

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

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Stevensville, MD
Permit No. 8



July 2025

New sletter

† Grounded in Christ

† Growing in Faith

† Giving in Community

410-643-5921

www.ccpki.org



Stevensville, MD

Hope or Madness?

©2025 Frank B. Crumbaugh III

“The definition of insanity is repeating the same behavior over and over expecting a different result.”

This quip is often employed to express the frustration people feel when facing slow-to-(if-ever)-resolve issues. Usually, it is heard in a self-deprecating tone, the speaker annoyed by the compulsion to persist in seemingly futile behavior.

The ambivalent, agnostic World - holding our Faith and our expressions of it on a continuum somewhere between bafflement and contempt - could/would easily use Rita Mae Brown's aphorism to describe the Church. They'd say, probably garnished with a healthy dollop of cynicism, that our practices look insane to them.

It is easy to see why; we chronically repeat the same behaviors expecting different results; we do so encouraged by: *“I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”* The World hears that, examines ample empirical evidence to the contrary, and concludes we're unwell, needing to be seen. They reach this conclusion observing that we say prayers that do not appear to be answered in a timely fashion if at all, and if/when an observable answer does come, it may seem opposite our requests/intentions.

Fair enough. What the skeptics and critics don't understand is that hope and the prayer deriving from it is intimately connected to both to imagination and to memory. The imagination part of it is easy – we pray for a parking place at the mall or a winning lottery ticket – sometimes it's there and sometimes it's not. At its most profound and elemental, however, hope and the prayer coming from it expresses the recollection of a time, place, person or condition that does not presently exist and desires its restoration.... yearning that it be manifested, that it become an observable reality. Some believing people hope for a return to Eden and our Created State before the Fall, and others hope for the repair/recovery of an estranged relationship, and still others hope for the cessation of illness and a return to wholeness; in each case what is remembered is offered to God in prayer.... a template in which our hearts frame and speak their deepest yearnings. We do it over and over and over again., and in its repetition, it sometimes appears as sheer madness to the World.... utterly insane. Perhaps it feels that way to us sometimes when we're doing it.

Certainly, we say other kinds of prayers.... our memory recalls a worry, a fear, a hurt that has been healed or removed, and we pray about that. Those are grateful prayers. Our memory recalls a value, an ethic, a discipline that

seems weakened, in eclipse or just plain lost, and we pray about that. Those are prayers of hope and yearning. Our memory recalls when we had confidence and knew how to face something, and it now feels as though we've lost that confident strength. We pray about that, and those are prayers asking that God stand right beside use.

In every case, we may seem to be fixated, obsessive prisoners of an outcome when in fact we're enthralled by the hope that wants to speak to God. Hope is perhaps the deepest reserve that fuels our faith and renews us to say our prayers day in and day out. We remember, and from that memory, we pray that God will act in the present moment, which in turn changes subsequent events – ***“Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.”*** When we make this memorial acclamation in Prayer A, we make it as a statement of fact. We make it as a statement of belief, and we make it as an expression of our Faith that makes perfect sense to us while appearing to be utter folly and madness to the World.

When we pray about something that continues unresolved and intractable, like peace in the Middle East, we remember Abraham – an old man with whom God made covenant – and we remember Abraham's jealous envious children who can, but choose not to, get over themselves. We remember and look toward a time when chronic, relentless, centuries-long suffering of all sorts will be alleviated.

So yes, we do repeat same behaviors over and over again expecting a different result. What we discover is that there is a different result – it's us. We are the first ones changed by our prayers, and in being changed by our own prayers, we are strengthened and renewed to persist in bringing the yearnings of our hearts and the World before God. While there is scant if any evidence that Gandhi ever said or wrote it, it is true nevertheless that we are to become the change we wish to see in the World. And when the World sees the change, we pray for showing up in us, the World has a choice to embrace or resist those changes we've prayed for – the changes that are manifested first in the people praying for them.

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

FBC3+

Widely mis-attributed to Einstein, it is Rita Mae Brown, in her novel ***Sudden Death.***
John 14:13-14 NRSV
The Book of Common Prayer, pg 363

A WORD FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN

You would think that the summer would be a quiet time for the church. However, please know that your Priest-in-Charge, staff, officers and Vestry are busily working to take care of some much-needed repairs and updates to the church property, planning, Baptisms, Weddings, etc. We aren't complaining, on the contrary it is truly a pleasure to serve such a growing and vital parish.

At the June Vestry meeting, Warren Prender announced that 2025 will be his last year of service as Jr. Warden. The Vestry thanked Warren for his service and for moving our parish from a reactive state to a proactive state for repairs and maintenance and planning for major improvements to the properties belonging to Christ Church. Warren has put in place new vendors who are truly responsive to our needs, and oddly enough, several of them had children who attended our school! It will be very difficult to fill Warren's shoes, but we thank him for the long notice so that a successor can be brought up to speed prior to his "retirement". If you might be interested in assuming the Jr. Warden position, Fr. Frank or I would love to speak with you. There are no requirements for this position. However, having some general maintenance knowledge, experience with vendors and some time during the business day are helpful.

After 12 highly successful years of leading the Stewardship Committee, Molly Cannon and Charlie Mead are looking for their successors. Leading the Stewardship Committee is an intense but relatively short time commitment. We are seeking parishioners who can help turn the desires of church members, Vestry and the Finance Committee into a Vision Statement for the years ahead. You would lead the committee in producing pamphlets, letters and a campaign to achieve our goals. Be assured, Molly and Charlie will serve as mentors to their successors through the 2026 campaign.

The Search Committee resumed meetings in late June to address some new applications for our Curate position. Please continue to pray for them. Along those lines, please take a moment to read Jeff Pike's article on the Diocesan Discernment in this newsletter. We are very fortunate to have Jeff Pike serving on this committee and keeping us updated on the progress.

I ask that all parishioners begin to think about what they would like to see in Christ Church during 2026. I will get some form of a survey going in July so that the Vestry can begin their planning of a wish list

for 2026. What ministries would you like to see, or what is missing? How can we improve? And, how can we help you and your family? Your Vestry members are here to serve and represent you. Please communicate with them so that they can bring any thoughts or ideas to their meetings.

I wish you all a safe and blessed summer!

EASTON DIOCESE DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Jeff Pike



In our effort to keep parishioners informed about the diocese discernment process, we are pleased to report that with the financial support of the Presiding Bishop's office, the committee has engaged the services of Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves to lead the upcoming healing/listening conversations with parishes throughout the diocese. This is wonderful news as Bishop Mary has been an effective leader in similar discernment processes and has a sustained record of thoughtful pastoral direction and leadership. Also, this month the following article calling the diocese to prayer right now, will be included in the June Diocese News (as well as on the diocesan transition page). We look forward to incorporating this prayer and others into our worship services.

Lastly, the diocese Standing Committee is working with the Presiding Bishop's office to secure an Assisting Bishop as a pastoral presence to do those things that only a bishop can do by late October or early November 2025, after Bishop Marray departs.

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE CALLS DIOCESE TO PRAYER

The Discernment Committee, following up on the Standing Committee's decision for the Diocese of Easton to enter a time of listening and healing, will continue its data collection efforts through the summer. Once the listening and healing process has been underway, the Discernment Committee will then begin engaging parishes and other stakeholders in conversations about our future as the Episcopal Church on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

"What we as a diocese are invited to do now is to pray," said the Very Rev David Michaud, co-chair of the Discernment Committee. The committee is calling the Diocese of Easton in this period of transition into a time of prayer. The Committee has developed a number of prayers,

collects, and petitions for Prayers of the People, as well as a special litany. These include prayers for discernment; prayers for healing; and prayers for our bishop, diocesan staff, the Standing Committee, and the Discernment Committee.

The Committee is encouraging each parish to pray for the diocese and its discernment every Sunday using any of the prayers offered by the committee or their own prayers. The Discernment Committee is also asking each parish to have a prayer team or group that will pray these prayers during this time of transition on a regular (preferably weekly) basis and encourages these groups to be creative in finding ways to engage parishioners in praying for our diocese.

The Rev. Suz Southern (St. Paul's, Berlin) and the Rev. Andrew Cropper (All Hallows, Snow Hill) are the Prayer Team for the Discernment Committee and are available to answer questions and provide more information. A Discernment Prayer Page has been established on the diocesan website which contains prayers and resources for this time of transition that you are welcome to access and use: www.dioceseofeaston.org/transition-prayers/.

The Prayer Team would like each parish to confirm with them when they have established a prayer team or group that is regularly praying for diocesan discernment, and to please share any ideas, prayers, or questions they may have.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide the Diocese of Easton in our discernment.

Prayer for Discernment

O God our Comforter, who guides us in the ways of justice and truth and holds us close in times of uncertainty: Inspire us with your grace and wisdom, that we might do everything according to your will and ground ourselves in your love. Give us a sense of openness about the future ministries and mission of the Diocese of Easton. Help us remember that we do not hold all of the answers, nor do we need to. Encourage us when we are anxious about change, reminding us that all things are in your hands: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Standing Committee Letter to the Diocese, June 9, 2025

During this time of transition, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Easton has been in communication with Bishop Marray, the Office of the Presiding Bishop, and specifically with Ms. Rebecca Wilson, Chief of Strategy for the Episcopal Church. We are actively planning for a period of healing and discernment for the diocese this fall. During these next few months, we want to have a season of thanking and supporting Bishop San as he prepares to leave the Office of the Bishop of Easton on October 18, 2025.

At our May 15 meeting, we unanimously approved the following two resolutions:

1. to request the Presiding Bishop's office assist us in engaging the services of Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves to facilitate healing/listening conversations in the diocese, and
2. to request the Presiding Bishop's advice and consent regarding an assisting bishop to work with the Standing Committee and the diocese as a pastoral presence to do those things that only a bishop can do for a period of time beginning in late October or early November 2025.

The Presiding Bishop's Office has received and approved our requests. You will hear more from us as the process unfolds. In the meantime, we ask that you continue to pray for our Bishop, for our whole diocese, for the Standing Committee and for the Discernment Committee. Our common goal is to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation and healing in this time of transition.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Jeff Pike, jpik@pikeassoc.com or 202-731-9148 a member of the committee.

Leadership Recruitment

Troop #1631 is looking for people interested in leadership positions with the scout program. The scouts meet on Tuesday evening at 7pm from September through May. If you are interested please contact Matt Jansen at mach6@yahoo.com.



Christ Church Connections Ministry

The Connections Ministry offers a variety of ways to address parishioners needs through visiting with a trained volunteer, rides to medical appointments and casserole deliveries for those who need a hot meal during illness or recovery.

Volunteers are needed in these three areas.

Visitors Program
Driving Program
Casserole Delivery Program



A large poster in the narthex shows general information and handouts are available to explain the programs. Please take one home and prayerfully consider how you can help this important ministry.

If the Connections Ministry can help you, please email connections@ccpki.org or call the church office.

Acolyte Fundraiser

Help support our Acolyte Ministry and receive a complimentary custom water bottle! We would like your support in order to:

- Give our Acolytes the opportunity to attend the Acolyte Festival at the National Cathedral this fall.
- Purchase New Vestments and gloves
- Purchase gifts to give those graduating from our Acolyte Ministry

Acolytes play a vital role in church services by assisting the priest and deacon, primarily during the celebration of the Eucharist. Join us in showing your support for this vital ministry.



ACOLYTE FUNDRAISER

SPECIAL PROMO

All funds raised will be contributed to furthering the training of the Acolytes, participation in the annual Acolyte Festival, and much more!!!

Donate \$25 or more and enjoy a complimentary stylish water bottle!

CASH OR CHECK ON SUNDAYS OR
DONATE TODAY USING QR CODE



Christ Church Calendar ~ July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>10:00 Bible Study 7:30 AA Meeting</i>	3 <i>2:30-5:30 Soup Sales</i>	4 <i>6:30 Women's AA Mtg 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting</i>	5 2:00 AA Meeting
6 <i>9:30 Worship Service</i>	7	8	9 <i>10:00 Bible Study 7:30 AA Meeting</i>	10 <i>8:30 Backpacks Prep 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales</i>	11 <i>6:30 Women's AA Mtg 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting</i>	12 2:00 AA Meeting
13 <i>9:30 Worship Service 11:00 History Grp Mtg.</i>	14	15	16 <i>10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Finance Committee 7:30 AA Meeting</i>	17 <i>2:30-5:30 Soup Sales</i>	18 <i>6:30 Women's AA Mtg 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting</i>	19 2:00 AA Meeting
20 <i>9:30 Worship Service</i>	21 6:30 Vestry Meeting	22	23 <i>10:00 Bible Study 7:30 AA Meeting</i>	24 <i>2:30-5:30 Soup Sales</i>	25 <i>6:30 Women's AA Mtg 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting</i>	26 2:00 AA Meeting
27 <i>9:30 Worship Service</i>	28	29	30 <i>10:00 Bible Study 7:30 AA Meeting</i>	31		

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

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

Regular Office Hours 9 am—3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

[illegible]

MANY, MANY THANKS!

-Emily & Gary Van Essen

We would like to thank everyone so much for the fantastic baby shower after church on Sunday, June 22nd. Both of us were in awe of the event. We were so impressed with the decorations, including the beautiful floral centerpieces, the delicious food, and the fantastic turnout. We appreciate the flexibility of Vicar Terrance and Living Water Church who held worship with Christ Church so we could celebrate together. We are grateful for the many cards and gifts and look forward to acknowledging them more personally very soon. Thank you so much to the team of volunteers who organized and implemented this elegant and meticulously planned baby shower. We both feel incredibly thankful to be part of the Christ Church community and appreciate all the love and support!



Singers and Instrumentalist Needed for Summer Music

Each summer, when the Parish Choir is on break, Christ Church welcomes volunteer musicians from the church and community to present sacred vocal or instrumental anthems at the 9:30 a.m. service.

If you are interested in presenting a solo, duet, or other musical offering, please contact Gary Van Essen (music@ccpki.org). There are still slots available in July and August and Gary can help you with selecting an appropriate song.

The Children's Food Ministry: A New Christ Church Ministry Focused on Childhood Hunger

Haven Ministries is experiencing an 85% increase in clients being served at the pantry, many of whom are families with young children. Child-friendly food flies off the shelves. The HM food pantry coordinator has given us a specific list of child-friendly food priorities, and we have begun placing a weekly online order at Sam's Club for delivery directly to Haven Ministries. The consistent, predictable availability of this child-friendly food is a big help to the pantry!

The weekly cost of this ministry is about \$300. We have been fortunate to receive some grant money to help fund this endeavor, but it won't be enough to sustain the program through the year. We will need to augment grants with monetary donations from our congregation.

If you would like to help with a donation, please write your check to Christ Church with "Children's Food Ministry" in the memo.

Contact:

Leona Parker (301) 807-8503 Leona.parker22@gmail.com

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

FALL HANDBELL CHOIR PLAYERS NEEDED

Thank you to all who joined us on Sunday, June 1st when we dedicated our new set of handbells at the worship service. A special thanks to the seven musicians who volunteered to play the handbells that day. These volunteers demonstrated these beautiful instruments by accompanying two hymns and performing an anthem, "Be Still My Soul," at the offertory. Now that everyone has heard and seen our bells, we are ready to organize our first Parish Hand Bell Choir for the fall!

After reviewing feedback from our survey, we are excited to announce that our new Handbell Choir will be semester based (fall and spring) to allow greater participation and reduced time commitment. We are still seeking three players to complete our ensemble for the fall. The fall semester will require just seven Thursday evening rehearsals (6 - 7 p.m.), between October 9th and January 22nd and three Sunday morning performances. To join, potential members should have experience with reading music (handbell experience is helpful but not required.) If you are interested, please contact Gary Van Essen (music@ccpki.org) as soon as possible. And if you can't join for the fall, information about the spring semester will be available soon!



New in Pantry News!

Outreach

The Food Pantry Truck is Back in Action! On June 12th, after being parked for several months, the truck hit the road and went out into the community. It helped to provide food for those who are homebound, unable to make it to the pantry, and those who just need a little extra help to get through the month.

The first visit was to Terrapin Grove Senior Apartments, and then Stevensville Village. The goal for the truck is to go out 2-4 times per month to different low income communities. Next up we will be going to Riverside Apartments and Fisher Manor in Grasonville. This outreach is being done in addition to our regular weekly outreach of sending food to the low income senior communities of Terrapin Grove and Tilghman Terrace. Our goal is to continue to grow this outreach until everyone in Queen Anne's County has their food insecurity needs being met.



Year to Date Pantry Totals

Number of Visits-3,053

Individuals Benefitting From HM Food Pantries-
8,614

Donations Received- 87,159 lbs



May Pantry Totals

Families Served- 535 (36 New Families in May)
Individuals Benefitting From HM Food Pantries-
1,649

Donations Received- 17,505 lbs

Girl Scouts in Motion

Girl Scout Troop 937 provided our pantry with a custom painted (by the troop) bookshelf, stocked full of children's books. This has been well received by our clients and was a great addition to our pantry.



The Jacob Sloan Foundation

Mary Sloan, of The Jacob Sloan Foundation, brought in several cases of food for donation this month. Executive Director, Peter Grim, is seen helping bring in donations.



Art For Your Home

Phil Stapleton, through the Art For Your Home program, brought in several pieces of Artwork that were created by the students at Kent Island High School.

Blessing Bags

A group brought in homemade Blessing Bags, filled with toiletries and other items, along with an uplifting note from the creator of the bag.



Volunteer Strong!

Haven Ministries runs on Volunteers, and we are only as strong as our volunteer base. Thankfully, we have a pretty amazing Volunteer Coordinator that helps to ensure our pantry needs are met. Last week we received a food order from the Maryland Food Bank that was around 9,000 pounds. Our volunteers showed up and showed out with support.



Fresh Food Initiative

One of our goals for this year was to increase the fresh foods we offer here at the pantry. We started purchasing cases of lettuce from a QAC grower last month, and now we have begun ordering fresh produce from a wholesaler in Easton. Ordering fresh items does cause the cost of our purchases to go up significantly, so this is an endeavor that we will need help to grow. If you're in a position to give, and would like to support the pantry, please consider using the donation link on the last page to make a contribution.

Kent Island Community Garden

The Kent Island Community Garden opened recently in Stevensville, behind Bayside Elementary School and the Library. This was funded in part through grants provided by the Department of Agriculture, and is in partnership with the Master Gardeners' program through the University of Maryland Extension. Representative's of the garden graciously donated a garden bed for individuals from the community to grow items specifically for Haven Ministries.



Warehouse Happenings

Hope Warehouse has continued to grow and stabilize since reopening on March 15th. Customers still relay their appreciation regularly for the changes that were made and the newly welcoming environment they are now experiencing.

Sales have continued to stay at record breaking levels, which shows that all of the hard work we put in over the 6 week renovation period was not in vain. Every sale at Hope Warehouse and Our Daily Thread (Thrift Boutique in Chester, MD) directly benefits the residents in need in QAC, as the sales benefit the work we do at Haven Ministries.



Warehouse Volunteers

We could not do what we do, and at the capacity we do it, without the help of our volunteers.

The group of men shown below show up every single Wednesday, week after week, to help pick up donations of furniture and other household items, and transport them back to the warehouse. We couldn't do what we do, if it weren't for the dedication of these gentlemen and others like them.

But we always need more help. And at the warehouse, there are many options. Check out the ways you can help and reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator if you're interested in becoming a volunteer at Hope Warehouse.



Lenny, Antwan, Adam, Rob, & Kevin

Warehouse Tasks

- Helping Customers
- Sales
- Cleaning/Organizing
- Pricing Items
- Staging
- Moving Furniture
- Loading/Unloading
- Promoting Items on Social Media
- Picking up and delivering furniture
- Assisting the Manager

Volunteers Needed

If interested in volunteering, please contact Susie Reckord at VolunteerCoordinator@Haven-Ministries.com

Monetary Contributions

Scan the QR Code to give a monetary donation to the food pantries or general Haven Ministries fund.



***Thank you for
being a part of this
ministry!***

Ananda James

Director of Food Pantries

Have Donations?

Text pictures of your furniture to 410-490-8498 to schedule a pick up