

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

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March 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

“.... it depends on faith....”

“For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) -- in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.”

Paul lays out a brief that is clear and easy to understand. Paul writes Romans (his only letter to people he had not met previously) putting forward the case that faith is the only legitimate access to God. Paul is doing theology. He is making the distinction between all other standards, avenues, or qualifications for a relationship with God, and **faith**. He claims that it is faith and **faith alone** - not ancestry, good looks, natural brilliance, or Pharisaic observance - that brings a human being into closer relationship with God. Faith alone. Hearing Paul’s assertive “Roman voice,” we better understand why Dr. Luther loved Paul so much.

Paul does not engage the simplest, utterly self-evident argument: when Abraham made covenant with God, there were no Jews and there were no written Hebrew scriptures (*we’re not entirely certain that, among the Semitic languages, Hebrew had even fully coalesced*). There was not yet any community of faith that operated as a context for Abraham’s relationship with God. When Abraham’s relationship with God began, Abraham’s son Isaac had not been born, and so of course neither had his grandson Jacob/Israel.... and Ramses II, the Red Sea, the Exodus, Moses and the Ten Commandments were still *well* into the future.

Paul instead engages the theological argument. Paul wants to describe the features, the goods of the relationship - the particular features of the relationship that give evidence of how we know what we know about any relationship. We do this with our friends, our partners, our families - we check to see what it is that binds us together. We certainly do this as we assess our relationship with God, and so does Paul. The goods of Abraham’s relationship with God as Paul sees them are God’s faithfulness and Abraham’s trust. When we look at faith and faith alone as the beginning of relationship with God, we see what Abraham sees; Abraham sees God’s faithfulness and Abraham feels the impulse of his own trust in the promises God makes. How would you describe your relationship with God? What are the features, the goods of the relationship?

For example, if God is a scorekeeper, we delude ourselves into racking-up “good-points” against an inevitable tally of errors, hoping to lose by a narrower margin. We spend a lifetime playing defense against God. If God is a cosmic

sugar daddy, the Cross is nonsense. We spend a lifetime as barely faithful, vacuous airheads, believing that ‘*all dogs go to Heaven*’.... our choices being without consequence because we’re just so doggoned nice.... making God a thin veil - nothing more really than a reflection of our ego-driven unfettered personal autonomy. If God is angry, it doesn’t make much difference anyway, and we live our lives trying to keep our heads down, staying well out of His way. We spend a lifetime avoiding God. If God is a borderline personality, we feel Him draw us close, only to distance us and control us by keeping us off balance. We spend a lifetime protecting ourselves from a capricious, unstable, dangerous God.

Any of this look/sound/feel familiar? The greatest step of faith is the first one - the step that believes there is a God with whom it is possible to have a relationship. Once *that* step is made, the rest is the unfolding of the features, the goods, of your relationship with God.

Paul encourages the Roman church to understand that it is a community of faithful people that God is building one faithful heart at a time. We are the Church. No question. The Church is a community of faith. No question. In Romans 4, Paul points to Abraham and demonstrates that the community of faith, the Church, springs from the faith of individual people before that faith ever grows through the nurture of the community. The Church grows “*soul by soul, and silently, (and) her shining bounds increase.*”

It is undeniably true that the Church is a community where our faith can be awakened, and strengthened, and grown. No one could legitimately state otherwise. It also is undeniably true that the faith of the Church lives only as vibrantly as the faith of her individual members. There is a lovely, essential symbiosis between the believer and the Church; it is the faith of the believer that sustains the Church which in turn sustains the faith of the believer. We are given to each other as the Church to support and encourage one another to “grow up into the full stature of Christ.”

Lent invites us to examine our relationship with God, and the faith that gives that relationship roots. Lent invites us as well to steep and deepen in covenant with God, just as Abraham did - *by faith*.

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

FBC3+

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Romans 4:13-17 NRSV

...a critical issue in the conversations between Abraham and God...

Cecil Spring-Rice. *Urbs Dei*. 1908

Ephesians 4:13 NRSV

A Word from Our Sr. Warden

During the Fall of 2023, the Stewardship Committee organized three small group sessions to ask questions, and receive feedback in order to assist in planning budgets, goals and ministries of Christ Church. The three sessions were well attended and the Stewardship Committee received many great ideas and some criticism, it was immensely helpful in the formation of our budget for 2024 and plans for a new ministry in the area of Pastoral Care. However, the total attendance was thirty-five people, not the recommended number of average Sunday attendance which is generally thought to be the standard for a true and comprehensive survey of a parish.

And so it is that in this newsletter, you will find a call from our Search Committee to respond to a Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) provided by a third party. This online, or on paper, survey will allow every adult and teen in the parish to answer targeted questions anonymously, efficiently, and in their own time. It will provide the Search Committee with the most comprehensive possible data on which to base our call to a new Rector.

The paperwork involved in submitting our call to the Office of Transition Ministry is extensive and gives us one chance to state who we are, where we are going and who we want to lead us. It is the only documentation that an interested candidate will see. If the Parish Profile and Call are not clear and reflective of Christ Church, we will spend a great deal of time weeding through candidates who may not be a good fit for our parish, or miss the candidate who could be a perfect fit.

Friends, Father Frank and I urge you to update your email address with the office here at Christ Church and to add any teenaged child who may be willing to respond (we need to hear the voice of our youth as well as our adults) so that our database is accurate. If email is not an option, you can request a paper copy that can be mailed in to be added to the survey.

Let's all respond quickly, thoughtfully and faithfully to this survey so that we can hear and acknowledge all voices, plan for the future and have our call answered. I know that God's grace is with us as we undertake this exercise as it is always in the life of our church family.

Vestry Notes

Jennifer Leach was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Search Committee

The financial portion of the Parochial report was approved.
This report is sent to the national church offices for analysis
as to the health of the body of the Church

Lois Vanderbok

847-650-2680

srwarden@ccpki.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	W
3 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 5:30 Family Dinner 7:00 Youth Group	4 5:00 Evening Prayer 1:00 Cemetery Committee Meeting	5 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	6 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:30 AA Meeting
10 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 7:00 Youth Group	11 5:00 Evening Prayer	12 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	13 10:00 Executive Meeting 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:30 AA Meeting
17 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 4:30 Confirmation Class 7:00 Youth Group	18 5:00 Evening Prayer 6:30 Vestry Meeting	19 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	20 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:30 AA Meeting
24 Palm Sunday 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 7:00 Youth Group	25 5:00 Evening Prayer	26 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	27 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:30 AA Meeting
31 EASTER 6:30 Sunrise Service 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service			

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

Regular Office Hours 9 am—3pm

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	2 2:00 AA Meeting
ng Prayer eting	7 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer	8 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	9 2:00 AA Meeting
Com Meeting ng Prayer eting	14 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer	15 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	16 2:00 AA Meeting
ng Prayer eting	21 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer	22 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	23 2:00 AA Meeting
ng Prayer eting	28 Maundy Thursday 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	29 Good Friday 12:00 Good Friday Service 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 Good Friday Service	30 2:00 AA Meeting

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

m Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday



As part of our search process for a new Rector, we recently engaged HolyCow! Consulting to prepare a survey for the members of our parish. This survey will provide a clear picture of who we are as a church and what directions are most important for our future. The survey tool we'll use is the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT), which will provide key indicators of our congregational health along with areas of challenge and potential growth. It will help us to collect and understand the range of views that exist at Christ Church Parish Kent Island and the possibilities, willingness, capacity and energy for moving our ministry into the future.

If you have provided us with a current email address you will receive a unique web link to complete the assessment online. If you would prefer to take the assessment using a paper copy, we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. The survey will open on Sunday, March 3rd and close 3 weeks later on March 25th.

NOTE: If there is only one email address for all members of your household, it may be tempting to have one person take the survey on behalf of the family. However, ***please be sure your spouse and all young adults living in your home have an opportunity to complete the survey.*** INDIVIDUAL INPUT is key to our gaining insight into overall perceptions and experiences.

Please set aside enough time to answer all the questions. This will take about 30 minutes. All survey responses are strictly anonymous.

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this congregational assessment and for adding your voice to the search for our new Rector at Christ Church Parish Kent Island. Contact Jennifer Leach, Search Committee Chair at searchcommittee@ccpki.org or 443-695-5759

Queen Anne's Chorale Presents the *Choral Classics* -Accompanied by String Quintet

The days are definitely getting longer, and the chance of snow is getting less. It must be SPRING in DelMarVa. Queen Anne's Chorale, accompanied by a string quintet, presents a program of choral masterworks with selections by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn and more!

Centreville Methodist Church will once again host the concerts on the weekend of April 20th at 7pm and April 21st at 3pm. The theme is ***Chorale Classics*** and this concert will feature stunningly beautiful music, with a few fun selections added to delight the audience. Each concert includes the Select Ensemble, a traditional audience sing-along, and other special music. Following the concert, singers will greet audience members during a light reception.

Tickets will be available online on February 23 at www.qachorale.org and are:

Adults: \$25.00
Students (ages 13-17): \$15.00
Children (12 and under): Free.

Tickets are limited so please, do not hesitate to reserve a spot. There are also always opportunities to support to QAC with donations or sponsorships. For more information visit www.qachorale.org.

Queen Anne's Chorale is an all-volunteer, non-auditioned community chorus with the motto "Entertaining, Engaging, Educating since 1989". The ability to read music is helpful, but not required. We always welcome new singers!

Queen Anne's Chorale is supported in part through grants from the United Way of Queen Anne's County, the Queen Anne's County Centre for the Arts, and the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

2024 1st Quarter				
		LEM	Lectors	Ushers
3/3/2024	8AM		Maria Jones	Cathy Smith
Third Sunday in Lent		Patti Snyder	Lois Vanderbok	Lois Vanderbok
Lent 3B	10AM	Lisa Herlihy		Bernie Gast
Purple		Patrick Herlihy	Helen Vansant	John Reckord
			Charlie Mead	
3/10/2024	8AM	Jim Lipsner	Liza Hamill	Maria Jones
Fourth Sunday in Lent			Betsy Sipes	Cathy Smith
Lent 4B				
	10AM	Bob Rosekrans	Patricia Spinella	David Lee
Purple		Leslie Schneider		Susan Hogan
			David Lee	
3/17/2024	8AM		Jeffry Pike	Lois Vanderbok
Fifth Sunday in Lent		Charlie Mead	Maria Jones	Maria Jones
Lent 5B	10AM			
Purple		Keith Fulmer	Dottie Wilson	Bernie Gast
		Juanita Dombkowski	Bob Thompson	Warren Prender
3/24/2024	8AM		Cathy Smith	Lois Vanderbok
Palm Sunday		Liza Hamill	Thom Hirsch	Maria Jones
Palm Sunday	10AM			
Dark Red		Leslie Schneider	Beverly Cooper	Dan Starsoneck
		Lois Vanderbok	Becky Myers	Marguerite Starsoneck
3/28/2024	7PM			
Maundy Thursday		Jeff Pike	Donna Guilford	Charlie Mead
Dark Red		Patti Snyder	Bob Thompson	Bernie Gast
3/29/2024	12PM	Juanita Dombkowski	Leona Parker	Charlie Schwan
Good Friday		Keith Fulmer	Mike Parker	Dan Starsoneck
No Hangings	7PM	Leslie Schneider	Jennifer Leach	Warren Prender
		Bob Rosekrans	David Lee	John Reckord
3/31/2024	8AM		Betsy Sipes	Maria Jones
Easter		Jeff Pike	Lois Vanderbok	Cathy Smith
Easter Yr B	10AM	Lisa Herlihy	Carolyn Aland	Ron McCready
		Patrick Herlihy	Jennifer Leach	Laurelle McCready

Arter Serving Chart					
Acolytes		Altar Guild	Counters	Greeters	Video Tech
		Dot Deren, Fred & Linda Klingensmith, Nancy Link, Julia Bollinger			
Katie Schaefer			Leslie Schneider		
Emily Schaefer		Lynne Shand, Betsy Sipes, Patti Snyder	Liza Hamill	Charlie Mead	
Samuel Radley Taylor				Molly Cannon	Liza Hamill
		Lynne Shand, Betsy Sipes, Patti Snyder			
Izzy Slavin					
Landon Rosekrans		Anna Sisson	Anna Sisson	Connie Clark	Dottie Wilson
Vivian Dorsey			Judy Peppel	Becky Myers	
		Donna Guilford, Maria Jones, Becky Myers			
Emily Schaefer		Dottie Wilson			
Katie Schaefer			Dottie Wilson	Mary Lu & Molly	Dottie Wilson
Avery Miller			Bob Thompson	Toinette McDowell	
		Dee Dee & Kevin McCracken, Eileen Shreve, Carole Tulip			
Reagan Hohman		Judy Peppel	Judy Peppel	Caroline Aland	Dottie Wilson
Samuel Radley Taylor				Susie Reckord	
Landon Rosekrans			Kate McNealey		
					Dottie Wilson
					Liza Hamill
		Dot Deren, Fred & Linda Klingensmith, Nancy Link,			
				Molly Cannon	
Avery Miller			Leslie Schneider	Mary Lu Prender	
Izzy Slavin			Liza Hamill	Charlie Mead	Dottie Wilson

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH - KENT ISLAND

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2024



PALM SUNDAY

March 24th

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28th

7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29th

Noon & 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

March 31st

6:30 AM

EASTER SERVICE

March 31st

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM