

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

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January 2024 Connections

- ✙ Grounded in Christ
- ✙ Growing in Faith
- ✙ Giving in Community

410-643-5921 www.ccpki.org



A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton

...where (Who) else would I be?...

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

This story of the adolescent Jesus provides two points where we may reflect on how our lives more closely model the life of the Christ. The first point is an encouragement to young parents.

"the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple."

Listen.... on days when you're feeling particularly low or wondering if you've got any game as a parent, or feeling wretched for the way some moment of parenting has gone, please remember that Mary and Joseph lost Jesus for 3 days. Yep. The persons tasked by Almighty God with raising His Incarnate Son got separated from the boy for three days! If the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph can do *that*, it's quite likely that similar lapses, gaffes and errors will be a part of your experience as well. The Holy Family seems to have recovered nicely, and so will you.

This etiological story about Jesus tells us that at a very young age Jesus possessed intellectual acuity and an instinctive desire for the divine. So we might think His prescience is the second meditative point, and it would be a fine place to pause for prayer and self-examination. That's not the second point I'm imagining, though.

"Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house"

This can be heard as the wise crack of an exasperating pre-teen smarty-pants Jesus; the scene as Luke creates it suggests such an interpretation. I think however there's a larger learning that describes more than the intellectual and spiritual development of children, or their being obedient to their parents, and/or parents being attentive to their children.

When Jesus asks "*Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house,*" He's not cracking wise. He's describing Himself. He is saying who He is by describing what He's doing. Now that, dear friends, is a dangerous thing to do, and I do not recommend it as an habitual way of identifying yourself. It's easy to blur the edges of identity when asked who you are, "I'm a plumber." Remember that while you are a person who is gifted as an architect or chef or harbor pilot, you are a person first - a person with a name whether the gifts are present or not. It is seductively easy to employ this imprecise/inaccurate method.... it's easy to identify oneself as the chief cook and bottle washer in the house instead of identifying yourself as Mary or Ralph. Please don't do that.

That said, we are free to see Jesus identify Himself by what He's doing in this particular moment. He's saying that He's doing what He knows; Jesus is reverting to type. He's saying that attending to the business of His faith by engaging His heart and mind truly is who He is. It is not simply what He does, it's who He is. When we understand that, we are invited to do the same.

The New Year is turning. It is a good time to ponder how is it that *you* revert most closely to type where God is concerned? What is *your* version of Jesus' question to His parents? Is it in relishing bible study? Is it in meditating upon the features and nature of Heaven? Is it the daily prayer that asks what God has in mind for you to know? Perhaps it's that point in the weekly Mass that you really look forward to - the phrase or moment that gives such comfort and strength and support? Or perhaps it's the reflexive simple utterance of gratitude for a good report from the doctor.

Jesus' response to His parents prompts our own question. Hopefully it is one that expresses the person we are and are becoming in Him. It's 2024; by what evidence do *you* know that your business is in your Father's house?

For all that has been, ***Thanks***. For all that will be, ***Yes***.

FBC3+

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

The Church calendar really gets it right. Twelve days of Christmas is just the right amount of time to let that peace and joy settle into your bones. It seems that we all live in such a whirlwind leading up to that joyous day. What with the presents, cooking, family, driving, parties, etc. etc. Then, the guests go home, or you travel to yours, and there is finally time to take a breath. A chance to stare at that tree, or contemplate that nativity with a warm cup of tea and your feet up. Or, maybe it is snowing or cold outside and you get to do the same. A romantic vision, I know, yet there is a sort of calm that settles over us as the holidays appear in our rearview.

And so it is that I think about what 2023 meant to us as a church, a family. Certainly 2023 was a year of change. Ten years under the same spiritual leader, Fr. Mark, seemed to end in a flash. A direct transition to a new Interim Rector whose grace and warmth made everything okay. Donations began to climb, the deficit seemed to dwindle and the mortgage plunged. The Youth Group rocked the house on Sunday evenings with their fellowship and Christian Formation. We ate well, hunted Easter eggs, said “farewell” at a wonderful party, and celebrated the Birth of Jesus Christ in warmth and love.

It was a wonderful year, and there are so many people to thank for that. Thank you, Father Frank for being just what we needed, exactly when we needed it. Thank you, Vestry, for coming together as such a team and working hard to live into our vision. Thank you, Warren Prender and Dennis Conrad for your time, your dedication and your devotion to our parish. Thank you, Finance Committee, for making sure that we kept our budget in line and our finances stable. Thank you, Stewardship Team, for creating and implementing such a successful campaign. Thank you, Outreach Team for making sure that we cared for our neighbors with love and generosity. Thank you, EM’s, Lectors, Ushers, Acolytes, and Altar Guild for always being there to make our worship so special. Thank you, Video Techs for allowing folks to see and hear us when they can’t be physically with us. Thank you, choir and praise band members for the joyful sounds that brought us all together every Sunday. And finally, thank you, to the staff of Christ Church who always has things under control and make it possible for us to be a shining star in our community. Brenda Faulkner, Gary Van Essen, Bob Moore, and Jane Ford, your efforts are priceless and we love you so much!

We'll see you all at the Annual Meeting on January 28th and present our accomplishments. We'll also nominate some new Vestry Members and take a look forward to 2024. Until then, I'm going to sip some hot cocoa and contemplate the mysteries and joy of Epiphany. Perhaps that brilliant star in the east will guide us toward more than we could have imagined.

Lois Vanderbok, Sr. Warden

847-650-2680

srwarden@ccpki.org

USING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOWER YOUR TAXES



At the end of every calendar year, many people determine that additional donations to Christ Church would be advantageous for tax purposes. If you are one of those people, please ensure that your contributions are dated no later than December 31, 2023, and received by January 5, 2024. This way, we will be able to include them in your 2023 Contributions Statement. If contributions come in later than January 5, 2024, they will be accredited to 2024.

Additionally, please be aware that IRA owners age 70½ or over have an option to transfer up to \$100,000 to charity tax-free each year. These transfers, known as Qualified Charitable Distributions or QCDs, offer eligible older parishioners a great way to easily give to Christ Church before the end of the year.

Moreover, for those who are at least 72, QCDs count toward the IRA owner's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year.

Treasurer's Report

2023 has been a very good, though not great, year financially for Christ Church Parish-Kent Island.

The deficit, which was projected to be some \$95,000, is about half of that amount. That is wonderful news! And, as can be seen in the accompanying numbers, the explanation for this heartening development is the tremendous increase in giving from you, the members of the church. Through the end of November (and with a month yet to go in the budget year), we have surpassed the total contributions that the budget makers hoped could be raised in 2023-in fact, in every phase of revenues, save Miscellaneous Income, we are performing better than expected.

Also, as can be seen by the accompanying financials, the church leadership has done a good job controlling expenses, so we have spent less than anticipated.

Finally, as can be seen in the Mortgage Fund report, our outstanding mortgage is \$115,490. This year to date, we have paid down the principal by almost \$125,827, a truly remarkable achievement. In part, this was due to the 40/10 Campaign, which was initiated by and spearheaded both financially and inspirationally by Father Mark Delcuze. We now face the very real possibility that the mortgage will be paid off in early 2025, a dream that Father Mark long cherished.

For this good news, I would personally like to thank the staff, especially Bookkeeper Jean Travis and Parish Administrator Brenda Faulkner, the leadership of the church, particularly Senior Warden Lois Vanderbok, Junior Warden Warren Pender, the head of the Stewardship Committee, Charlie Mead, the Vestry, and most especially the Finance Committee, whose dedicated and tireless members: Cary Gates (Chair), Richard Sells, Bob Thompson, Laurelle McCready, and Dave Ellwood did much to put the church in the strong place it finds itself financially.


So, with all this good news, why the qualification in the first sentence that this was a very good but not great year financially? That is because we are still running a deficit; are still using money from the endowments to finance church operations; and are still deferring some needed capital improvements. My hope is that the

excellent Stewardship Campaign we have enjoyed will make it possible to narrow, and maybe even eliminate, that deficit so that next year there will be no qualification in my year-end review.

Dennis Conrad
Treasurer

2023 FUND PERFORMANCE (as of 11-30-2023)

OPERATING FUND	<u>YTD Plan</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Variance</u>
Revenues			
General Offerings	\$215,817	\$242,723	\$26,906
Building Use	\$37,292	\$40,290	\$2,998
Fund Raisers	\$62,083	\$66,270	\$4,187
Miscellaneous Income	\$5,913	\$5,403	(\$510)
Total Revenue	\$321,105	\$354,687	\$33,581
Expenses			
Personnel	\$225,256	\$197,651	\$27,604
Facilities	\$91,846	\$95,204	(\$3,358)
Parish Life	\$58,114	\$66,891	(\$8,776)
Administration	\$36,907	\$40,131	(\$3,224)
Total Expense	\$412,123	\$399,877	\$12,246
Revenue Minus Expenses (Deficit)	(\$91,017)	(\$45,190)	\$45,828
MORTGAGE FUND			
Offerings	\$83,263	\$81,194	(\$2,069)
Outstanding Mortgage Loan		\$115,490	
GRACE FUND			
Offerings		\$275	
Grace Fund Balance		\$129,776	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	1 	2 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM	3 10:00 Exec C 5:00 Evening 7:30 AA Meet
7 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 5:30 Family Dinner 7:00 Youth Group	8 5:00 Evening Prayer	9 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM	10 5:00 Evening 7:30 AA Meet
14 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 7:00 Youth Group	15 5:00 Evening Prayer 6:30 Vestry Meeting	16 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM	17 10:00 Exec C 5:00 Evening 7:00 Finance 7:30 AA Meet
21 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 7:00 Youth Group	22 5:00 Evening Prayer	23 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM	24 5:00 Evening 7:30 AA Meet
28 10:00 Worship Service 11:15 ANNUAL MEETING 7:00 Youth Group	29 5:00 Evening Prayer	30 5:00 Evening Prayer	31 10:00 Exec C 5:00 Evening 7:30 AA Meet

Join us for our Annual Meeting on Sunday
ONLY ONE

ed	Thu	Fri	Sat
om Meeting Prayer ing	4 8:30 Backpacks Prep 5:00 Evening Prayer 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales	5 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	6 2:00 AA Meeting
Prayer ing	11 8:30 Backpacks Prep 5:00 Evening Prayer 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales	12 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	13 2:00 AA Meeting
om Meeting Prayer Com Mtg. ing	18 8:30 Backpacks Prep 5:00 Evening Prayer 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales	19 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	20 2:00 AA Meeting
Prayer ing	25 8:30 Backpacks Prep 5:00 Evening Prayer 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales	26 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	27 2:00 AA Meeting
om Meeting Prayer ing			

January 28th following the 10AM service.
SERVICE

Emergency Emergencies, contact Father Frank Crumbaugh, Interim Rector ~ 609-709-3939
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

2024 1st Quarter				
		LEM	Lectors	Ushers
1/7/2024	8:00 AM		Jeffrey Pike	Cathy Smith
First Sunday after the Epiphany		Jim Lipsner	Cathy Smith	Lois Vanderbok
	The Baptism of our Lord	Lisa Herlihy	Carole Katrinic	Warren Prender
White		Patrick Herlihy	Charlie Mead	John Reckord
1/14/2024	8:00 AM		Liza Hamill	Lois Vanderbok
Second Sunday after the Epiphany		Jeff Pike	Betsy Sipes	Maria Jones
	10:00 AM	Lois Vanderbok	Keith Fulmer	Laurelle McCready
Green		Juanita Dombkowski		Ron McCready
1/21/2024	8:00 AM		Thom Hirsch	Lois Vanderbok
Third Sunday after the Epiphany		Liza Hamill	Maria Jones	Cathy Smith
	10:00 AM	Bob Rosekrans	Patrick Herlihy	Marguerite Starsonек
Green		Leslie Schneider	Lisa Herlihy	Dan Starsonек
1/28/2024	10:00 AM			Eric Hummel
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany		Patti Snyder	David Lee	Linette Hummel
		Keith Fulmer	Patricia Spinella	
ANNUAL MEETING				

Prater Serving Chart

Acolytes	Altar Guild	Counters	Greeters	Video Tech
	Dot Deren, Cara Fehrenbacher, Fred & Linda Klingensmith, Nancy Link			
		Leslie Schneider	Charlie Mead	
		Liza Hamill	Molly Cannon	Liza Hamill
	Lynne Shand, Betsy Sipes, Patti Snyder			
		Anna Sisson	Connie Clark	
		Judy Peppel	Becky Myers	Bill Vanderbok
	Donna Guilford, Maria Jones, Becky Myers			
		Susan Hogan	Lois Vanderbok	Steve Dombkowski
		Judy Peppel	Toinette McDowell	
	Dee Dee & Kevin McCracken, Eileen Shreve, Carole Tulip			
		Judy Peppel	Caroline Aland	Liza Hamill
		Kate McNealey	Susie Reckord	

BACKPACK WEEKEND MEALS FOR KIDS

WE ARE BLESS AND VERY, VERY GRATEFUL!

Every week during the school year, Christ Church and community volunteers gather on Thursday mornings to prepare, pack and deliver 175 bags of weekend food for food-insecure children in three schools. During the summer we support the QACPS Migrant Program and summer school sessions at the four Title I schools.

By the end of 2023, 25 energetic volunteers will have helped to plan for, prepare and deliver about 6,000 bags of weekend food to children in need.

Christ Church is part of a coalition of 10 churches that provide weekend meals for 630 children in every elementary and middle school in the county. We help coordinate the county-wide program and serve as a hub for delivery of Maryland Food Bank supplies used by the churches. The program is partially funded by Queen Anne's County and the churches provide the rest.

Through this work, our hands are reaching out to vulnerable children and families in our local community. We rely on the love and caring support of our volunteers who shop for and donate food, prepare and fill bags, deliver the food, and send in cash to help support this vital ministry.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!!

Kathy Sells backpacks@ccpki.org 410-490-6042



FAMILY MINISTRY

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Sunday School!

We offer Sunday School for Second and Third grade youth! Sunday School is held during the 10 am church service separate from our Wiggle Worship Ministry.

Wiggle Worship!

Wiggle worship is offered during the 10 am church service and open to all ages! Interested in volunteering? Email FamilyMinistry@CCPKI.org!

Youth Group!

Youth Group is open to all Middle and High School Youth! We meet on Sunday nights from 7-8 pm at the Church! All are welcome to join us

GET IN TOUCH
familyministry@ccpki.org



Join us for dinner on Sunday, January 7th at 5:30 pm

CECDS Newsletter for January 2024

Happy New Year! We are ready for a wonderful start to 2024. Priority registration is in process through January 10th. Church members are considered priority along with alumni, current students and their families. We will have an evening Open House on January 10th from 6:00-8:00 pm and open registration up to the public. Please go to our website www.cecds.org for all registration materials.

We ended 2023 with a sweet evening Christmas Pre-K program that told the story of the birth of Jesus through fingerplays and song. It was a full house in the Sanctuary and once again the children's bell ringing brought down the house.

Most of December days were filled with various Christmas activities. A highlight for us was participating in "Wreaths Across America". The children enjoyed seeing all the trucks filled with wreaths, fire trucks, police cars and motorcycles. We took advantage of the fire truck's big beautiful American flag and said the pledge of allegiance.

Father Frank presented the school with a large wooden star at the December family chapel. We are excited to use this star throughout the year to help us remember to be the light of Jesus for others. The children put this lesson to good use as they participated in packing up food for the Backpack program. As young as they are they know they can be helpers, shine their light and help take care of others. Thank you, Kathy and Dick Sells for helping the children learn about caring for others.

Looking forward to a great 2024!





Christ Church Parish Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 28, 2024
11:15_{AM}

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE
at 10:00_{AM}

- * Celebrating 2023
Looking Forward to 2024
- * Financial/Operating Reports
- * Election of New Vestry Members
- * LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW

Pizza & Salad will be provided.

Please plan to bring dessert to share.