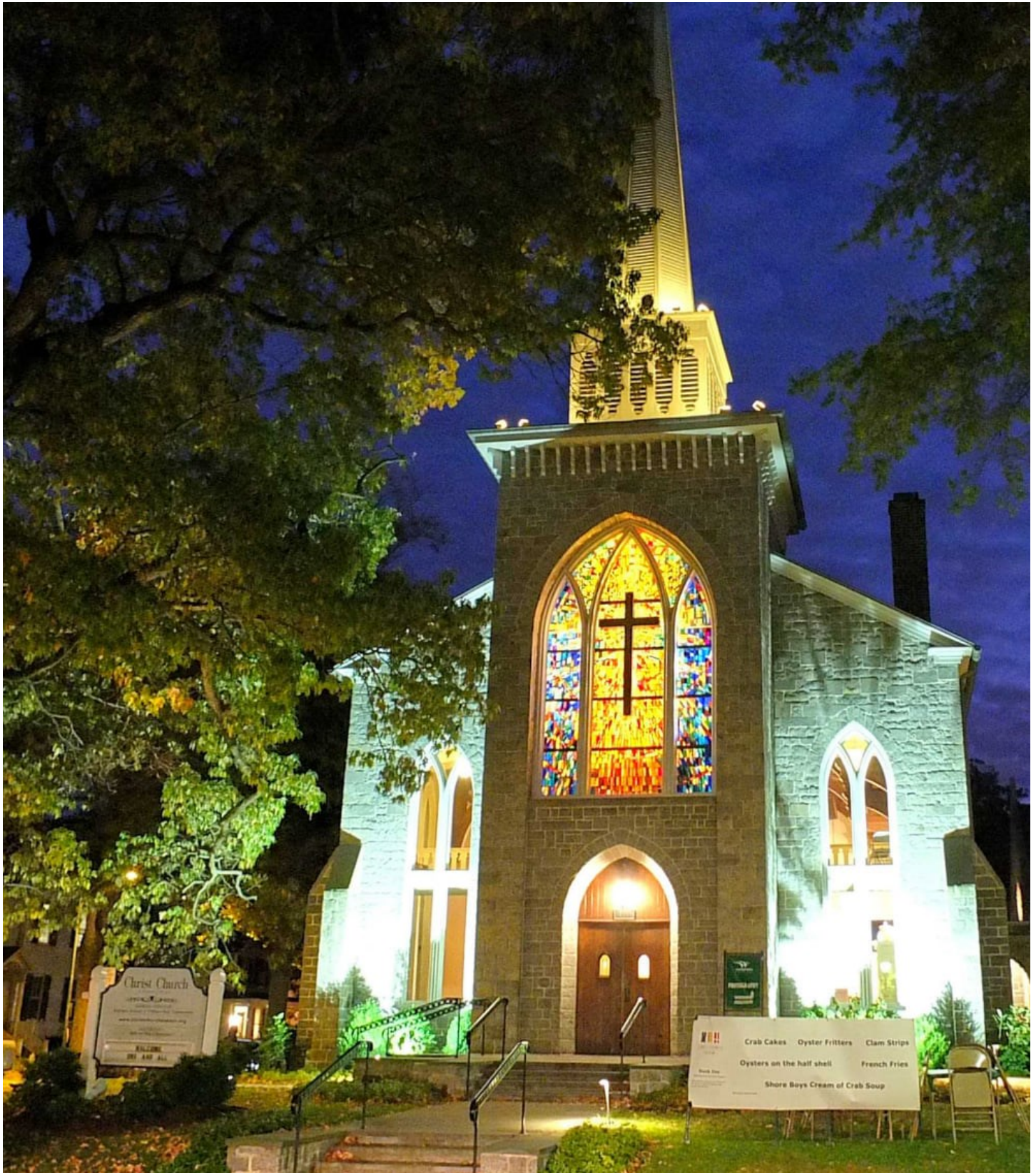


crossroads



CHRIST CHURCH
EASTON

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





The Diocese of Easton

The Episcopal Church in Eastern Maryland

The Right Rev. Santosh K. Marray, D. Min., D.D.
XI Bishop

September 23, 2024

The Rev. Patrick A. Collins
Christ Church, St. Peter's
Easton, MD 21601

Dear Patrick and Members of St. Peter's Parish,
Greg and Members of Trinity Cathedral,
Loretta and Members of All Faith,

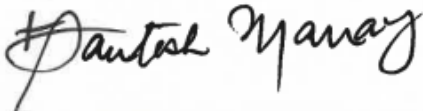
It was a glorious day of celebration, Saturday, September 14th as we ordained four candidates to the transitional diaconate, at Christ Church, Easton. It must have been a day of great pride as the newly ordained all originated from Christ Church - St. Peter's Parish – which is a wonderful testament to our two parishes' missional credentials to form the faithful for leadership ministry in God's Church.

I would like to thank Fr. Patrick, Dean Greg, Deacon Loretta, the Wardens, Chapter, Vestry, Barbara Reinhard and Katie Hall, and to all that helped make the ordination a day to be remembered by everyone and, not only to the ordinands. Every detail was managed so attentively. It took many hands to make it happen, and to those responsible, I am most grateful.

What a show of parochial collaboration between Christ Church, Trinity Cathedral and All Faith!

Once again, sincere appreciation!

Together in Christ's service,



The Right Reverend Santosh K. Marray
XI Bishop of Easton



From The Desk of Patrick Collins, Interim Priest



Dear Christ Church Family,

September was a very busy month here at Christ Church. Our month started off with Labor Day Weekend and then we quickly transitioned into ‘high gear’.

Our first event was during the “Kick-Off/Renewal” Weekend. I want to publicly thank everyone who helped to make our Ministry Faire so successful. In case you weren’t able to be with us that weekend, we had representatives from our Contemporary and Traditional Music Programs; our Adult Education and Bible Study groups; Newcomer and Greeter Ministries; Men’s Group; Stephen Ministry; Acolytes, Youth and Missions; Sunday School; Women’s Faith and Fellowship; Finance, Stewardship and Audit teams; Food Ministry;

Hospitality, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors; Talbot Interfaith Shelter; Lectors; Ushers; Prayer Shawls; Worship A/V; Altar Guild; Card Ministry and the Gideons. It took a great number of volunteers to pool their resources and demonstrate just how active Christ Church truly is. While, I’d love to mention each person by name, I’d also hate to accidentally leave a name off the list so, please allow me to say: “Thank You Everyone” to those who created displays, brought items, made yourself available for conversations and in general helped to show the ministries of Christ Church. We wouldn’t be the wonderful parish that we without you. I’d also like to thank everyone who came over and spoke with our ministry leaders. And I’d especially like to thank those who signed up to volunteer with our ministries.

And just a weekend later, we were witnessing and celebrating the ordinations of four new deacons into ordained leadership in the Episcopal Church. In case you didn’t know, all four of the newly ordained deacons have roots here at Christ Church. In order to pull this event off, we coordinated our efforts with the staff of Bray House (our diocesan administrative offices), Trinity Cathedral, Easton and All Faith Chapel, Tunis Mills. We welcomed volunteers from all three places, and we hosted a beautiful event. So many people were involved in so many ways, and again, I don’t want to accidentally forget to mention a name – so please know that if you were involved in any way in making the ordination liturgy a special event, your efforts and generosity are deeply appreciated. Thank you for helping Christ Church to be such an amazing community of faith.

This past weekend, we were blessed with a group of women from Christ Church who were gracious enough to lead our first 5th Sunday event. These ladies showed both their bravery and their faith by providing us with a Liturgical Fashion Show. I want to applaud their efforts and celebrate their intrepid natures. By teaching us a little bit about the Church Calendar and Liturgical Vestments in a relaxed and fun way, they helped us all take a step in preparing for the arrival of our next rector. Thank you ladies!

While I’m your interim, it will be my plan to make the 5th Sunday of a month a special event. There are about four times in a calendar year when we will have a 5th Sunday, so it will be a time to explore new things or to have special celebrations. Our next 5th Sunday celebration will be on the Sunday after Christmas and our music leaders are already hard at work planning for a special Christmas Lessons and Carols.

In closing, I want to again say Thank You to everyone who helped to make September such a special and lovely month here at Christ Church. We are richly blessed by you sharing your gifts and we deeply appreciate the wonderful person God has created you to be.

Peace,
Patrick



2025 Annual Giving Campaign Reflection



CHRIST CHURCH EASTON



annual offering. This will allow our programs and services to flourish and keep pace with the needs of the Parish. Our offerings our gift to God is included into our weekly services at the “Offertory” portion of each Sunday service.

Our multiple and varied ministries have accomplished many positive things within our parish and our wider community. This has been made possible by your coming to Church, by your participating in Bible study and our ministries, by your volunteering your time and by your financial support. We thank you for that support – for all your support – for our beloved Christ Church and all our ministries.

Gratefully,

The Stewardship Committee

Paul Cox, Brenda Wood and John Itell

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

The stewardship season will soon be upon us. At this time, we all need to prayerfully consider what we will give in support of our church – give of our “time, talents and treasurers” - things that all are provided to us by God.

We look forward to sharing many good things with you over the next several weeks as Christ Church endeavors to find a new permanent Rector. We will all have a chance to make comments and express our priorities. It will be especially important for us to show the depth of our financial support for our church. Our goal of 100% family participation will undoubtedly help show our commitment to our church. We believe it will make a positive impression on candidates the search committee will interview.

Secondly, we invite you to prayerfully evaluate your level of giving and consider a step-up in your



Christ Church Annual Giving Campaign

LOVE+ CARE+ GIVE

Stewardship Season Questions

What is a stewardship pledge?

A pledge is a promise or intention to financially support the mission and ministry of Christ Church. An annual pledge is a commitment to support Christ Church for one calendar year. The church's budget follows the calendar year.

Why do we pledge?

To give thanks to God for our life and blessings, to cultivate a spirit of generosity; to support Christ Church's mission; to plan the annual parish budget and to help make our area a more just community for all.

How do I pledge?

Complete a signed pledge card that you will receive in your pledge packet and return it by mail. Pledge cards are also available at the entrance to church and in the church office. Alternately, you can drop the completed pledge card in the offertory plates on Sunday or the Parish office. Please return by November 29, 2024. This will provide the Vestry time to finalize the 2025 budget.

How is the money from pledges utilized?

The vestry of Christ Church sets a budget of about \$1.3M annually that they and the staff do their best to follow. The budget is simply a plan for us to carry out our mission as a faith community that anticipates revenues and expenses including outreach, various ministries, music, staff and care of the buildings and grounds.

What are Christ Church's sources of income?

About 77% comes from pledges of all sizes. Each gift matters. About 23% comes from endowment funds. Recently, we have utilized more from the endowment beyond the 23%. We need to reduce this by increased contributions to sustain our programs and beautiful Church.

To become a member do I have to pledge, or do you assess a fee like a club?

A pledge is not required to be member, but most people choose to support Christ Church at the level they can, because Christ Church and our ministry are important to them. Your financial gifts make this happen. The Episcopal Church does ask us to make our offerings to God.

How much should I pledge?

The biblical model is to share the first ten percent as a reminder all our gifts come from God. The rector's family tithes or gives away ten percent of their income (after taxes) to charity with the majority going to Christ Church. There is no minimum amount, but it is important to give what you are able.

Is a pledge legally binding? What happens if I cannot fulfill it?

No, sometimes circumstances change. A loss of a job or move out of town or an unexpected change in income may make you decide to raise or lower the pledge during the year.

How do we pay our pledge?**Weekly, monthly, all at once, or another way?**

Some pay all at once at the beginning or end of the year by check or gift of appreciated stock, but most pay weekly or monthly by either electronic fund transfers or by check. An increasing number of people have an automatic bank withdrawal for convenience. This is also very helpful to the church, so income remains steady throughout the year.

Is the amount I pledge kept confidential?

Yes, the amounts pledged and given are kept confidential. Only the rector, senior warden, treasurer and parish administrator have access to the donor identities.

Is the annual appeal, the stewardship campaign, the stewardship drive, and the pledge campaign the same or different things?

These terms are used interchangeably to refer to Christ Church annual fundraising efforts to support our ministry. There is often a name or theme given to each year's stewardship campaign.

Are my gifts to Christ Church tax deductible?

Yes. Christ Church is a 501(c)(3) organization. The parish office provides quarterly and annual giving statements for tax purposes and can address any questions you may have about your pledge or giving.

Is stewardship just about money?

In the fullest sense, stewardship is about caring for all our resources and gifts. All of us are called to offer our time, talent, and treasure to serve God and our neighbors.

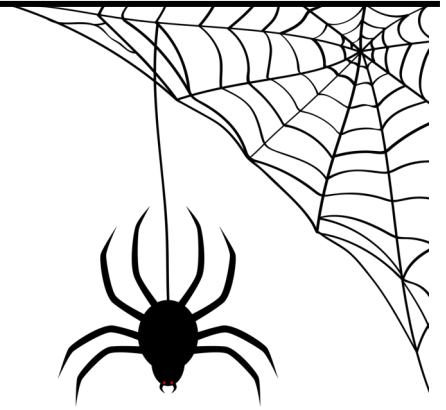
Our Programs and services are all made possible by your support. Thank you!

With Gratitude, The Stewardship Committee



The Parish Library Received A New Makeover!

By Chris Rigaux, Parish Manager



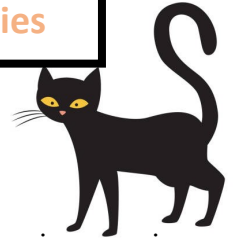
By the time you read this article, the parish library will have a newly finished floor. Thanks to Pat Schultz and Gary, twenty year's worth of grime was sanded off one day recently. The beautiful hardwood floors are old fashioned, with their walnut in lieu of nails. Shelley is looking for a new area rug to place under the conference table and protect the floor. We also redid the rectory hallway to spiff up our entry way. We hope that you will all enjoy the new look of the old place.

Shelley and I are attended Realm training in Charlotte, NC, in hopes of making more use of its many features. Shelley is focused on financial data manipulation, whereas I am looked to see if we can use the calendar feature to add to our website. I would also like to use its volunteer scheduling feature to make it easier for parishioners to sign up to volunteer at our many services; I believe our current Pro Ministry Scheduler software is ineffective for many parishioners. I also want to explore Realm's capacity for allowing small group signups for Bible study. We currently use several software packages for difference uses and I believe we can realize some cost savings through Realm.

The Rector Search Committee has met twice now, and I am very much looking forward to the process. This first phase is known as the time of parish discernment, where we as a parish look inward and think carefully about who we are and what we would like to become. While there are several steps in this process, fairly soon we will be sending out a survey of all parishioners to anonymously convey their opinions about church life, study groups, grounds, preaching style, and myriad other facets of the parish life and community. Look for invitations to coffee hours, small groups, dinner parties, and after service socials as opportunities to further reflect on all things Christ Church.

Christ Church Youth Group

From Kelsey Spiker, Minister For Community Life and Families



WATERFOWL IS COMING!

It's that wonderful time of year, where if you are like me, the crisp mornings and golden evenings find you taking a deeper breath and pausing a second longer to enjoy the lovely changing of the seasons. That is until I remember that I'm officially in the countdown window to WATERFOWL FESTIVAL 2024!

If you are new to the Christ Church family, like our own Interim Priest Fr. Patrick you might not be able to quite imagine what Waterfowl at CCE is like. We are having fun conversations around the office these days trying to describe for him the experience that is 'Duck INN' and 'Duck OUT'. I simply can't wait for Fr. Patrick to experience it for the first time.

Whether you are an old timer or a newcomer, none of the Spirit of Waterfowl happens without your help. In fact, it takes over 50 volunteers a day to successfully run our operation. So, what is our operation? Each year Christ Church participates in the Waterfowl Festival as a food vendor. This year's festival will run from November 8th - 10th, but as you've heard in church the past couple of weekends, preparations are well underway. We will have a booth for hot eats (Duck INN) and a booth for sweet treats (Duck OUT). Our Duck OUT booth is traditionally run by our Youth Ministry teens and tweens. We sell everything from handmade crabcakes to oyster fritters to crabby fries to deep-fried candy bars! The funds from this endeavor are used for mission and outreach, meaning every dollar that we profit is sent back out into the community! We support people in need in the community as well as nonprofit organizations that we recognize for their good works. We use this money to be an encouragement and the love of Christ in our community.

I want to formally invite you and your family to participate in Waterfowl 2024 at Christ Church Easton. It is a weekend where our campus is transformed and every square inch is covered with people coming and going. What better opportunity could we ask for to shine Christ out into the world? One of my personal favorite Waterfowl experiences is watching our community of faith strengthen as new friendships are formed while scooping cups of soups and old relationships are deepened over the deep fry oil. Come, don't miss out on the opportunity to shine and grow together at this year's Waterfowl Festival.

Link to sign up to volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA5AB28ABFA7-51952353-duck#/>

Can't make it for the weekend? Love baking? We need the sweet, sweet resources for our Duck OUT booth. That is: cookies, cakes, and treats. Sign up here to bring in a baked good for our Duck Out booth.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080449ABAC2AA6F58-52159801-duck>

If you have any questions please call Rev. Kelsey Spiker.





Musical Notes



From Choir Director Carolyn Cutler



It's been a blessing to have the choir back in session for the fall providing wonderful, worshipful music! Rehearsals continue on Wednesdays at 7:00 in the church. There's still room to add a chair for you! There are many opportunities coming up to participate in some beautiful music.

- Traditional Worship each week at 11:00am with anthems by the parish choir.
- Advent Lessons and Carols here at Christ Church on Sunday, December 1 at 5:00 pm. This is a joint effort with Trinity Cathedral choir.
- Christmas Eve traditional candlelight service at 10:00pm with choir, keyboard, and strings
- Looking forward: A joint performance with Trinity Cathedral choir of Faure's Requiem on March 30 at Trinity.

New members are now welcome! More singers are needed on a weekly basis, but you also could opt to participate in one of these special events only. Rehearsal of music for the Lessons & Carols Service and Christmas Eve will begin this month. If you have any questions about choir, please contact Carolyn Cutler at the church office.



Christ Church Children's Ministry



During our 9:15am contemporary service (and during the 10:00am service over the summer), Children's Church has become such a popular program, it's not uncommon to see 15-20 children coming into church during the passing of the peace to be able to come up for Communion.

The children's ministry team couldn't be happier about our growing numbers. In fact, we're running out of room! So we've decided to split the kids up into two groups. Miss Maria and Mia Georgia will be with children ages 0-5 years in the nursery room. Miss Ruth and Miss Dottie will be with children ages 6 and older in the youth group room upstairs. As always, please remember to sign your children in each morning. And thanks for all your support!

Dinner Groups Are Coming Back!

Join a Dinner Group



Dinner Groups at Christ Church have been a popular way to break bread, share fellowship, and make friends. It's a reciprocal hospitality.

Dinner Groups consist of a small group of people who commit to an informal time of sharing a meal together once a month with the intention of fostering greater community and building relationships. The meals typically rotate between the homes of the various members of the group. Dinner Groups are centered on fostering fun and strengthening friendships. These groups do not require any study preparation, only some cooking and fellowship.

The host/hostess provide the main dish and drinks. The other guests bring side dishes and dessert, all coordinated by the host/hostess.

For more information or to sign up please contact Katie Barney at 410-820-9915 or kamoose@goeaston.net.

Fox Trucking Will Be Sending a Truck of Supplies to TN and NC

Donations for Survivors in Northeast TN and Northwest NC

**Drop off at Fox Trucking, Inc. 410 924 2605 Geoff
29920 Dover Road, Easton 410 310 2347 Jenn**

It is a big job to organize all the donations. **Please help by having all items in a box and labeled.** If you would like us to shop for you, please make a monetary donation to Jenn Fox by check, Venmo, or cash.

DROP OFF TIMES: Fox Trucking anytime at designated trailer.

Clothing: must be new in package, underwear, socks, boxers, t-shirts, all sizes (infant-XXL)

Shelf stable foods: canned goods, ready meals, snacks, cereal, protein bars, cookies, peanut butter, tuna pouches, crackers

Drinks: bottled water, tea, gatorade, juice boxes, powder milk

Baby items: disposable diapers, baby wipes, baby food/formula

Paper products: toilet paper, paper towels/plates/bowl, cutlery, wipes

Personal hygiene: toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body soap, deodorant, feminine products, hand sanitizer, razors

Random items: Pet food- cat and dog, canned and bagged, flashlight, batteries, garbage bags, first aid kits, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, can opener, charcoal, lighters

Repair items: Gas cans, generators, tarps, duck tape, hammers, electrical cords, bungee cords, measuring tape, **(large items that cannot be boxed are welcome)**

**Tupperware containers, boxes in good condition are welcome.
We cannot stress enough that donations must be boxed to be put
on a pallet.**

**As always, we appreciate your support. We could
not do this without your generosity.**

For decades Fox Trucking has served as a means for our Eastern Shore community to support areas affected by disasters anywhere in the country.

They are stepping up again to take a truck full of supplies and needs for those in Tennessee and North Carolina to those communities in dire need.

You can find information as to what items and supplies are being collected, where to drop them off (Fox Trucking on Dover Road) and who to contact if you have any questions.



- | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Joey Frankos | 19 | Reggie Phillips | 26 | Colin Macindoe |
| 2 | Carol Koste | 10 | Vicki Anersen | | Caroline Boutte |
| | Cindy Harding | | John Coleman | 28 | Kitty Bayh |
| 3 | Waller Hariston | 11 | Mike Wood | | Martha Holthausen |
| | Beth Weems | 12 | Cathy Dodge | | Catherine Beam |
| | Elizabeth Bourdin | 14 | Wynn Volz | | Valerie Rigaux |
| | Lisa Rowe | 15 | Craig Weedon | 29 | Curt Hutchinson |
| | Deb Jolicoeur | 16 | Talli Oxnam | | Dick Gnospelius |
| 4 | James Murphy | 17 | Parker Gibson | | Linda Fontaine |
| 5 | Carolyn Williams | | Susan Itell | 30 | Brynn Spiker |
| | Shelley Williams | 19 | Erica Wilmer | | Jody Mathias |
| 6 | Cordy Tucker | 20 | Shirley Foster | 31 | Jo Ann Vorwald |
| | Dean O'Donnell | | Michael Fisher | | |
| | Anne Mattimore | 21 | Christine Marvel | | |
| | Bryce Spiker | 22 | Sal Verteramo | | |
| 8 | James Thomas | | Jack Chapple | | |
| | Jack Thomas | 23 | Matthew Spiker | | |
| | Rich O'Brien | 24 | Sandy Bradley | | |
| | | | Caroline Trice | | |



***If you would like your birthday to be listed in the next Crossroads newsletter please add it to your Realm account.**



Waterfowl 2024 Volunteers Needed!!

Here is the link to sign up to volunteer:

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Can't make it for the weekend? Love baking? We need the sweet, sweet resources for our Duck OUT booth. That is: cookies, cakes, and treats. Sign up here to bring in a baked good for our Duck Out booth:

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If you have any questions please contact [Rev. Kelsey Spiker](#).

A message from the music director at Trinity Cathedral:

Trinity Cathedral is presenting the **Maryland State Boychoir** in concert on Friday, November 15. They have been called "Maryland's Goodwill Ambassadors" and have toured throughout the United States and around the world. As part of their concert appearance here in Easton we have been asked to provide them with housing for Friday evening, November 15, after the concert. Each host family will need to provide overnight accommodations for 2 boys. If you are interested in offering to host, please contact Carleen Webb at musicdirector@trinitycathedraleaston.com."

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. Collection baskets for your Are being passed at services. 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



The Lord Is Far From The Wicked,
But He Hears The Prayers Of The Righteous

Proverbs 15:29