

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

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Connections

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

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A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton

Eastertide 2024

...*somebody had to be last...*

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It's funny how the mind and heart work... what leads to what, and how things are connected in thought and prayer... it's seamless but not always logical. Not long ago, I was contemplating how we know when things begin and when they end. A useful framework when discovering when things begin and when things end is to determine who's first and who's last.

Someone has to be first. Someone has to be last. With such distinctions we draw the boundaries of processes and events and periods of time. We understand an individual event like a footrace, both as the event itself elapses and in total, by the one who finishes first and the one who finishes last. We understand class rank by discovering who has generated the most accomplished record, and whose record sparkles the least. We understand a fundamental change in the human experience when we mark the firsts or lasts like the first person to eat an oyster, the first person to fire pottery, the last linen-covered bi-plane, the last incandescent light bulb, the last steam locomotive, and so forth. Personal vital statistics make records of when and where individual births and deaths occur – lifetimes captured on small government forms. Until we know when/how something began and when/how it ended, we have little sense of what it means or how to value it. So we mark the day/time/place that we understand to be a beginning and we note the same markers at the end. The great sweep of life around us makes more sense with first and last.

Florence Li Tim Oi was the first woman ordained an Anglican priest. Someone had to be. **Roger Bannister** was the first human being recorded as having run a mile in under 4 minutes. Someone had to be. **Charles Lindbergh** was the first aviator to solo non-stop New York-Paris, and **Yuri Gagarin** was the first human being to travel in space. Someone had to be. **Junko Tabei** was the first woman to climb the Seven Summits. **Jacques Piccard** and **Don Walsh** were the first to reach the Challenger Deep. Someone had to be. **Robert M. Losey** was the first American killed in World War II, and **Darwin Judge** and **Charles MacMahon** were the last Americans killed in Viet Nam. Someone had to be.

None of these human events is small. Each marks a tender boundary with the addition of a human face.

That last item - the last person to die in a war - was where my heart stopped wandering and my prayers re-focused. When it occurs, we don't know that the victim *is* the last person killed. When they die they're just the next - the latest - person claimed by the conflict. Later however, when the shooting has stopped, we take stock and realize who the last person to die was. That's sobering. Anyone who has seen the violence of war abhors it, and the ones I know who have seen it would gladly give their life as the last one killed if they had faith that the fighting really would stop when they died. The staggering sacrifice marked by any human death in war seems magnified by the pathos of knowing it was the last. Someone had to be the one by whom the boundary was set - someone had to be last.

Jesus is the last man to die in our war with death. Someone had to be, and God willed that it should be His Son. Someone had to be the last one who faced death as all preceding humanity had – having only faith, without demonstrated proof - of Resurrection. Someone had to be that last person. Some might say that having been resurrected, (and having made some intimations of resurrection) the evidence suggests that Jesus didn't die. Oh, no. He really *did* die; that's the whole point. If He hadn't really died, the Resurrection wouldn't really be Resurrection. If one is not dead one cannot be raised. It would be no more than sideshow sleight-of-hand.... a cosmic parlor trick. Jesus was a casualty in the war with death - the last casualty. As with any other such last wartime death, there is a particular poignancy and pathos that the last casualty in the war with death was God's Son. Someone had to declare of death by His own death "*it is finished.*" That someone is Jesus.

Having set one boundary as the last person to die, Jesus sets another boundary, this time as the first. Someone had to be first, and in the case of the war with death it had to be Jesus. If Jesus were not the first one raised, He would not, by definition, have been the last one to die. The only way we know who the last one was is to see who the first raised is.... adds vivid clarity to "*the last shall be first*" doesn't it?

Lazarus notwithstanding, Jesus is the first person to be Resurrected. Being fully human as well as fully divine, Jesus is the last person to die crying out, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me*" in order to be that He might be the first person ever described as: "*He is not here, but has Risen!*" Paul understands the universal, had-to-be-last-so-He-could-be-first nature of The Cross and The Empty Tomb when he writes to Rome: "*The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.*" Resurrected, Jesus is "*the beginning, the*

firstborn from the dead” and what happens to Jesus personally happens now for us all, forever. His Resurrection provides to each his/her own resurrection - “we are buried with Him by baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Jesus sets the endpoint on death with His death. Jesus sets the starting point on eternal life by being raised.

I am grateful to all souls who gave themselves as the last in any conflict, setting that boundary. I am more grateful than my words can say that Jesus was the last to die in the fight with death, setting the ultimate boundary. He is risen, and that means that you and I can be too.... it gives true depth to the phrase, “Thank you, Jesus!”

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

FBC3+

A Word from Our Sr. Warden

The 156th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton was held on March 7th through the 9th, online and in person at Washington College in Chestertown and was hosted by Emmanuel Church. Charlie Mead, Warren Prender and I attended as representatives of Christ Church. The online portion consisted of various reports and voting on several proposals as well as approval of the annual budget. The in-person portion included the Bishop’s annual address with three presentations of churches who have experienced “resurrection” and renewal. Christ Church was one of the three and this provided an excellent opportunity to showcase how far we have come in the past 11 years. The Iona Collective and the Bishop’s Institute presented programs showcasing their many educational opportunities within the Diocese. It was very eye opening to see all of the ways our Diocese is working to provide initiatives in new ministries such as Spanish language worship and services, ESL programs, new clergy, and training for lay ministers in serving and teaching. The entire convention and presentations are available at Dioceseofeaston.org.

On March 13, a delegation from the Diocese, known as a Listening Committee visited Christ Church to discuss our nonpayment of our full apportionment. (In 2024, we are paying 50% of the apportionment assigned to us.) This was a congenial and collaborative meeting between the delegation and representatives of Christ Church. The Listening Committee congratulated and praised CCPKI for all of the work we have done on our finances and mortgage over the past ten years. They also expressed how much they relied on our support as one of the two largest churches in the diocese to continue and enhance their ability to provide services to all member churches such as educational and youth programs, providing services to the needy, and basic maintenance for the Cathedral and Diocesan held buildings.

For those not familiar with this, an apportionment is the contribution that a church makes to the Diocese annually. It is a defined percentage based on donations received and other income (rentals, sales, etc.). All churches within a diocese contribute an apportionment to their diocese to provide funds for programs and ministries as well as the everyday costs of maintaining the diocese and its buildings, and personnel. In turn, the diocese provides a portion of these funds to the work of the national Episcopal Church.

Also in March, John Dragone, the Lay Canon to the Ordinary, met with Father Frank and I, and then met with the Search Committee to offer his support in the process of calling a new Rector. The Canon to the Ordinary is the primary contact for our parish to review and post our official call and parish profile. He also receives, and with the Bishop, screens responding candidates as to background, experience, and fit to our call. John was very informative and will be an integral partner with Christ Church in our search for the right fit for our parish.

We have had a very busy month! And, as always, our parish has stepped up in all areas, from funding a new roof for Shand Hall, to serving our neighbors. As we look forward, I am convinced that we are indeed blessed and that we will continue to bless all those whom we serve!

Lois Vanderbok

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Christ Church Calendar ~ April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:00 Evening Prayer 1:00 Cemetery Committee Meeting	2 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	3 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:30 AA Meeting	4 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer	5 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	6 2:00 AA Meeting
7 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 5:30 FAMILY DINNER 7:00 FREE CONCERT 7:00 Youth Group	8 5:00 Evening Prayer	9 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	10 10:00 Exec Com Meeting 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Finance Committee 7:30 AA Meeting	11 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer	12 BOAT SHOW PARKING 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	13 2:00 AA Meeting
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 Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	17 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:30 AA Meeting	18 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer	19 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	20 2:00 AA Meeting
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 Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting	24 5:00 Evening Prayer 7:30 AA Meeting	25 8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales 5:00 Evening Prayer	26 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	27 2:00 AA Meeting
28 8:00 Worship Service 10:00 Worship Service 7:00 Youth Group	29 5:00 Evening Prayer	30 5:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 EfM Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scout Meeting				

Shand Hall Roof Project

Thank you to everyone who donated to help pay for a new roof for Shand Hall. The roofers were busy working to tackle the project but the weather did not want to cooperate with rain followed by high winds, making the job take a little longer than anticipated. But it looks FANTASTIC!!



HAVEN MINISTRIES FOOD DRIVE

Haven Ministries asked Christ Church to hold a food drive and you answered with a big YES!!! (see photo on next page)

Thank you to all who donated. The response was wonderful. And thank you to all those who helped load and unload at the pantry. (see photo)

Last Sunday as I shared my appreciation for your support of the recent Haven Ministries Food Drive, I was overcome with emotion while speaking and had to end before finishing the story.

So as Paul Harvey would say, "Now for the rest of the story". Food from the Food Pantry helps feed 750+ people every month. I'm there nearly every day and see the faces of and hear the grateful thanks of the guests. I hope all of you are very proud of yourselves and our church- the generosity and kindness is overwhelming; not just for our food drive but every week! Thank you-

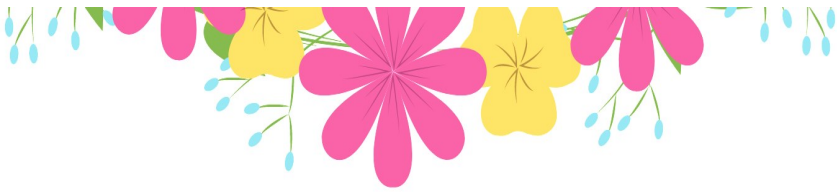
Wishing everyone Easter blessings!

Susie Reckord



2nd Quarter Serving Chart-Master Sheet

		LEM	Lectors	Ushers	Acolytes	Altar Guild	Counters	Greeters	Video Tech
4/7/2024	8AM			Maria Jones					
Second Sunday of Easter		Liza Hamill	Betsy Sipes Jeffrey Pike	Cathy Smith		Lynne Shand, Betsy Sipes, Patti Snyder			
	10AM	Lisa Herlihy	Cheryl Valentine	Dan Starsonneck	Landon Rosekrans Avery Miller Samuel Radley-Taylor		Anna Sisson	Connie Clark	
White		Patrick Herlihy	Bob Thompson	Marguerite Starsonneck			Judy Peppel	Becky Myers	Dottie Wilson
4/14/2024	8AM			Eric Hummel					
Third Sunday of Easter		Charlie Mead	Maria Jones Cathy Smith	Linette Hummel		Donna Guilford, Maria Jones, Becky Myers			
	10AM	Juanita Dombkowski	Leona Parker	John Reckord	Izzy Slavin Vivian Dorsey Samuel Radley-Taylor		Dottie Wilson	Mary Lu Prender	Bill Vanderbok
White		Keith Fulmer	Mike Parker	Bob Guilford			Bob Thompson	Toinette McDowell	
4/21/2024	8AM		Lois Vanderbok	Lois Vanderbok		Dee Dee & Kevin McCracken, Eileen Shreve, Carole Tulip			
Fourth Sunday of Easter		Jeff Pike	Liza Hamill	Maria Jones					
White Baptism	10AM	Charlie Mead Patti Snyder	Donna Guilford Keith Fulmer	Ron McCready Laurelle McCready	Katie Schaefer Emily Schaefer Reagan Hohman		Judy Peppel Kate McNealey	Caroline Aland Susie Reckord	Dottie Wilson
4/28/2024	8AM			Cathy Smith					
Fifth Sunday of Easter		Lois Vanderbok	Cathy Smith Maria Jones	Eric Hummel		Dot Deren, Fred & Linda Klingensmith, Nancy Link, Julia Bollinger			
White Baptism	10AM	Leslie Schneider Bob Rosekrans	David Lee Pat Spinella	Warren Prender Charlie Schwan	Landon Rosekrans Avery Miller Izzy Slavin		Leslie Schneider Liza Hamill	Molly Cannon Bob Thompson	Liza Hamill
5/5/2024	8AM			Lois Vanderbok					
Sixth Sunday of Easter		Patti Snyder	Jeffrey Pike Betsy Sipes	Maria Jones		Lynne Shand, Betsy Sipes, Patti Snyder			
1st Communion	10AM				Katie Schaefer				
White Baptism		Lois Vanderbok Keith Fulmer	Jennifer Leach Carole Katrinic	Bob Rosekrans Charlie Mead	Emily Schaefer Vivian Dorsey		Anna Sisson Judy Peppel	Connie Clark Becky Myers	Steve Dombkowski



FAMILY DINNER & FREE CONCERT

Join us for Family Dinner
and a FREE Concert by the
Chesapeake Bay Community Band

APRIL 7, 2024

5:30 PM DINNER

&

7:00 PM CONCERT

