



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

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







From The Desk of Interim Priest, Patrick Collins



Liturgical Ministries at Christ Church

As we continue on our journey of transition, one of the things that we will be looking at is our liturgical worship services. In ancient Greek the word 'liturgia' meant 'work of the people'. What we do together on a Saturday evening or a Sunday morning is a shared ministry of praising God. It takes a lot of volunteers to be involved in our worship services and we are looking to lift up our liturgical ministries and to grow the number of people who serve in this way.

Have you ever sat in the pews, seen someone serving in a worship service and thought, "I could do that". Or, "I would be good at that". If so, now is the time for you to answer that

call. We are searching for dedicated and faithful members of the community who are willing to assist our parish in the following liturgical ministries:

Altar Guild:

Our Altar Guild volunteers tend to the altar, tend to the silver items, decorate the church and in general make sure that the front of the church looks good as we celebrate the Eucharist together. Having an eye for details is an important gift to have for this ministry. If this sounds interesting, please contact:

Barbara Zuehlke – belzuelk@goeaston.net

Ushers:

These are the individuals who will greet you at the door, give you your bulletin, help you get to communion and assist you with the stairs. If you think that this would be a good ministry for you, please contact: Tony Brooks – <u>t.brooks0754@gmail.com</u>

Greeters:

These will be warm and inviting people who will look for and lovingly embrace our newcomers. If you like meeting new people, sitting near them and introducing them to all of your friends, then this just may be the ministry for you. In order to volunteer with this ministry, please contact:

Brenda Wood – brendawoodemail@gmail.com

Music:

If you have gifts that could assist with either our traditional or contemporary music programs, please contact the leaders to schedule an audition... they would love to hear from you!

Contemporary – Sara Chapple <u>sara@christchurcheaston.org</u> Traditional – Carolyn Cutler <u>choir@christchurcheaston.org</u>

Lectors/Prayers:

These are the people who read from the Bible for us at every service. These are also the people who lead us during Prayers of the People. Their calm demeanor really helps us to hear the Word of God. And, by adding a little dramatic flair, they can really make our sacred stories come alive. If you think that you would be good in this role, please contact Ruth Vietri-Green – vietrigreen@hotmail.com

Lay Eucharistic Ministers / Chalice Administrators:

Volunteering for this ministry means being able to give members of Christ Church the Body and/or Blood of Jesus every time you volunteer. It is a powerful ministry for you and for the entire Christ Church community.



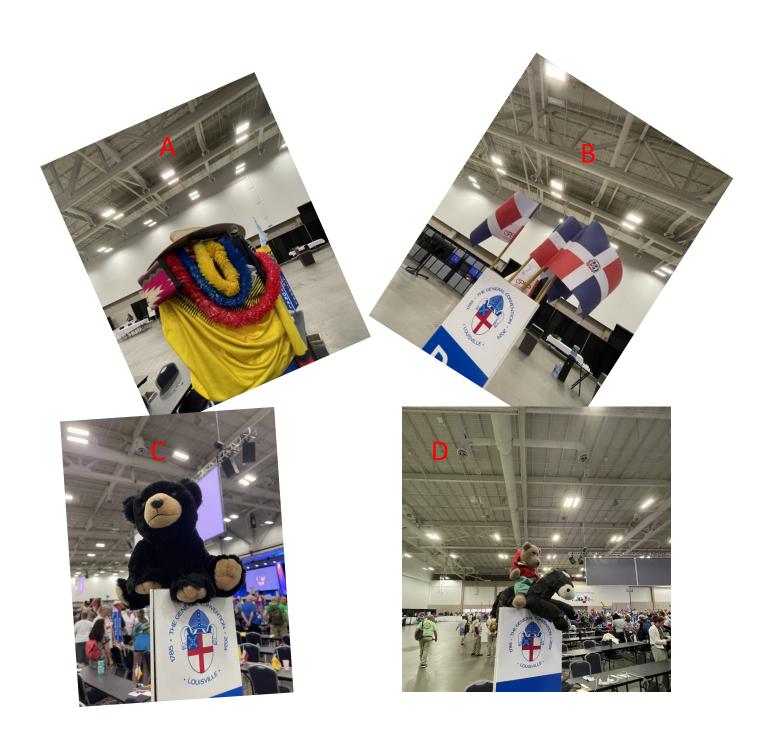
In addition to chalice administrators, we are also looking for a team captain who will organize this ministry and recruit new members. If you are interested in volunteering, either as a chalice administrator or as the team captain, please contact Patrick in the parish office — revpatrick@christchurcheaston.org

Technical:

We take the ability to hear our readers and preachers for granted but there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes. Do you have gifts that could help us with the sound system or video displays during our worship services? If so, please contact Kevin Chapple – <u>kchappleusa@gmail.com</u>

Lay Eucharistic Visitors:

An important ministry is that of Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs). These individuals will be taking communion to members of our community who are not able to be with us every Sunday. If you have a passion for visiting others please reach out to Chip Akridge — <u>jakridge@akridge.com</u>





Searching for Our Next Rector & Where We Are in the Process

By Jim Marvel, Vestry



As we continue our transitional journey to identify our next permanent Rector, we want to share information about upcoming steps with our congregation.

In the graphic included in this article, you can see that we have successfully completed many steps. Following the process utilized by the Episcopal church, we took a pause to allow for the on-boarding of our Interim Priest, Patrick Collins. During this pause, our Vestry also took time to thoughtfully plan the next steps in our journey.

Members of our Vestry will be sharing information about these steps and soliciting your participation and support during our services on **July 13th and 14th**. Following these services, there will be gatherings that will provide the opportunity for you to ask questions and learn more about how we will chart our future together as a congregation. We will share how we will structure our Rector Search Committee and how this committee will create further opportunities for your engagement. We hope this article provides a foundation for further insights into this import process.

The process for calling a new rector is one of mutual discernment that is engaged by the vestry, the search committee, and the candidates in partnership with the Bishop and his staff. This important time must be carried out prayerfully and with great care. It will require a commitment of time, energy and resources. We will trust that God is at work.

Christ Church Rector Timeline



The time needed for a search process depends on a number of variables including:

- Frequency of vestry and search committee meetings
- The commitment and willingness of members to work independently in small groups



- The overall health of the parish: Including matters that may require conflict resolution or other healing processes
- Time for gathering data and then to develop a parish profile
- Delays for holiday seasons, etc.

Best Practices

Clear Roles and Responsibilities

The interim period and search process work best when the roles and responsibilities of the vestry, interim priest, search committee, and bishop are understood and clearly committed to the parish.

Whole Church Involvement

The whole church should take part in working through the tasks of the interim period, sharing stories and experiences that contribute to the data which will comprise the parish profile.

Frequent, Open and Transparent Communication

The vestry and search committee will support healthy parish functioning through this time by communicating openly and regularly about process while maintaining strict confidentiality about candidates.

Our Interim Priest - "The right leader at the right time"

We are tremendously blessed to have Patrick Collins as our Interim Priest. Patrick serves many roles beyond his weekly sermons. His background makes him uniquely qualified; he has served not only as a Rector, but as a Transition Ministry Officer, a Canon to the Ordinary (here in the Diocese of Easton, MD), and an Interim Rector.

These experiences provide him with a unique knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of all parties during our transition. In addition, his commitment to ongoing learning and teaching will provide us with the opportunity to experiment in ways that will help us to define where we want to go as a congregation. Patrick will help to facilitate our group sessions and ensure we identify the spirit of our congregation to enable us to find a rector with the calling that aligns with our needs.

Our Search Committee

The Search Committee is integral to this process. Different than the approach used to identify an Interim Priest, our Search Committee will be comprised primarily of members of our congregation, not our Vestry. The Vestry's role will be to select individuals to serve on this committee and to empower this group with very clear roles, responsibilities and resources. The total group will include Vestry members Peyton Procaccini and Jim Fitzgerald to enable clear communications between the groups.

We are looking for parishioners to volunteer for this service to our congregation and we expect that we will have to select the committee from this group. We are looking for good listeners, people who have the ability discern the needs of our entire congregation, people who are organized and action oriented and most importantly people of prayer who will follow their Christian faith to recommend what is best for our future.

Our goal is to have the committee represent the diversity of our congregation and we will ask that they be committed for the duration of the process. Once identified, the Search Committee members will select a leader from their team.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, please let us or another member of the Vestry know. Alternatively, you can just drop by the church office and leave your name with our staff.



The Process

We will engage in a process of hearing from our congregation. Our effort will be to seek out the opinions of everyone. We will employ various methodologies in this effort. We must challenge ourselves and members of our parish, including those who may have looked elsewhere to fill a gap in what they found historically in our church. This is our opportunity to chart a future filled with worship, faith and spiritual fulfillment. Please don't miss the chance to be a part of this.

This discovery process will be the foundation of our search. Once we distill our needs, we will be ready to find the individual who can lead our congregation into the future we have defined for ourselves.



General Convention, Louisville, Kentucky 2024

A Reflection about General Convention, By Patrick Collins

General Convention is the once every three year gathering of the Episcopal Church. In a very real sense it is just like our annual parish meeting. Each diocese sends 8 representatives (deputies) and their bishop(s). While the deputies represent their diocese in legislative matters, they are also free to vote their conscience. The deputies decisions are their own prayerful decisions.

One of the main benefits of General Convention is the gift of a wider perspective. When the entire Church comes together, we are able to see the issues of the day through the lens of our fellow brothers and sisters. It is an amazing insight to gain a larger perspective and understand how even the most 'simple' decisions have far-ranging impacts in other communities of faith in ways that we can't always appreciate.

An important topic of discussion that came up was the denominational health plan. This is important for Christ Church because it impacts how we provide health-care benefits for our parish employees. We are blessed to live in an area where we have access to good health care and we are even further blessed in that we have options about who will provide our health care. One of the things that was discussed was that not all of our brothers and sisters in the Episcopal Church have access to good health care. Having a denominational health plan allows for health care for employees of the Episcopal Church (and their family members) who live in places like Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota and the newly formed missionary Diocese of the Navajoland. A most striking phrase that came up was "we all share one another's burdens". Having a denominational health plan isn't about being able to provide health care at the cheapest price, it is about everyone being able to have access to health care.

July 2024



Another topic that was discussed was the issue of diocesan assessments. Just like congregations are asked to provide an assessment to their diocese, dioceses are asked to provide an assessment to the Episcopal Church. The money given to the Church provides funds to assist in Church-wide ministries, goals and visions. At the same time, we are also seeing our congregations getting smaller and we are living in a post-COVID world where people are not coming to church like they used to. There was a great debate about this topic. An important thing to consider – a budget is a theological statement. How we spend our money is a clear indication about our priorities. I don't think that this issue has been decided but it is something that we are beginning to wrestle with in the Diocese of Easton as well. How do we expect/want/need the Episcopal Church to support our dioceses (large and small), and how do we expect/want/need our dioceses to support our individual congregations (large and small)?

An interesting discussion arose around where the next General Convention would be held. Two points of view came to light that I had not considered: legal rights and medical care. You will be able to visit the General Convention website in order to see the sites that are being considered for the next General Convention, and I encourage you to visit that website. Some of the sites have had political and economic challenges. And some of the sites do not protect the legal rights of all citizens equally – particularly those who identify as LGBT. And not all of the sites understand pregnancy and women's health care in the same way. These could become real issues if members elected from dioceses across the Church do not feel safe, or are not safe in certain locations.

I want to thank everyone at Christ Church for the gift of time. It has been an honor to be an alternate deputy to General Convention. Experiences like this expand our understanding of the Church and they provide us with opportunities to meet people who see the world differently than we do. This has been an amazing chance to more fully appreciate the diversity that God has built into creation. I learned so much from others, I've been challenged to see the world differently – and these gifts were given by fellow Episcopalians, people just like me who are striving to 'seek and serve Christ' in everyone we meet.







"Joys of July", From Chris Rigaux, Parish Manager



While most people's thoughts turn to sun and sand during the month of July, mine turn to art: boats, landscapes, red barns, and all things Eastern Shore. For each July, Easton hosts the largest Plein Air festival in the United States—and Christ Church is right in the middle of it. Our very own Barbara Zuehlke is a member of the Working Artists Forum and she has arranged for the Local Color Art Show to take place concurrently with Plein Air right here in our Parish Hall. Featuring a couple dozen artists each summer, this juried show is fun to attend—and the prices of the paintings tend to be less than across the street in the Waterfowl headquarters. Barbara uses watercolors and loves to paint animals, such as the turtles, or classic Eastern Shore scenes, Stephen Walker, who painted Morning Joe of the fisherman with his coffee, was the featured

artist for the most recent Festival of Trees.

The exhibition will be open July 18th through July 21. In addition to the art gallery, featured artists will provide live painting demonstrations in the upper parish hall on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Tim Beall is a tremendous local artist, so his demonstration on Thursday at 3:30pm will be a special treat. The complete schedule is shown on the last page of the newsletter. You can also visit the Working Artists Forum at https://workingartistsforum.com/local-color/ for more information.

Plein Air (which literally means "open air" requiring painters to work outside on their pieces—which brings me back to the controversy of 2021 when the grand prize was painted indoors) is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. It was founded by local artists, including Nancy Tankersley, who will be serving as the judge this year. For more information on Plein Air, visit https://pleinaireaston.com/plein-air-easton-art-festival.

Support local culture: buy art.

Chris







Musical Notes



From Choir Director Carolyn Cutler



Calling all singers! This month we will have a "Summer Choir" at the 10:00am service on July 14 and July 28. If you love to sing, please join the rest of the choir at 9:00am to rehearse the anthem and then sing at the 10:00am service. You don't have to e a professional singer, you don't have to regularly attend the traditional service, and you don't have to make any commitment to the choir. This summer choir is open to all singers! If you would like to take this opportunity to participate in Sunday worship, just come to the church at approximately 9:00am (following the 8:00am service).

Many thanks to the choir and ensemble for providing beautiful music at the June worship services, including the Iona Graduation service. Thanks, also, to the organists Georgiana Ibach, Amy Morgan, and Ned Startt, who have been excellently providing service music. In addition to these fine musicians, Dr. Dale Krider will be returning as guest organist for the 10:00am service on July 14.

The permanent position of organist at Christ Church is still open. If you know someone who might be interested, please direct them to Carolyn Cutler to get a job description and/or find out more.

On July 28, Barbara Reinhardt will grace us with a beautiful handbell solo. Barbara is an excellent ringer, so you won't want to miss this special prelude.

Finally, the traditional choir program is looking for a volunteer to help with the music library. If you're looking for an opportunity to get more involved and support your church and if paperwork/ filing is one of your gifts, consider this position. It would be a great help to the music program. If interested, contact Carolyn Cutler (352-455-3353) for details.

July 2024



Graduation Reflections from Kelsey Spiker







The topic of "formation" has come up more often than not lately. It's been three years of formation and education that led to graduation of the inaugural Iona Eastern Shore Seminary class at Christ Church Easton this past Saturday.

I don't know "who" or "what" exactly I've been shaped and am being into, and I really don't need to—I'm pretty confident I'm on the right path... but I know I'm digging the person I see reflected back in these photos.

My spiritual director recently shared her thoughts about 'spirit' or 'soul' with me (an interchangeable word for the sake of this post)- I don't have the gift to share it as eloquently as she would but.... it's been on my heart so hugely that I must share some of what I've been chewing on. She shared a profound thought that God, having known us before even the womb, has known us, our spirit, our soul, since the very beginning, and that throughout our lives that spirit/

soul is being shaped through our worldly experiences and how we navigate them. And all this shaping, all this formation is ultimately for the glory of Gods Kingdom and is preparing our spirits, our souls, to spend life eternal with God when we are done with this world. That we live and love on earth like Jesus in preparing our spirits to be with Jesus one day. Leaving all of this world behind, taking only our formed spirit with us.

Saturday was real good-like for my spirit/soul. I graduated my seminary program along with six of my peers. That graduation took place in my home church at Christ Church Easton where I worship and serve on staff. The pews were overflowing with family, friends, clergy and congregation members who love and support us. The worship was fierce and the praises to God were bellowing. I wept through most of the service because I was incredibly humbled and so grateful. There was laughter as well and lots and lots of hugs and hand holding. And there were many spirits & souls present and well and giving glory to God for his goodness and power and love. And miracles happened. My 102 year old grandmother was present for all of it, in mind, body, and well, spirit - in no way short of miraculous.

It is well with my soul







Vacation Bible School 2024

By Ruth Vietri-Green

Your Children's Ministry team is excited to report on a stellar, Spirit- filled Vacation Bible School last week here at Christ Church! 11 kids ages 4-9 came and prayed, made new friends, sang, danced, shared snacks, read Bible stories and learned about shining Jesus' light in our world.

Through experiential Bible Adventures and God Sightings, the kids were surrounded by God's word. Our core message- **shine Jesus' light!** - was reinforced through music, movement and our Bible Memory Buddies Luna, Cosmo, Sol, Ringo and Halley! When life eonle don't get along when good things happen, when people are sad, and when people need

feels dark, when people don't get along, when good things happen, when people are sad, and when people need help.... we will *shine Jesus' light!*

It was so much fun that we're doing it all again next summer. VBS 2025 dates are TBA so watch for registration details and join us if you can!







Commencing: A Look at Iona Eastern Shore and Graduation Day By Michael Valliant



In 2013 I got the strong feeling I was supposed to go to seminary. It didn't make sense—I couldn't put it anywhere, church wasn't even a part of my daily life. But life was at a crossroads, and the nudge was there. In 2017, when I started working for <u>Christ Church Easton</u>, I was pulled in that direction, but it still didn't feel like a real possibility; I couldn't stop working and go off to seminary for three years.

The Iona Eastern Shore seminary program came to the Episcopal Diocese of Easton (the Eastern Shore of Maryland) in 2021. The program was created specifically for those who couldn't attend a traditional residential seminary, but who discerned a calling to ordination. Seven of us from around the Shore signed on with the intent to become priests, and another would later join to become a vocational deacon.

On June 15, the inaugural class of Iona Eastern Shore graduated in <u>a</u> <u>ceremony at Christ Church Easton</u>. A couple quick takeaways: 1) there was no other way I could have done something like this—I am grateful beyond words; and 2) I am ruined for any potential future graduations.

Graduation Day

Welcoming everyone at the beginning of the service, Bishop San touched on the "why" for the program:

"The church is called to be adaptive and creative in the time it lives in," the Bishop said. "This is one of those initiatives that speaks to the adaptability and the creativity of the church so that God's kingdom is proclaimed among God's people."

Rev. Greg Harbaugh, a long-time Lutheran minister, who now serves at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Salisbury, was the preacher for the day.

Here are some highlights/takeaways from his sermon, writing out a few of them because they are full of such great concern and advice for us moving forward :

- "Ministry, like life, is difficult. I suspect you already know this. Nevertheless, as clergy we are adept at thinking it should be otherwise. Truth be told, ministry has always been difficult: remember (what happened to) Jesus... Paul, Peter, and all the rest."
- "When you enter your call, do so with repentance and humility. Turn first to the Lord in prayer. Consult with the Bishop and colleagues. Talk and mostly listen to your lay leadership. Visit your people to get to know them. And let them know you."

Supported and Seen

In the weeks leading up to graduation, people asked if I was excited for the day. I'd answer, "Of course, looking forward to it," or something along those lines. But it wasn't registering. Until the first note of the first song, once we were seated and the service was beginning. That's when the tears of gratitude began and didn't stop.

Fr. Dan Dunlap, our professor and dean, gave personal remarks about each of us before he gave us our certificates and the Bishop put our tippets on us. Fr. Dan's comments were so specific and communicated so much about who we are.



Going to school around the edges of working, of being a Dad, of being a partner, of being a part of a church community, is out of the sight of others. And that's okay, ministry is about serving, not being seen. But every now and then, through comments like Fr. Dan's, or the turn out from the congregation, I feel some nods of affirmation in a way that inspires me, motivates me, and pushes me on.

Another of those moments came after our class had each been announced, the Bishop had us turn to face the congregation. Gratitude came out of my eyes and lungs, that's the only way I can say it.

Commencing

- "What's past is prologue; what to come, in yours and my discharge."
- -- William Shakespeare, from "The Tempest"

"What's past is prologue" is the part of that quote that Fr. Bill Ortt, our long-time rector and mentor liked to use. The idea is that what's happened before is just a lead up to the present moment. It's a foundation for what's to come, but it doesn't determine what's to come, we do (with God's help).

Our class of seminarians went back to school and finished our course of study in our 40s, 50s, and 60s. That speaks to our natures as lifelong learners. Our prescribed program for this particular time has come to an end. But it serves as a beginning for what's next.

Studying to prepare for sermons, developing a deeper understanding of the liturgy, being with people going through difficult times, celebrating milestones, being shaped by grief, difficulties, and empathy for what others are going through, as well as sharing joy and small and large victories with others. Learning never stops.

For a number of us, we will next learn to be deacons. Ordination for classmates Joanne Fisher, Kelsey Spiker, Jessica Stehle, and I will be on Saturday, September 14 at Trinity Cathedral in Easton. Bishop San let Kelsey and I know that with our full-time staff positions at Christ Church Easton that our diaconal placement will also be Christ Church.

Graduation marked a moment in time. It was a coming together of our class for the last time in a culmination of our studies. I don't take graduation ceremonies lightly: the last time I graduated was from Washington College when I was 26. Now at 52, that was half my life ago. I hope to continue my education, both formally and informally. But I don't think any graduation ceremony will touch what happened on June 15. With seven of us there (we were missing one classmate), our home traditional choir and contemporary band, a service with and by friends and colleagues, it was personal, Holy Spirit-filled, and a perfect commencement, sending us out to do the work God has given us to do.

I am grateful to a Diocese and Bishop for thinking outside the box, embracing creative approaches to education, ministry, and ordination; to our professors, instructors, and lecturers; to our classmates; and to our congregation and families. It takes a village, and a diocese, to facilitate a calling.







July BRILDAYS

- 1. Sally Smith
- 3. Beth Kellermeyer
- 4. Jessica Sullivan
- Kevin ChapplePeyton Procaccini
- 6. Theodore Faller
- 7. Jay Hawkins
- 8. Martha Suss

Joe Procaccini

- 14. Warren Brey
 - Mikayla Mackall
 - **Sunny Granger**
- 17. Bentley Dawson
- 18. Scott Walstrum
- 19. Debbie Daniels

Kylie Omohundro

Paul Dembeck

20. Charlotte Cuttler

22. Kathie Garrett

Michael Gibson

Carol Anderson

- 23. Piper Waldman
- 24. Bruce Holly
- 27. Tony Brooks

Janis Seeger

Ava Allendorf

28. Mark Williams

Patrick Thomas

29. William Vermilye

Janet Harford

Bill Seegar

30. Lea Ann Robinson

Brett Whitehead

Norm Klug

Steven Waldman

31. Todd Brandow

Laurie Frame











Christ Church—Easton, MD—July 18— 21, 2024

The Working Artists Forum, as a part of Plein Air Easton, present their annual "Local Color" exhibition in the Parish Hall at Christ Church Easton. The exhibition opens on July 18 and runs through July 21.

"Local Color" attracts hundreds of patrons and enjoys excellent sales. Working Artists Forum also presents numerous group shows throughout the year, both on the Eastern Shore and in venues across Maryland/DC.

AWARDS AND OPENING RECEPTION: July 18, 2024, at 12:00 noon. Light refreshments served, featuring a selection of beer, wine and sodas.

SHOW HOURS:

Thursday, July 18 12:00 to 6:00 pm Open to Public Friday, July 19 10:00 to 6:00 pm Open to Public Saturday, July 20 10:00 to 6:00 pm Open to Public Sunday, July 21 11:00 to 4:00 pm Open to Public

DEMO SCHEDULE – Featuring 2023 Plein Air Easton Award Winners

7/18/24, Thursday -1:00-3:00 pm Charles Newman, 2023 Grand Prize Recipient

7/18/24, Thursday – 3:30-5:30 pm Tim Beall, 2023 Second Place Recipient

7/19/24, Friday – 1:00-3:00 pm Gary Tucker, 2023 Third Place Recipient

7/19/24, Friday – 3:30-5:30 pm Martin Geiger, 2023 Artist's Choice Recipient

7/21/24, Saturday – 3:30-5:30 pm Charlie Hunter, 2023 Quick Draw Alumni Recipient

GUESS THAT DIOCESE

Rules of the game: Throughout the newsletter you will find pictures of several different Diocesan Stanchions that are alphabetized. See if you can match the Diocesan Stanchions to the correct Diocese using the list of scrambled letters. Be sure to write the letter of the alphabet next to the unscrambled words. Whoever matches the correct Diocese with the pictures first, will be announced the winner. If there is a tie, the winner who submits their answers first will be the prize winner. You may email your answers to secretary@christchurcheaston.org. Entries are due no later than Thursday, July 25th. Good luck!

1.	TRACENL UCADOER	6. TOMERVN
2.	NICOMINDA LEICUPBR	7. IOR NDEGRA
3.	TASE NESENTESE	8. EDROH DSLNAI
4.	SEAT GONERO	9. NEROTHNR NDNAIAI
5.	ITANWA	10. NERWSTE RNTHO ROLACNIA



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Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom.