION, & SERVICE

Every year on Ash Wednesday, the celebrant invites the congregation *“to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word”*. This invitation means different things to different people. Some give up sweets, some try meatless Mondays, some add prayer practices, and others volunteer their time.

We have a couple of weeks before Lent begins. Ash Wednesday is Feb 22, so now would be a great time to sort out what you would like to do this year. I am proposing we keep this Lent as a **Season of Gratitude, Compassion, and Service**.

Gratitude. We have so much to be thankful for. From our first breath in the morning through the day and into the night, God is with us offering care and strength. Two scholars writing at UC Berkeley define gratitude as a two-step process: 1) “recognizing that one has obtained a positive outcome” and 2) “recognizing that there is an external source for this positive outcome.” I urge every person in the parish to keep a daily record of the positive events each day. 40 days of noticing can build a habit of gratitude. Find a notebook and start recording.

Compassion. This year's **Living Well Through Lent** devotional booklet focuses on the act of Compassion. The continual drip of violence, poverty, and pandemic can cause us to teeter on the brink of uncaring. Lent is a time to re-focus on the needs and suffering of our broken world, our neighbors, and within ourselves. This Lent, I hope you will join me in trying to see the brokenness through God's eyes and seek the healing and renewal that comes through Jesus. Casting our gaze on the temptations, the cross and the tomb can remind us of our need to receive and give compassionate care.

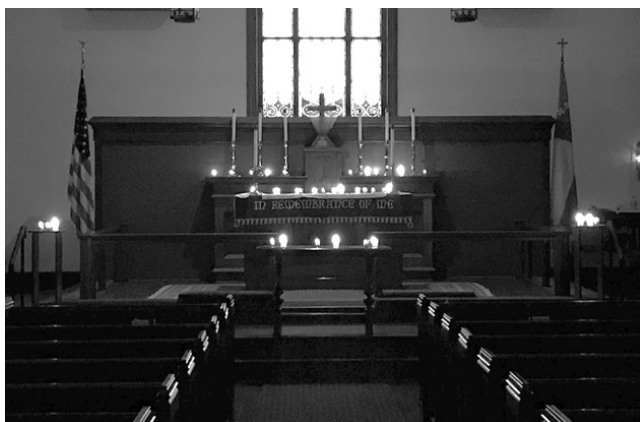
Service. I said in the Annual Meeting that there is not a committee, working group, outreach, or worship team that does not need your help. Challenge yourself in the next three weeks to take on one new task at Christ Church Parish. Family Ministry, Soup Group, Altar Guild, Property ... the choices work for introverts and extroverts; for young and old; for those who can give a morning and those who offer an hour. Write down your

commitment to serve Jesus, who served his disciples and the whole world.

Traditionally, Christ Church does Lent well. We encourage one another and the energy welcomes new growth. You have 21 days to get ready for a faith-filled and fun forty days. Find a notebook, a devotional, and your calendar. Share with your household, young and old. Join your parish family in a Lent filled with Gratitude, Compassion, and Service.

Faithfully,

Mark +



EVENING CANDLELIT SUNG COMPLINE SERVICE

February 2, 2023 @ 7:30 pm

St. Margaret's Church 1601 Pleasant Plains Rd. Annapolis

Sung by the Combined Choirs of
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Annapolis
Christ Church Parish, Kent Island

Compline is the service of night prayers found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 127. This simple service includes Psalms, a brief passage from Holy Scripture, and prayers commending the world to God's care through the night. Join us at St. Margaret's for the lovely devotion.

A Word from Our Sr. Warden

I've never been a big fan of "buzz words". I first heard the buzz word engagement in my work life when our corporate parent company decided to do an employee engagement survey to determine why some divisions were unable to retain good employees. The survey, which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to complete, showed what many of us thought to be common sense. An employee's "engagement" did not depend nearly as much on compensation as it depended on how the employee felt. Did someone care for them and have their best interests at heart, did they enjoy what they did, did they have a sense of satisfaction? While apparently it was eye opening for some, those of us who were active in our communities, church and family were not all that surprised. Engagement is about belonging.

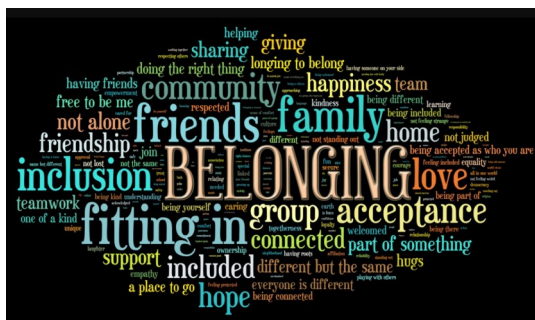
So it is with our parish, do we simply attend church or do we feel we belong? One of my goals as the new Senior Warden is to have each and every person who comes to Christ Church feel that they belong. The best way I can think of to accomplish this is to encourage everyone to find that personal ministry in their lives. A great start would be to join a Dinner Group where you can have the chance to really get to know 6-8 people in a casual environment. Or maybe you love cooking, serving during worship, hosting coffee hours, working with youth, welcoming visitors to our church. There is something for everyone here to allow our parishioners to feel cared for and to show they care about others.

Over the coming months, you'll be hearing more about the many ministries here at Christ Church and I urge you to find the one that will make you feel engaged and valued. Feel free to contact me or any member of our vestry to help you get involved and find your special place of belonging in our church family.

Lois Vanderbok

847-650-2680

srwarden@ccpki.org



FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Family Dinner Night is coming up! Mark your calendars for **February 5th** to join us in Shand Hall at **5:30 PM** for Chili Night! If you would like to bring something or volunteer to help us cook, email Jane at familyministry@ccpki.org. See you there!



Family Ministry is very excited about the return of our youth group! Middle and High School aged Children are welcome to join us for fun and fellowship every Sunday night from 7-8 PM.

Storytime for our Elementary School aged Friends is also still happening. Feel free to join us in the wiggles room after the 10 AM service to hear a bible story.

First Communion and Confirmation classes are starting soon. First Communion classes are open to anyone in 2nd grade or above who have yet to have their first communion starting Sunday, March 5th. Confirmation classes are open to anyone 8th grade and above who is yet to be confirmed starting Sunday, February 19th. If you or your child are interested in First Communion or Confirmation classes, Please email Jane Ford at familyministry@ccpki.org.

CAMP WRIGHT UPDATE:

We are accepting Staff Applications for our 2023 team-- counselors, kitchen, maintenance staff and other positions are available. We have begun our search for a [new Associate Director](#). The Associate Director manages all aspects of our summer camp program. We feel confident that we will find an exceptional leader to fill this role in our ministry. Information about all of our available positions can be found on our [website](#).



HELLO FROM OUR TREASURER

Let me introduce myself. I am Dennis Conrad and I will be succeeding Pat Spinelli as the treasurer of Christ Church Parish. I moved to Kent Island in 2019 after I retired as a historian from the Naval History and Heritage Command and joined Christ Church parish shortly thereafter. I have enjoyed singing in the choir and helping with the backpack program. Recently I began the highly skilled job of washing pots, pans, etc., for the Soup Group. I have also served on the Vestry the last two years.

I am lucky in that I move into a good situation. Pat and her team have done a wonderful job shepherding our congregation through the last difficult years. Luckily, I will still be able to avail myself of Pat's advice and have the help of her wonderful team including our extraordinary bookkeeper Jean Travis, the counting team headed by Judy Peppel, and the Finance Committee composed of Cary Gates (chairperson), Dick Sells, Bob Thompson, Charlie Schwan, and Dave Ellwood. I also will have the help of Pat's predecessor Molly Cannon and the head of our Stewardship Committee, Charlie Mead. I trust that together we can put Christ Church on a secure financial footing that will allow this parish to remain healthy and even increase the good work for which it is well known.

Dennis Conrad

301-943-8504

treasurer@ccpki.org

2022 Giving Statements will be sent out soon.

Please check your **email next week.**

Printed copies will be mailed to those without email addresses and are also available upon request. Be sure to review your statement carefully when you receive it.

Questions? Contact the Paris Office



QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

December 31, 2022

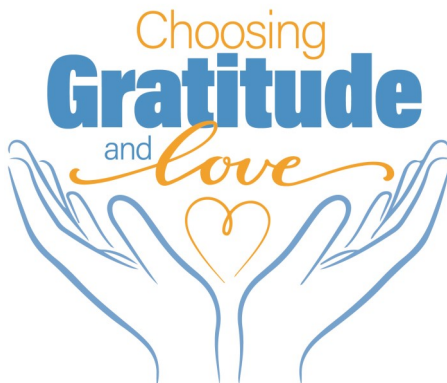
Financial Highlights

Thanks to the many generous and supportive members of our parish, Christ Church finished the 2022 year in a financially stable state. General Offerings were 111% of budget, the Soup Group and Plant Sale fundraisers contributed over \$66,000, and we reduced our mortgage loan balance by more than \$120,000. Careful management kept expenses at 100% of budget. Transfers from endowments and investments of \$66,632 were \$16,353 less than projected. **Thank you to all who contributed their time, energy, and resources.**

Family & Fellowship

This quarter, we have been blessed to have **Jane Ford** join us as our new **Family Ministry Coordinator**. With Jane's help, we have continued to offer childcare during the 10:00 am worship service in the Wiggle Room. Jane has initiated Storytime (Bible stories for children), held in the Wiggle Room after the 10:00 am service. She has also begun a youth group in which middle- and high-school-aged young people can build meaningful relationships with one another.

Our new monthly Family Dinner Nights, to which ALL parishioners are invited to join together as a parish family, have proven to be a popular new opportunity for fellowship. **Many thanks to the many volunteers who help with the planning, cooking, and activities and crafts that accompany the dinners.**



Facilities Improvements

A very generous donation enabled us to complete the renovation of Shand Hall, providing us with an inviting and useful space for fellowship, ministry, and community activities, some of which will generate additional income in the coming months and years. This year, we also replaced the roof on the shed; cleared woody vegetation from the stormwater ponds as the County required; rehabilitated the parking lot islands and the central circle at the main entrance; and performed comprehensive maintenance on our heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units, including replacing two PTAC units in the classrooms. We also re-roofed the rectory and removed two gum trees from the property. **Many thanks for the generous donations and the skilled oversight of Goldey Vansant, our Junior Warden, for these advances.**

Mortgage Progress

Because of the many parishioners who continued their generous contributions toward the Mortgage Fund, we reduced the amount of our loan balance in 2022 by more than \$120,000. We need additional contributions to cover the last two and a half months of 2023 and part of 2024. **Many thanks to all whose gifts have made our progress possible.**

Outreach

Our many food-based ministries help support our neighbors who struggle to provide enough nourishment for their families. In the 2022/2023 School Year, our Backpacks for Kids program provided 170 weekend meals to families in three local schools – Kent Island and Bayside Elementary and Sudlersville Middle Schools. During the summer of 2022, we provided forty bags of weekend food for the six-week Migrant Summer School Program in Sudlersville. We support Haven Ministries' robust programs with funds and volunteer assistance from generous parishioners. Our community support truly defines who we are as individuals and a church community. **Thank you so much for your support!**

2022 FUND PERFORMANCE *(as of 12-31-2022)*

OPERATING FUND	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Variance
Revenues			
General Offerings	\$231,292	\$256,141	\$24,849
Building Use	\$40,000	\$44,770	\$4,770
Fund Raisers	\$68,800	\$66,437	(\$2,363)
Miscellaneous Income	\$5,413	\$6,657	\$1,244
Total Revenue	\$345,505	\$374,004	\$28,499
Expenses			
Personnel	\$235,077	\$212,827	\$22,251
Facilities	\$94,897	\$128,427	(\$33,530)
Parish Life	\$64,071	\$55,123	\$8,947
Administration	\$34,445	\$34,508	(\$63)
Total Expense	\$428,490	\$490,885	(\$2,395)
Revenue Minus Expenses (Deficit)	(\$82,985)	(\$56,881)	\$26,104
MORTGAGE FUND			
Offerings	\$90,833	\$87,718	(\$3,115)
Outstanding Mortgage Loan		\$241,317	
GRACE FUND			
Offerings		\$455	
Grace Fund Balance		\$115,440	

Financial Statement Notes

General Offerings include contributions, plate collections, special offerings and memorial gifts. Some memorial gifts are restricted and may not be used for budgeted expenses.

Building Use includes rental of our building facilities and kitchen to Living Water Lutheran Church, Christ Church Episcopal Day School and to individuals and organizations for weddings and special events.

Fund Raisers include such events as Plant Sales and Soup Sales.

Personnel expenses include the salaries, benefits, educational and travel expenses for our Rector, Minister of Music, Sexton, Nursery staff, and Parish Administrator.

Facilities includes all expenses associated with maintaining the "home of our ministries" (including our rectory, the home of our rector), such as utilities, repairs, grass cutting, snow plowing and property/liability insurance.

Parish Life includes expenses to support outreach ministries, including programs for the homeless and hungry in our community, as well as our contribution to the Diocese for the work of the Episcopal Church. Our worship programs, including the altar guild and music ministry are also funded here.

OUTREACH UPDATE

In January, a group of parishioners met with Father Mark to discuss our current parish outreach ministries, explore new possibilities, and set priorities for the parish. As described below, the group decided the parish should strengthen its support for Haven Ministries, wind down our involvement with the Grasonville Food Pantry, continue and possibly broaden outreach with CECDS, resume community dinners when feasible, continue our support for the Backpack program, and explore options for new outreach ministries.

Haven Ministries

The group decided that we should strengthen our parish support of Haven Ministries as an important part of our parish outreach. Plans are being made for a Lenten Food Drive and we will encourage many parishioners to participate in the effort, as donors and helpers.

Grasonville Food Pantry

In 2022, about 8 volunteers took turns delivering can goods and leftover soups and salads to the Grasonville Food Pantry twice a week. The number of individuals served by this ministry has gradually diminished to about five each week. Since the number served is small and the items provided are similar to those available at the Haven Ministries food pantry, it was decided to notify the Grasonville Food Pantry that we will wind down the ministry over the next 30 days and give them a donated \$500 gift certificate to Food Lion that will allow them to stock their pantry. During the 30 days, we will deliver food only on Tuesday each week. The last delivery will be on Tuesday, February 7. When the wind-down is complete, unspent money previously donated to this ministry will be donated to Haven Ministries and designated for its Food Pantry.

CECDS Community Outreach

Parish/Day School collaboration is good for everyone. Day School children, parents and teachers are currently helping with the Backpack program by collecting food donations and packing 45 backpack bags once each month. The group discussed expanding outreach activities with CECDS and will contact Day School Director Lisa Oesterling to discuss possibilities.

Continued

Community Dinners

Our priority for the past several months has been on parish family dinners to help rebuild fellowship opportunities with children, youth and all parish families. The wider community dinners we hosted pre-Covid were an important part of our community/parish outreach effort but recognized that demands on our parish kitchen and staff volunteers are heavy right now. As feasible, we would like to resume the free community dinners.

Backpack Weekend Meals for Kids

The group agreed that the Backpack program is a vital connection to and resource for our community and deserves our continued firm support. Volunteers from the parish and the community meet weekly to pack and deliver 170+ weekend meals for food-insecure children at three schools: Kent Island Elementary, Bayside Elementary and Sudlersville Middle School. Each child receives a bag containing two breakfast items, two lunches, two drinks, two fruit items and two snacks. The Backpack Program is supported by donations of food and cash from parishioners and the community and funding through the Queen Anne's County Department of Children and Families.

Other Outreach Ideas

The group discussed making a connection with an area where residents have needs that we could help with, including delivery of soups and salads remaining after the market. The group also noted that transportation is a major issue for many children and families in our area and will attempt to learn more about needs and initiatives in the community.

If you would like more information or are interested in participating in any of the parish's outreach ministries, please contact Stan Link at 443-452-8340 or outreach@ccpki.org

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH DAY SCHOOL



It is Registration Time! CECDS will be hosting another Open House on February 8th from 6:00- 8:00pm. We have openings available in morning Pre-K and in our Nursery classes. Please pass the word to your friends and neighbors. We offer private tours with an appointment.

The children have enjoyed helping the church “Backpack Weekend Meals for Kids” program. We have been helping children sort and fill bags of food for the church to take to the schools in our area. Our plan is to do this each month, so children have the opportunity to learn about caring for others in our community. We are looking forward to our Valentine’s Day parties and post office. The children enjoy making Valentines, designing stamps and mailing letters in our school post office.

If you would like more information about CECDS please visit us at www.cecds.org or call 410-643-8248.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22, 2023

7:30 AM Brief Service with Imposition of Ashes (No Communion)

Noon Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

7:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes (Hymns & Choir)



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Stevensville, Maryland 21666

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Sun	Mon	Tue	W
			1 10:00 Exec 5:00 Evenin 12:00 Bible 7:30 AA Me
5 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 5:30 Family Dinner 7:00 Youth Group	6 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Cemetery Committee Meeting 7:00 Bible Study	7 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	8 10:00 Exec 12:00 Bible 5:00 Evenin 7:30 AA Me
12 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 3:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Youth Group	13 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Bible Study	14 NO Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	15 10:00 Exec 10:00 Post 12:00 Bible NO Evening 7:00 Financ 7:30 AA Me
19 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 4:30 Confirmation Class 7:00 Youth Group	20 5:00 Evening Prayer 6:30 Vestry Meeting	21 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	22 ASH We 7:30 ASH V 10:00 Exec 12:00 ASH 5:00 Evenin 7:30 ASH V 7:30 AA Me
26 LENT I 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 3:00 Girl Scouts 4:30 Confirmation Class 7:00 Youth Group	27 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Bible Study	28 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	

**ONLINE COMPLINE ~ SUN
BEGINS SUNDAY,
CHRIST CHURCH KENT I**

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Com Meeting ng Prayer Study eting	2 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:30 Compline Srvc at St. Margaret's Annapolis	3 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	4 2:00 AA Meeting 9-2 Viewing & Funeral for Robert Gaines
Com Meeting Study ng Prayer eting	9 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	10 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	11 2:00 AA Meeting 6:00 Fundraiser for Saving Future Feral Cats
Com Meeting EfM Group Study g Prayer e Com Mtg. eting	16 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales NO Evening Prayer	17 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	18 2:00 AA Meeting
Wednesday Wed Service Com Meeting Wed Service ng Prayer Wed Service eting	23 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer	24 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	25 2:00 AA Meeting

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT ~ 7:30 PM
FEBRAURY 19TH
ISLAND FACEBOOK LIVE

Clergy Emergencies, contact Father Mark S. Delcuze, Rector ~ 203-240-8884

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Join the Choir for Holy Week & Easter!

The Christ Church Parish
Choir is inviting guest
singers to join us in
presenting special music
on Palm Sunday, Holy
Thursday, and Easter
Sunday.



Guest singers should attend
rehearsals Sundays after
church from February 19th-
March 26th and one Thursday
evening rehearsal at 7 p.m. on
March 23rd.

All are welcome! Contact Gary
Van Essen (music@ccpki.org)
or any choir member to sign
up.

