

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

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February 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



Jacob wrestling with the Angel. Dore 1855

Lent is coming. There will be plenty of time in the days ahead to examine the deep places in our Tradition where prayer, fasting and self-denial are rooted, and we shall. The God-talk around these issues cannot be avoided, even if we'd like to do that; you and I have been together long enough for you to know that I will make certain we address rather than avoid these things.

Coupled with the boilerplate theology of Lent must come practices that reflect that theology. Lent is not a season to be endured, and anything you do or don't do "for Lent" will be a lovely, fine observance, though nothing I'd stake my salvation upon if I were you. A sweaty, tooth-grinding endurance of Lent a) utterly misperceives making substantive preparation for Easter and b) so perfectly demonstrates the true value of "giving up something for Lent" that it requires no further conversation. Anyone can affect a behavior for six weeks. Truth is, the theology girding Lent is the theology that girds our entire lives as Christians... a theology that seeks the joy of humble gratitude by courageously telling the truth about yourself.

To make a beginning of these things, let me encourage a couple of things:

First, enjoy Mardi Gras. The conclusion of Epiphany includes feasting that prepares us for the fast. Please feast anticipating the fast... *celebrate* the coming of Lent, as counterintuitive as that may sound.

Second, let the holy pursuits of Lent - prayer, fasting and self-denial - be supported by nourishing additions to your normal routine. Impose upon yourself only those temporary personal disciplines that manifest the season of Lent in you every single day, and support them with a time that is more chosen than reactive... a daily 30 minute walk, a reading period every day, a daily period of personal productivity (hand work, shop work). You get the idea; you'll know you've gotten this right if you're still doing these things in July. Remember: the walk or the reading are sustaining you while you are about the business of prayer, fasting and self-denial – they are not themselves the prayer, fasting, or self-denial.

For my part, I will be reading and re-reading David Brooks' new book *How to Know a Person*. I imagine Mr. Brooks would have chosen a title a bit less kitschy, and he was probably overruled by his editors; thankfully, the text is substantial and not kitschy in the least. This is a book written in the calmly rational, persuasive voice that marks David Brooks as an important contemporary commentator. If you are a reader, let me recommend this book, and if not this one, then another that will make you want to sit with it every day, and think about it when you're about your routine.

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

FBC3+

A Word from Our Sr. Warden

There is a tree in front of my house. It is about 40 feet tall and bare this time of year. It grows in a strip of grass between the street and the sidewalk, much too small for its overall size. And it got me thinking about the strength of the roots that must hold it in place. That tree could be seen as a metaphor for our church, how it is growing, like our church, in a place where so many other things vie for attention. So many things vie for our attention these days. Work, school, families, sports and for many, volunteer work that serves our community. Sort of like roots that are spread too thinly.

We form bonds in all of these activities, roots if you will, but in some cases for other trees. Here at Christ Church, those who work in our various outreach ministries have built special roots in fellowship and service. They become families within the greater family of the church. But, what about those who cannot build these roots due to abilities, age (young or old), time available, or lack of knowledge? How do we incorporate them into families within the larger parish?

Ash Wednesday is February 14th this year, it begins the season of Lent, a time for reflection on who we are, what we wish to be and how we can manifest the teachings and life of Jesus in this world. Lent is the perfect time to look within our church and find those ministries that will grow and enhance our roots so that we can reach out and up to others.

So it is that I ask each of us and the Vestry in particular, to develop programs that can strengthen all of those in the church whose needs we may not be meeting in full. Some of the suggestions that came up in our small group sessions should be explored and implemented, such as a men's prayer group, a knitting circle that could provide warm "hugs" in the form of blankets for the sick and homebound, activities for youth that promote service to the community, and a structured program for our preschool and elementary children that will form in them a *habitus* for life.

As we call out to a new Rector, it is important that the person who answers see us as a strong and deep-rooted parish, who does not need to be formed, but looks for the spiritual guidance and direction to lead us to an even higher level of commitment to Christ and our community much like that tree that reaches up to the heavens.

Lois Vanderbok

847-650-2680

srwarden@ccpki.org

2023 Giving Statements will be sent via email no later than January 30th.

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.

NEW Giving Numbers have been assigned this year. Please check your statement for your **NEW number**.

Questions? Contact the Parish Office

2024 1st Quarter					
		LEM	Lectors	Ushers	
2/4/2024	8:00 AM				
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany		Lois V	Cathy Smith	Maria Jones	
	10:00 AM		Betsy Sipes	Cathy Smith	
Green		Lisa Herlihy	Scout	David Lee	
Scout Sunday		Patrick Herlihy	Scout	Susan Hogan	Land
2/11/2024	8:00 AM				
Last Sunday after the Epiphany		Charlie Mead	Betsy Sipes	Lois Vanderbok	
			Thom Hirsch	Cathy Smith	
	10:00 AM	Juanita	Carolyn Aland	Bernie Gast	Rea
		Lois Vanderbok		Charlie Schwan	Iz
White			Jennifer Leach		A
2/14/2024	12:00 PM				
Ash Wednesday			Mike Parker		
		Liza Hamill	Leona Parker	Warren Prender	
	7:00 PM				
Purple		Jeff Pike	Lois Vanderbok	Charlie Mead	
		Patti Snyder	Donna Guilford	John Reckord	
2/18/2024	8:00 AM				
First Sunday in Lent		Jim Lipsner	Maria Jones	Maria Jones	
			Jeffrey Pike	Lois Vanderbok	
Lent 1B	10:00 AM	Keith Fulmer			Sar
		Leslie Schneider	Charlie Mead	Laurelle McCready	Viv
Purple			Becky Myers	Ron McCready	Iz
2/25/2024	8:00 AM				
Second Sunday in Lent		Jeff Pike	Thom Hirsch	Maria Jones	
			Cathy Smith	Lois Vanderbok	
Lent 2B	10:00 AM	Lois Vanderbok			Land
Purple		Juanita	Leona Parker	Bob Rosekrans	Rea
			Mike Parker	Lelie Schneider	A

[illegible]

Acolytes	Altar Guild	Counters	Greeters	Video Tech
	Dot Deren, Cara Fehrenbacher, Fred & Linda Klingensmith, Nancy Link			
Wendy Dorsey				
Immanuel Radley Taylor		Leslie Schneider	Charlie Mead	Bill Vanderbok
Don Rosekrans		Judy Peppel	Molly Cannon	
	Lynne Shand, Betsy Sipes, Patti Snyder			
Gail Hohman		Anna Sisson	Connie Clark	Steve Dombkowski
Wendy Slavin		Judy Peppel	Becky Myers	
Debbie Miller				
	Donna Guilford, Maria Jones, Becky Myers			
Immanuel Radley Taylor				
Wendy Dorsey		Susan Hogan	Lois Vanderbok	Bill Vanderbok
Wendy Slavin		Judy Peppel	Toinette McDowell	
	Dee Dee & Kevin McCracken, Carole Tulip			
Don Rosekrans				
Gail Hohman		Judy Peppel	Caroline Aland	Steve Dombkowski
Debbie Miller	Kate McNealey	Susie Reckord		

Sun	Mon	Tue	W
4 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 5:30 Family Dinner 7:00 Youth Group	5 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Cemetery Committee Meeting	6 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	7 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:30 AA Meeting
11 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 7:00 Youth Group	12 5:00 Evening Prayer	13 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	14 ASH WED 10:00 Executive Meeting 12:00 ASH WED 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 ASH WED 7:30 AA Meeting
18 LENT 1 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 4:30 Confirmation Class 7:00 Youth Group	19 5:00 Evening Prayer 6:30 Vestry Meeting	20 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	21 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:30 AA Meeting
25 LENT 2 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 7:00 Youth Group	26 5:00 Evening Prayer	27 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	28 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:30 AA Meeting

Christ Church Office: 410-643-5921 ~ office@ccpki.org ~ www.ccpki.org

Regular Office Hours 9 am—3pm

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer	2 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	3 2:00 AA Meeting
ng Prayer eting	8 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer	9 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	10 2:00 AA Meeting
Wednesday Com Meeting Wed Service ng Prayer Wed Service eting	15 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer	16 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	17 2:00 AA Meeting 6:00 Fundraiser for Saving Future Feral Cats
ng Prayer eting	22 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer	23 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	24 2:00 AA Meeting Shand Hall Reserved
ng Prayer eting	29 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer		

Clergy Emergencies, contact Father Frank Crumbaugh, Interim Rector ~ 609-709-3939

on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS!

Shand Hall is such a blessing and a wonderful resource for Christ Church, Living Water, Christ Episcopal Church Day School, and in fact, our entire community. Every week, many of us, as well as our neighbors, gather there for worship, fellowship, and development. Community groups rely on it when they gather for recovery, scouting, education, and all kinds of charitable undertakings.

Shand Hall now needs a bit of our care. On January 3rd, yet another leak in the roof was detected; the latest in a series of leaks that we have been patching for the last decade. We have reached the point where the entire Shand Hall roof needs to be replaced. We have a trusted relationship with John Sullivan, (Watertight Roofing) who has replaced roofs at the rectory and patched the Church roof over the years. The cost of replacement is \$37,800, and the work will begin in mid-February as weather permits. Repairs to the damage to the walls, studs, insulation and ceiling will be in addition to the cost of a new roof. We have received an extremely generous \$20,000 donation toward the new roof, as well as \$5,000.00 from the Pittsburgh Foundation. Several parishioners have indicated their desire to contribute as budgets and life circumstances allow. As you know every dollar we receive as a donation helps to preserve our endowments and our cash on hand.

If you are able to help with this effort, please label your contribution "Shand Hall Roof" and make your donation via check or on-line. Every contribution is important, and we are very grateful for your generosity.

Thank you!





QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

December 31, 2023

Financial Highlights

Revenues Gratifying

Revenues exceeded expectations from all sources. Particularly gratifying was that both General Offerings and Fund Raisers finished the year well above plan. The loyal and dedicated volunteers to the Soup Group generated over \$74,000 in fund-raising revenue while simultaneously serving our community and providing for many folks in need. Total Revenue for the year was more than \$50,000 above plan.

Expenses Controlled

Overall, expenses exceeded our plan by only \$5,128, thanks to careful expense management by our staff. Expenses to maintain our facilities were slightly higher than anticipated, and we spent more than we anticipated on Community Outreach. Parish Life expenses also exceeded Plan, and they included a highly appropriate and well-deserved send-off for our retiring Rector.

Excellent Progress Reducing Mortgage Debt

Thanks to our dedicated parishioner commitment to reducing our mortgage debt, offerings to the Mortgage Fund enabled us to maintain our plan to pay a bit more than required each month toward reducing the principal of the loan. As of December 31st, our loan balance was slightly less than \$109,000, representing a reduction during the year of more than \$132,000!

Operating Deficit Less Than Anticipated; Endowment Carefully Managed

Although we operated at a deficit again this year, the Operating Loss was about \$46,000 less than anticipated. As a result, we drew less than planned from our Endowments and Investments, which overall grew more than 7% in value during the year. We are exceedingly careful to use these funds strictly in accordance with the wishes of their donors.

Nourishing Bodies, Minds, and Spirits

Our stated mission is to nourish bodies, minds, and spirits, provide a safe place for renewal and recovery, and cultivate faith through meaningful relationships. Most folks in our community would agree that we more than accomplished that mission during the past year. Every week, the Backpacks for Kids program helps hundreds of families in our county who would not otherwise have enough to eat. Both individually and as an organization, we are active and proud supporters of the Haven Ministries organization that provides hope through shelter, clothing, food, and support. Our educational programs bolster the skills of both the young and older among us.

Thank you to all who support our church both financially and individually!



2023 FUND PERFORMANCE (as of 12-31-2023)

OPERATING FUND		YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Variance
Revenues				
	General Offerings	\$235,437	\$274,647	\$39,211
	Building Use	\$40,750	\$44,540	\$3,790
	Fund Raisers	\$67,500	\$74,231	\$6,731
	Miscellaneous Income	\$6,451	\$7,928	\$1,477
	Total Revenue	\$350,137	\$401,346	\$51,209
Expenses				
	Personnel	\$244,889	\$229,423	\$15,466
	Facilities	\$98,925	\$106,189	(\$7,264)
	Parish Life	\$61,443	\$72,125	(\$10,683)
	Administration	\$40,180	\$42,827	(\$2,647)
	Total Expense	\$445,437	\$450,565	(\$5,128)
	Revenue Minus Expenses (Deficit)	(\$95,300)	(\$49,218)	\$46,081
MORTGAGE FUND				
	Offerings	\$90,833	\$93,005	\$2,172
	Outstanding Mortgage Loan		\$108,668	
GRACE FUND				
	Offerings		\$300	
	Grace Fund Balance		\$135,359	

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.

BROAD CREEK CEMETERY NEWS

Finally, after a one year wait, the columbarium was delivered to the cemetery on January 5. It is located on the left hand side of the walk adjacent to Meghan's garden. The picture above was taken from behind the garden, facing the street.



Current plans are to consecrate the columbarium on Ascension Day, May 9. Not only is this a fitting day, but also the weather should be decent and the cemetery committee will have had time to landscape around the columbarium. More detailed information (participants, time, etc.) will be provided as plans get firmed up and as we get closer to the date. If you would like further information on the columbarium, please contact Charlie Schwan (443) 262-1074.

DONATIONS NEEDED

"The shelves empty as soon as we fill them and it's a challenge keeping up with demand especially during the winter months. We are in need of donations to refill our shelves!" says Christine Perkins, Food Pantry Director.

Want to donate:

- Non-perishable items
- Canned meats
- Low sugar canned fruit
- Healthy soups
- Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- Rice
- Kids snack items
- Canned Vegetables
- Healthy cereals and other healthy canned dry goods and non-perishable food.
- No expired items.
- Toiletries



A decorative border of stylized flowers and leaves in shades of pink, red, and green surrounds the central text area.

Come and Join Us

Family Dinner

February 4, 2024

***5:30 PM in
Shand Hall***