

crossroads



The Newsletter of Christ Church, St. Peter's Parish

111 South Harrison Street, Easton, MD 21601 ♦ 410-822-2677 ♦ www.christchurcheaston.org



**Alive @ 5 Contemporary Music Service
with Communion**

**Saturday's at 5:00 pm on May 11,
May 18 , and May 25.**

Rite I Service with Communion

**Sunday's at 8:00 am on May 12,
May 19, and May 26.**

**Contemporary Music Service
with Communion**

**Sunday's at 9:15 am on May 12,
May 19, and May 26.**

Traditional Music Service with Communion

**Sunday's at 11:00 am on May 12,
May 19, and May 26.**

A Note From Rev. Patrick Collins



Dear Christ Church Community,

It is a beautiful spring day as I'm writing this. The sky is blue, with hardly a cloud to be seen. The temperature is warm and flowers are blooming all over town. (We won't talk about how the pollen in the air has turned every car the same color.) After months of being fallow and quiet, the world is turning green and coming to vibrant life around us once again.

As we are coming into this time of growth in the natural environment, it is also a time for us to think about growth in our own souls. I arrived here at Christ Church at the start of Lent and together we journeyed through a season of introspection. During that time, we looked at our own short-comings and mistakes; we spoke about the idea of repentance being the simple act of getting up, brushing off, turning to God and then taking another step. We walked through Holy Week together hearing and experiencing Jesus' Passion and Death with some very powerful and emotional worship services. We prepared ourselves for a miracle. And then, we experienced the miracle of Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday. At those worship services we heard beautiful and moving music (and at one service, a conga line dance).

Now, after weeks of solemn preparation and additional weeks of joyful celebration, it will soon be time for us to respond to God's love. This will begin in a few short weeks, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday (May 19th). This year, we are particularly blessed because we will be celebrating this event with baptisms at our annual parish picnic. Please mark your calendar now and make every effort to join us for what will be a great day of faith, food, fellowship and fun.

And in the months following Pentecost, having discovered once again that God loves and forgives us in our broken condition, and once again being empowered by the coming of the Holy Spirit... we turn our attention to our flawed world, and we share God's redeeming love with others through service in God's name. This Season after Pentecost marks a shift in our cycle of faith as our spiritual attention transitions away from an inward focus towards an outward focus.

We will see this shift in our church with the use of the color green. This is a symbol of our 'green growing season'. Just as the world has natural seasons of quietness, re-birth, growth and then slowing down – we too will experience times when we need to be more reflective and other times when we are called to be more active.

As we come to the end of our Easter celebration, please consider the ways in which you engage the world in service to God. Where do you see brokenness? Who do you know or meet who can use a good dose of love and compassion? How might your gifts help to bring our world and God's love just a small step closer together?

On his blog on medium.com, Brian Hertzog provides a modern interpretation of the Prayer Attributed to St. Francis. Please accept it as you discern how you are called to serve:

Please let all of me be an instrument of peace in the world. So that wherever I go, if I encounter hate, allow me to be a source of love. If I am wronged by others, then let me forgive those who have wronged me. Where I encounter doubt, let me inspire faith in others with my bravery. Where I find sadness and despair, let me be a source of joy and hope, like a single light radiantly illuminating a dark room.

I ask for the strength to console others, more than I want to be consoled myself; to understand more than I desire to be understood; and to love, more than I desire to be loved. For it's in giving that we receive and in forgiving that we're forgiven. Only by overcoming the ego, the "big me", "the self", are we born to eternal life.

Peace,
Patrick

Bishop San Visits Christ Church



Bishop Santosh Marray, Bishop of the Diocese of Easton (which includes all Episcopal parishes and missions on the Eastern Shore) presided over our four worship services and preached at each service on May 4 and 5 as part of his annual visitation.

Bishop San has visits scheduled with each parish in the Diocese throughout the year, checking in with congregations at least once per year.

He preached a message of hopeful waiting as Christ Church navigates the recent retirement of long-time rector Fr. Bill Ort; celebrates the calling of interim priest Fr. Patrick Collins; and begins the search for the next permanent rector of Christ Church, St. Peter's Parish.

On Saturday evening, Bishop San mentioned how much the song "At the Cross" meant to him. And for the Sunday 9:15am contemporary service, Sara Chapple and the band changed their song line-up to include "At the Cross" for the Bishop.

At the same service, Bishop San spoke of a diverse garden of flowers, unbeknownst to the Children's Church kids, who created a garden of colorful flowers for the Bishop. A Holy Spirit moment at work!

Bishop San will be back at Christ Church Easton for the graduation ceremony of the Iona Eastern Shore seminary program on Saturday, June 15 at 11:00am.

Here comes May:

May flowers, Mother's Day, Maypoles, May flies. May you be merry in the month of May.



This is my first time teaching Stephen Ministry training classes, and I am impressed by how interactive the teaching can be. The parish hall is a wonderful setting, as we use the big screen to display PowerPoint slides as well as movies to facilitate the learning process. Our training manuals are augmented by role playing, as trainees develop new listening skills and speaking skills. We will be wrapping up the training in May, and will be holding the commissioning for our 12 new caregivers on June 2 at the 10 am service; we invite everyone to join us. We will be having another training session in the fall.

The Easton Garden Club had a successful floral workshop in our parish hall recently. Mary Beth Lane led 20 members in how to make a beautiful arrangement.

The Chesapeake Bay Herb Society will be having dinner together in our parish hall on May 9. This group of culinary lovers maintain an herb garden at Pickering Creek and gather periodically to share a meal together focused around a particular herb. If you would like to attend this dinner, get in touch with Katie Barney at kamoose@goeaston.net. They are an informal and fun group; you can find them on Facebook.

The parish benefits greatly from parishioners pitching in for help with their areas of expertise. Recently John Nelson and Kim Mackaness combined forces to fix a drainage issue next to the screened in porch that serves as our entryway to the parish office. We have a few other small jobs if anyone would like to volunteer: Patty Fox, for example, has suggested adding a hook inside one of the doors in the sanctuary to allow visiting clergy to easily hang their garments. Our choir director Caroyln Cutler would like to have a shelf or two inserted inside a closet over near the organ. From gardening to construction and beyond, if you have a talent you would like to donate to Christ Church, please let us know.

Chris Rigaux

Parish Manager





Greg Allen and Vicki Richardson, joined by Norm Klug, Dottie Woodard, and Katie Hall, listen attentively during a Stephen Ministry training session.



Stephen Leader Peyton Procaccini leads a recent training session.



Norman Klug watches a movie during Stephen Ministry training.



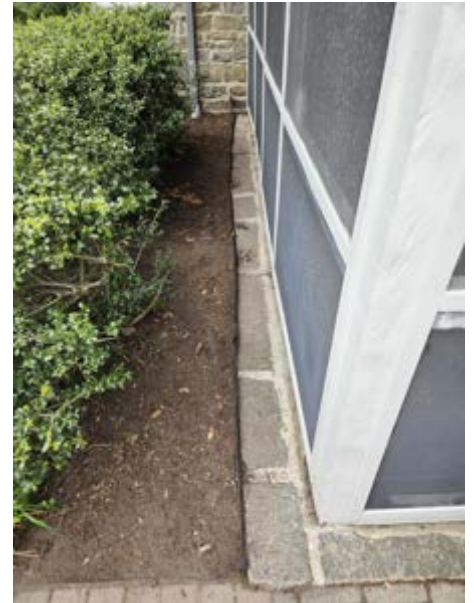
The floral workshop was a success, with 20 attendees filling all the available spots.



Mary Beth Lane (right) organized the flower workshop in the parish hall. Here she is working on an arrangement.



The parish benefits greatly from parishioners helping out with odd jobs; here are some tools used by John Nelson and Kim Mackness to help solve a drainage problem.



If you look closely, you can see the plastic barrier installed alongside the stone foundation of the patio to keep rainwater out.

Iona Eastern Shore Seminary Graduation is June 15 at Christ Church Easton



On Saturday, June 15 at 11:00am, the inaugural class of the Iona Eastern Shore seminary program will graduate in a ceremony at Christ Church Easton. There are seven people who are on the track for ordination to the priesthood and one on the diaconal track.

The program graduates are:

Rev. Deacon Stephanie Clayville, Saint Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church

Joanne Fisher, All Faith Chapel

Lynda Habel, St. Andrew's Sudlersville (diaconal track)

Rev. Deacon Chris Sabas, St. Andrew Princess Anne

Kelsey Spiker, Christ Church Easton

Jessica Stehle, Old Trinity Church/St. Johns Cornersville

Michael Valliant, Christ Church Easton

Dr. Lynn Wiljanen, St. Peters Episcopal Church

The Iona Eastern Shore Seminary Program is a part of an international partnership between the Iona Collaborative and the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. Bishop San brought the program to the Diocese of Easton in 2021 and Fr. Dan Dunlap,

Rector of Old Trinity Church in Church Creek, and St. John's Cornersville, who was a seminary professor at Seminary of the Southwest became the lead instructor/professor for Iona Eastern Shore.

Students in the Iona Eastern Shore program on the priesthood track went through three years of academic study with a combination of weekly Zoom classes to review and discuss the weekly reading assignments, and monthly day retreats, where in addition to academic discussion, homiletics and liturgy were practiced and discussed. Classes were focused on Bible study, history of the church, theology and ethics.

Kelsey Spiker and Michael Valliant are honored and humbled to be a part of this first class.

"Graduation is the culmination of a three-year education and formation process of learning, discussing, preaching, prayer, liturgy, sharing, growing, falling, getting back up, pretty much like life," Michael said. "It's funny to look back at where we were three years ago and realize how far we have come and how much we have learned. And really it's just the beginning, learning and formation are both lifelong processes."

Kelsey preached at the last seminary day retreat, which was held at Old Trinity Church in Church Creek, which was the day after her birthday. She then preached all services at Christ Church for the weekend.

"I spent all of Friday on my birthday writing my final sermon for my final seminary class, which was the next day, and three years of seminary studies through Iona Eastern Shore are checked as complete," Kelsey said. "Then I preached that sermon four more times here at Christ Church Easton. You can catch me face down in a pool of tears of gratitude for how good God has been to this wandering sheep." (Kelsey's sermon was on the Good Shepherd reading in John's Gospel).

Kelsey and Michael have gone through the Iona Eastern Shore program while they have been full-time program staff here at Christ Church. They aren't the only graduating students with Christ Church connections: Joanne Fisher was on staff at Christ Church for many years and Jessica Stehle and her family have been long-time Christ Church members, and Jess is also a Stephen Minister and has been a small group leader.

Jess, Joanne, Kelsey, and Michael will all be ordained as deacons together in a ceremony in September.

But first, graduation. The public and the Christ Church congregation is invited, and all are welcome to attend the Iona Eastern Shore graduation ceremony at Christ Church Easton on Saturday, June 15 at 11:00am.



First Quarter Financial Report – March 31, 2024

John Itell, Treasurer



We continue the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus and his Ascension into heaven. We live our lives in the hope of one day celebrating our acceptance into the heavenly kingdom. May we all be blessed to be there one day. Through the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit we celebrate the possible opportunities that await us through worship at our church and provide our ongoing outreach services to our community together. All of this is only possible by our contribution of time, talent and treasures. We of course we need the financial support for our church to continue the service times and the good works of our Church. I invite each one of us to evaluate what you can do towards this support for our church. We have sent out a second round of pledge cards and hope you will respond favorably. At this time pledges are down from 2023. This is a critical year to evaluate how to manage our operating expenses going forward. Here are a few key financial highlights through March 31, 2024.

- Pledges and Offerings were \$221,674 versus prior year at \$236,821 a decrease of \$15,147. Please note that Easter fell in the first quarter this year and the expectation would have been that this quarter would look stronger compared to the prior year. However, please know that attendance at Easter services was outstanding.
- Worship expenses for the first quarter were \$46,218 compared to \$29,253 for the prior year. Again Easter services increased this quarter expenses as well as our return to three Sunday services. Prior year would not have Easter expenses and only had two Sunday services.
- Education expenses were \$11,180 versus prior year at \$4,948. The youth programs-CORE accounted for this increase and was budgeted accordingly.
- Buildings and grounds came in at \$26,361 while prior year was \$44,045.
- Office expenses were \$15,009 versus prior year of \$19,200.
- With all the staff changes from last year, our First Quarter Expense was \$121,679 versus prior year of \$146,418.
- Our Virtual Worship and Media Ministry expense was \$7,529 versus prior year at \$14,585.
- The quarter ended in a deficit position of \$4,350 and prior year was a deficit of \$3,806 comparably.
- Investment and Endowment returns were favorable for the quarter with an increase of \$327,824. However, we know the market can fluctuate.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to grow our Church and balance our budget. We have great programs and it's a pleasure to call this Church our home.

Blessings,

John Itell, Treasurer



Musical Notes

From Choir Director Carolyn Cutler



The Parish choir will continue to provide beautiful music for the 11:00 service through June 2, with our last rehearsal being May 22. If you would like to see what it's like to sing in the choir, this month would be a great time to get a taste! The choir is going to sing one song at the church picnic on May 19 to add to the great music provided by the Contemporary Band.

The search continues for a new traditional service organist. Meanwhile, there are several excellent organists subbing over the next few months until a permanent replacement is found.

Over the summer, the traditional services will have music leaders and special music. There are also plans to have a couple of Sundays with "Summer Choir" which will be open to anyone who likes to sing. More information to follow.

Thanks to everyone who helps to make the music ministries of Christ Church successful!

How Do We Do That?

Altar Flowers

Each week the altar is dressed with beautiful flowers which are often done in remembrance of a person (s) life. You may notice that those persons for whom the flowers are given are also listed in the prayers for the day. If you have an interest in sponsoring flowers for a loved one who has passed on, we have several dates available. The cost for altar flowers is \$70 and you will have the opportunity to renew and hold that spot each year. Please be aware, that the physical date will change with the liturgical calendar but will always be close.

Currently, one weekend open for 2024:

November 4th

*If you are interested in an available date please contact
Barbara Zuehlke at 410.820.8926.*



Christ Church Library Is Up and Running!

Thanks to more than a year's worth of work by Christina Underwood, the Christ Church library is up and running



For more than a year, Christina Underwood has been inventorying, cataloging, and organizing the more than 1,000 books in the church's library. And with the help of volunteers and friends, the library is open for borrowing, suggesting books, and for meeting for fellowship, prayer, and study.

It's been a labor of love for Christina, who loves books, has a talent for organization, and for people learning more about their faith.

"Having tools available to the congregation for people to deepen their faith and improve the quality of their relationship with God is so important," she said. "I envision it as a center for our spiritual community to have conversations, to pray, to learn, and for fellowship."

With 25 different categories for more than 1,000 books, and that's not counting the number of Bibles and prayer books, this is a huge resource that hasn't been known or fully utilized since the time when

Rev. Carol Callaghan was on staff and had a team of volunteer librarians. The book collection is now digitized and searchable by title, author, and category.

The library itself is located in the church offices/Rectory and is open during the regular church office hours, which are Monday through Thursday, from 9:00am to 4:00pm. If you are coming in on your own to peruse the books, it's best to call the office first to make sure the library is not being used for a meeting or class during the time you will be stopping by.

If you'd like to stop through and ask for book recommendations, or learn more about the collection, Christina or a library volunteer will be in the library on Sundays from 9:00am to 12:00pm (11:30am over the summer) and from 4:30pm to 6:00pm on Tuesday evenings.

There will be more news and announcements coming up about the library throughout the spring. For now, come in and check out a book!

Thank you so much to Christina for all her hard work and her talent and dedication in organizing the library and to her team of volunteers who have helped!

Christ Church Youth Group

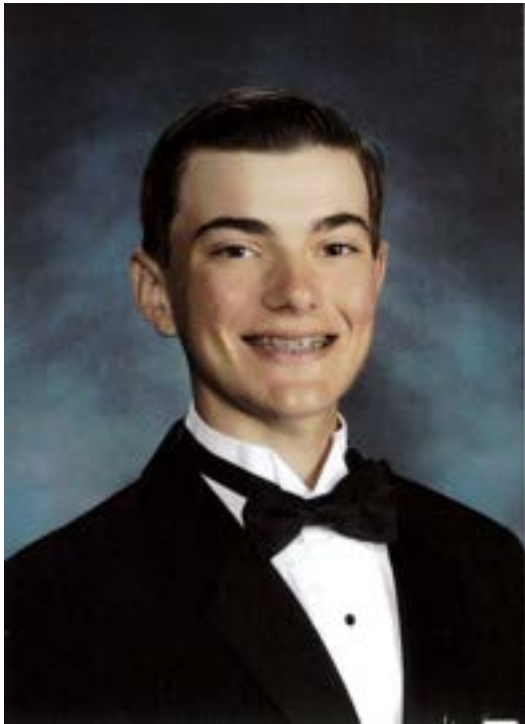
From Kelsey Spiker, Minister For Community Life and Families



Congratulations



2024 Graduates



Cappy (Michael) Carroll

Colonel Richardson High School

Plans on working over the summer and taking classes at Chesapeake College

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.



John "Jack" Kilbourne

Easton High School

Jack will attend Randolph-Macon College in Virginia to study Engineering and play lacrosse.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.





Sydney Alicia Lanier

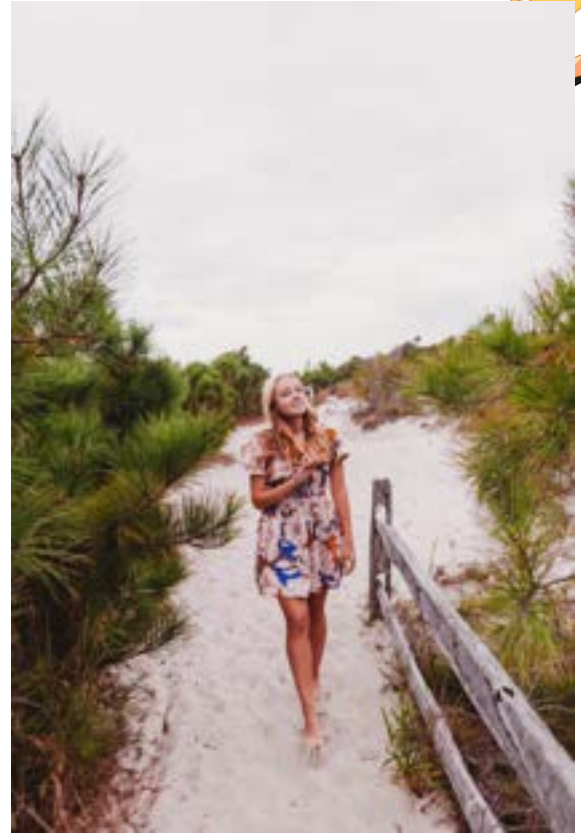
Easton High School

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

to study Nursing

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.



Anna Kate Leight

Easton High School

University of Maryland- College Park, Neuroscience major

Isaiah 41:10

do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.





Bryce Marie Spiker

Easton High School

With the intention to attend Coast Carolina University in the fall to study Hospitality, Resort & Tourism Management.

Psalm 16:21

“You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.”



Faith Luray Walstrum

Easton High School

Attending Louisiana State University to study Deltaic Sciences in the College of Coast & Environment

Ecclesiastes 3

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek , and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.





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|-----|---|-----|--|
| 1. | Frank Curnutte
John Renda
Sharon VanEmburch | 17. | Sarah Bradley
Ellie Holdridge
Jeffrey Parker |
| 2. | Marilyn Herridge
Craig Weedon | | Mason Satchell
Bill Weise |
| 3. | Janice Foss
Christine Kinlock | 18. | Ben Sheets
Maggie Trice |
| 5. | Sarah Keating
Liam Kemp
Jon Southworth | 19. | Matt Messenger |
| 7. | Bill Manley
Hannah Murphy
Antonio Parra
Mary Beth Sullivan | 20. | Ryan Showalter
Michael Weise
Bob West |
| 8. | Annie Raymond | 22. | Roger Bollman
Christi Boyd |
| 9. | Jan Gnospelius
Roll Sullivan | 24. | Louis Wright |
| 11. | Florence Lednum | 25. | Gayle Campbell
Branton Todd |
| 12. | Jack Anthony | 26. | Hope Murphy |
| 14. | Barbara Reinhardt
Amanda Tate
Barbara Zuehlke | 27. | Kathie Campbell |
| 15. | Marg Gazda
Kennedy Goodrow | 28. | Catherine Murphy |
| 16. | Steve Weems | 29. | Katie Sullivan |
| | | 30. | John Foss
Karen Jenks |
| | | 31. | Paulette Lawing |



Save The Dates



This year, our annual church picnic will take place on Sunday, May 19 at 11:00am, which is Pentecost!

**** Don't Forget To Bring A Dish ****

IT'S BACK! **Upscale Resale** at All Faith Chapel



A wide selection of quality merchandise.

- Designer and Sample clothing
- Adult gently used clothing
- Jewelry & accessories
- Furniture and Art
- Holiday
- Housewares
- Linens
- Electronics
- Sporting and gardening equipment
- Plant sale
- Baked goods and treats! Yum!

June 1, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Rain or Shine!

26281 Tunis Mills Rd.
Tunis Mills, MD

Proceeds to benefit Community Outreach programs.






Donations Accepted! To arrange and for more details, Contact Liz Connelly 410.829.8970

Summer Schedule Begins on Sunday, June 2

Our summer worship services schedule will begin on Sunday, June 2, with two in-person worship services each week: an 8:00am Rite I Service (quiet, contemplative, with organ or piano prelude, postlude, and during Communion) and a 10:00am service, which changes every other week between traditional music and contemporary music. There will not be services at 9:15am or 11:00am. The Saturday Alive @ 5 contemporary music service will continue throughout the summer. We will be on our summer Sunday worship schedule of 8:00am and 10:00am until after Labor Day. Sunday, June 2 will be a traditional music service.

Offerings and Gifts

Thank you for your continuing financial support to the work of the church. You provide the resources the church uses to carry out our ministries and mission to be the light of Christ in our community. A collection basket for your contributions is located in the aisle at the entry of the church. Other ways to give include scanning the QR codes below with your smartphone, Venmo: @Christ-Church-5, and by mail or through our website.





CHRIST CHURCH
EASTON

111 South Harrison Street

Easton, MD 21601

410-2822-2677

www.christchurcheaston.org



“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.”

1 Peter 5:6-7