

crossroads



CHRIST CHURCH
EASTON

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



From The Desk of Patrick Collins, Interim Priest



Dear Christ Church Family,

The month of November is particularly lovely here on the Eastern Shore as we have much to celebrate.

This past weekend we welcomed new members into the Body of Christ. By the time you read this, we will have welcomed these individuals into the Great Cloud of Witnesses also known as the Communion of Saints. All Followers of Christ from the past 2,000 years are a part of this, we are all connected through our love of God and our response to God's love through service to humanity.

Here at Christ Church, St. Peter's Parish, our history goes back to the 1692 Act of Establishment when an act of Parliament created the faith community that we now think of as Christ Church. That same act created about 40 parishes. Starting in 1840, construction began on our beautiful church building – and in 1876 the choir and sanctuary spaces were added. Around the year 1855, the Rectory (now parish office) was constructed. And in 1898, construction was begun on our lovely Parish Hall, with additional parts being built in later years.

Our beloved church campus was built by the saints of God living in the Easton area. We are the inheritors of this campus, and we are the stewards of this amazing testament of God's love. We get to worship and minister here because of the faithfulness of those who have come before us. These beloved souls were also baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We are standing on their shoulders. Their faith enables our faith.

It is my sincere prayer that as we think about those who have gone before, we hold ourselves accountable to the promises that were made for us, the promises that we made and the promises that we made for others as we renewed in our Baptismal Covenant. In short, we promise to try to see each other and the world as God sees everyone and all of creation. And we promise to do all of these things with God's help. I ask you to think about yourself being a part of this Great Cloud of Witnesses, this Communion of Saints

This month also marks the beginning of our Stewardship campaign. As I'm writing this, I'm hearing the voices and laughter of volunteers who are in the parish library assembling the stewardship packets which should have arrived at your home by now. It is always a joy to hear members of Christ Church engaged in loving conversations and service together.

Stewardship is our giving gifts back to God. It is how we express our thanks and love to God. This year, as you think about your gifts, please also remember and consider the gifts that were given by those faithful followers of Christ who came before us. They left us a legacy and a symbol of their faith – Christ Church. Now it is our turn to continue this legacy and to keep this lovely campus and community of faith healthy for the next generations. *"...ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee"*. (Praise to the Lord, #390 Hymnal 1982)

May we be blessed by God and a blessing to others – now and always.

Peace,
Patrick

2025 Annual Giving Campaign

LOVE+CARE+GIVE

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

Welcome to November and the wonderful season that it is! As we adjust to the changing season, it is also a time for reflection and spiritual renewal as we approach Advent. At this time of year, we are also asked to reflect on our Christian stewardship. This year's Annual Giving Campaign theme is LOVE+CARE+GIVE. All these action "verbs" embody God's call to each one of us and encompasses God's greatest two commandments that Jesus shared with the Apostles. "Love God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul and with all your strength". And to "Love your neighbor as yourself".

By now, you should have received this year's Campaign pamphlet and a pledge card. If you have not received this, please contact the parish office and ask for Shelley. She will be glad to mail one to you or you may stop by the office and pick up a copy as well as a pledge card. We will also have these available at the entrance to church. Please take time to read this and consider "why" you find this your church and what brings you "joy" in our church community. On the weekend of November 23rd for all services, you will hear from fellow parishioners sharing their testimonials that have made an impact on them making this their church home. As we each make our decision on our financial support for our church, it is just as important to know that we are joining together as a church family. We all have so much to be thankful for and the blessing that God has bestowed on us.

We look forward to sharing our Campaign results in early December. So please complete your pledge card and return it to the parish office by November 29th. Our programs and services rely on your generous support. May God bless you and we "thank you".

Gratefully,

The Stewardship Committee

Paul Cox, Brenda Wood and John Itell



Third Quarter Financial Report – September 30, 2024

As we move into the final months of the year, please consider any final year end contribution to our church. For our senior parishioners it might be best to make any final charitable donations directly from their IRA accounts as a Qualified Charitable Donation if that is their best option after discussing with their tax advisor. Also, besides a cash contribution, it might be best to transfer a highly appreciated stock in your portfolio. In turn you get the write-off at its fair market value. Again, it is best to discuss this with your tax advisor. Just offering a few ideas besides sending a check. All contributions are appreciated, and we "Thank You".

Below I have recapped our financial position and have also provided a summary page of our income and expenses through the nine months ended September 30, 2024.

- Pledges and Offerings were \$508,161 versus the prior year at \$601,074, a decrease of \$92,913. Vestry will continue to monitor our financial position. We are hopeful that our Fall stewardship campaign will inspire an increase in parishioner donations for our programs and services for 2025.
- Education expenses were budgeted at a higher amount this year versus prior year to better serve our youth.
- Buildings and grounds continue to be less than last year as well as below the budgeted amount. Current year expenses are \$116,648 while prior year was \$124,182. The annual budgeted amount is \$176,162.
- With all the staff changes from last year, our Salaries and Benefits Expense was \$362,260 versus last year at \$501,690. The annual budgeted amount is \$649,936. We will be well below that number.
- The deficit position to date is \$132,852 while last year there was a deficit of \$79,033. The budgeted deficit amount for 2024 is \$293,763. Our deficit will be better than projected.
- Investment and Endowment returns continue to be favorable to date with an increase of \$644,305. Our Unrestricted Endowment accounts on September 30, 2024, were \$4,623,564 and the Restricted Endowment accounts were \$1,607,694.

We continue to "thank you" for your support to Christ Church and making this our church to worship, pray and to be inspired. The Vestry continues to closely monitor our financial position for the best interests of the church. We are blessed to have a strong Endowment position that has supplemented our deficit position and allows the continued services and programs that we provide. The Vestry understands we cannot continue to operate in a deficit position continually. We have a beautiful Church and it's a pleasure to call this Church our home.

Blessings,

John Itell, Treasurer

Christ Church Financial Summary
Nine Months Ended September 30, 2024

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Income :</u>			
Pledges and Offerings	\$508,161	\$601,074	\$604,125
Investment Transfers- 5%	181,910	181,958	181,910
Other Income	<u>12,807</u>	<u>4,449</u>	<u>3,806</u>
Total income	\$702,878	\$787,481	\$789,841
<u>Expenses :</u>			
Worship	\$121,009	\$130,163	\$152,517
Outreach	9,520	12,075	17,850
Education & Fellowship	36,531	17,068	43,704
Rector Compensation/Benefits	77,857	210,158	138,367
Staff Compensation/Benefits	284,403	291,531	349,084
Bldg & Grounds	116,648	124,182	132,122
Office	70,312	56,190	55,955
Other	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,125</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>716,291</u>	<u>841,367</u>	<u>890,724</u>
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(13,413)	(53,886)	(100,883)
Diocesan Pledge	(119,439)	(104,682)	(119,439)
IRS COVID refund	<u>0</u>	<u>79,535</u>	<u>0</u>
 Net (Deficit)	 <u>\$ (132,852)</u>	 <u>\$ (79,033)</u>	 <u>\$ (220,322)</u>

Projects and Progress

By Chris Rigaux, Parish Manager



I am happy to report that the Sussex Environmental Consulting Group has found that there is no mold in the damaged tiles in the Children's Chapel. The stains are caused by water, probably from the air ducts when the air conditioner was running. We did expensive repairs last summer to the air conditioning system in the upper parish hall ceiling, so hopefully everything is fine now. I am in touch with a local handyman who will be by next week to assess and fix the damage; fortunately, I have located some replacement ceiling tiles in the storeroom which might be usable. I can also report that the rotted wood from the window dormer above the Children's Chapel has been repaired, re-caulked, and repainted.

For one of the final times in Easton, worked with Choptank Habitat for Humanity. We are nearly done with the dozen houses slated to be built in Easton. Soon we will be moving on to Cambridge for future projects.

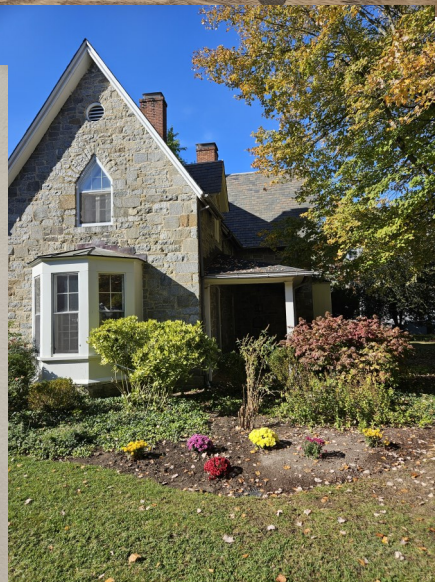
Once again we want to remind all users of the upper Parish Hall to please turn off the lights by pressing the buttons; the dimmers do not turn off the lights completely and we waste electricity. We have labeled the light switches to remind people.

We think it was worth the wait: The Parish Library now sparkles with its new carpet (thank you, Shelley) and its refurbished wooden floor, courtesy of Pat Schultz. Pat pointed out to me that the oak floor has walnut plugs in it, which is how floors were installed before nails became more commonplace. I also want to thank Zeke and Nick of the recovery house for coming over and replacing the furniture in the library and hallway.

Thanks to our friends at ShoreRivers and McHale Landscaping, we now have a new, beautiful American hornbeam tree planted in our back courtyard. This specimen will grow to about twenty or thirty feet; it is also called ironwood or musclewood for the look and feel of its smooth bark. Our neighbor Maribeth Lane has offered to water it for us, as her hose can reach the tree easily. ShoreRivers promise to return in the spring to attach a water bag. This tree was planted as part of ShoreRiver's "Tree the Shore" initiative: <https://www.shorerivers.org/tree-the-shore>. We did not have to pay a dime for this wonderful addition.

Speaking of garden beautification efforts, many thanks to Laurie Mackaness who ran out and purchased the mums for our Rectory plot. The Lay Weeders, led by John Thacker, spend a couple of hours last Saturday deadheading flowers, raking out the garden bed near the back sign, and planting these mums. John has also written a grant application to the Easton Garden Club, applying for \$4,000 to improve the garden right in front of the Rectory. We will only learn if we are successful in the spring.

As the seasons change, we wish to thank Chip Akridge for suggesting that we keep the Mission window of our church lit day and night. As Chip puts it, "Part of the thinking on the initial making and installing of the stained glass window was to have the window in our parish shine the light of Christ on our community!!" Anyone who has been downtown for a recent nighttime festival can attest to how bright the window shines; it is becoming synonymous with downtown Easton. As we enjoy the Waterfowl festival, Advent, Christmas, and the Epiphany, we can take comfort in seeing the light shining bright. May God bless us all.



From Kelsey Spiker, Minister For Community Life and Families

HERE'S A FEW THINGS COMING UP IN OUR MINISTRY

Wednesday Nights: CCYG will continue to meet on Wednesdays starting at 6:15 pm and ending at 8:00 pm. Pizza is provided and we welcome a dollar donation for pizza to help offset the cost. Each night we will have free time, BIG group time, small group discussion, and activities and/or games.

There will be no CCYG on the following dates: November 6th, November 27th (there will be a day event this day - see below), December 11th - (we will be at the tree lot), December 25th & January 1st.

Wednesday, November 27th: CCYG Thanksgiving Meal Offering

Each year CCYG cooks a meal for families who cannot provide for themselves a Thanksgiving meal. We will meet in the Parish Hall at 9:00 am and will prepare all the fixings for a yummy Thanksgiving meal. Following our hard work we will share a mini "Friends-giving" together before pick up at 1:00 pm. Mark your calendars.

Wednesday, December 11th: Talbot Optimist Tree Lot

We love to support other organizations doing great work! Which is why we love to volunteer every year at the Talbot Optimist Tree Lot helping to sell Christmas Trees! The money they raise is given back to support youth organizations like ours! Join us at the YMCA on Peachblossom from 4:45 pm - 7:00 pm. Dinner and snacks will be provided.

Wednesday, December 18th: CCYG-Jesus' Birthday Party

CCYG Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange from 6 pm - 8 pm. More deets to follow.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING



Mark your calendars for our Advent Wreath Making Event taking place Sunday, December 1st in the Parish Hall at 1:00 pm. You may arrive as early as 12:30 pm to have lunch, which is provided.

This is an event the entire family can participate in! The cost is \$50/ Advent Wreath, and we recommend making one wreath per household. Register online to make a beautiful live Advent wreath for your family this year or pay at the door. If you plan to play the day of, email Rev. Kelsey Spiker so you may be included in the count for lunch.

Please bring with you gardening gloves and shears for the wreath making.

Registration Link:

<https://christchurcheaston.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2584839>



Advent Lessons and Carols

...a beautiful, candlelit service of readings, hymns and anthems



Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 5:00 pm

Christ Church Easton
111 South Harrison Street

Presented by the choirs of
Christ Church Easton and Trinity Cathedral

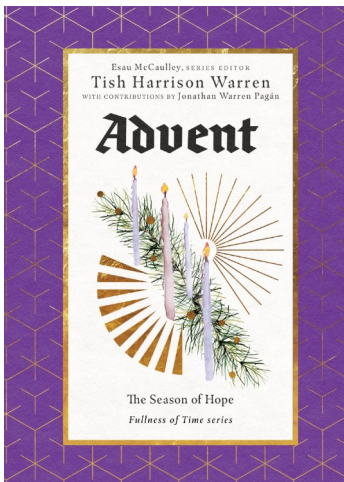
under the direction of
Carolyn Parsons Cutler and Carleen Dixon Webb

Advent Lessons & Carols Concert on December 1 at 5:00pm

Last year's Advent Lessons & Carols concert with the combined Christ Church Easton and Trinity Cathedral choirs was filled to capacity. And it was a powerful and moving way to begin the Advent season.

This year, on Sunday, December 1 at 5:00pm, on the first day of Advent, the two choirs will come together again for another incredible show under the direction of choir directors Carolyn Parsons Cutler and Carleen Dixon Webb.

This year's concert will also be broadcast live on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.



Advent Small Groups Beginning the Week of Thanksgiving

With all of the clamoring for Christmas, we get cheated out of Advent. That short-changes the beginning of the new church year. And how much lesser is Christmas without the hopeful waiting of Advent?

We're going to try to be a bit more intentional with our December this year. We'll have small group studies and I will be writing and reflecting from Rev. Tish Harrison Warren's book, "Advent: The Season of Hope."

Sessions will be scheduled for Tuesdays at 1:00pm and 6:00pm, beginning on November 26, and on Wednesdays at 11:00am, beginning on November 27. The groups will meet once a week for four weeks.

I'm excited to spend an intentional and anticipatory Advent together, with what practices, prayers, and discussions we will share. Here are a few words from Harrison in the book's first chapter:

"We begin our Christian year in waiting. We do not begin with our own frenetic effort or energy. We do not begin with the merriment of Christmas or the triumph of Easter. We do not begin with the work of the church or the mandate of the Great Commission. Instead, we begin in a place of yearning. We wait for our King to come."

An Update From The Rector's Search Committee.....



RECTOR SEARCH Christ Church, Easton

Since Father Bill announced his retirement last June, there has been a great deal of work being done behind the scenes, including the interim search and finding Patrick. The Search Committee met for the first time in October and has established a twice-a-month meeting schedule.

The Rector Search Committee has been busy focused on moving the search process forward.

The Committee's mission/purpose is to: Provide oversight, share guidance, develop, and implement processes for the recruitment, identification, assessment, selection, and onboarding of a new Rector for Christ Church.

We will fulfill this mission through the work being done in the five phases of the search:

- Congregational Discovery
- Solicitation of Interest/Calling
- Assessment of Candidates
- Vestry Selection
- On Boarding

Currently in the Congregational Discovery phase, we want to hear from you! We are reviewing a survey tool that will assist us in gathering information from each of you.

Once we have selected the tool and process, we will share with you – stay tuned!!

Be on the lookout for regular communications about the search during services, Friday e-News,, Church Bulletin and the Crossroads monthly newsletter. We are also working on a landing page for the search that can be used for both the congregation and interested candidates.

We are confident our next rector is out there and together with your help, we will have a new rector to lead us in continuing the good work that Christ Church is known for.

The Rector Search Committee



REMINDER

Dear Clergy and Lay Leaders of the Diocese,

At the 155th Convention of the Diocese of Easton Bishop Marray tasked the finance committee with evaluating our apportionment system and reporting our findings to the 157th Convention in 2025.

In 2023 the finance committee held zoom listening sessions with each convocation to hear from clergy and lay leaders around the Diocese.

Earlier this year, at the 156th Convention, the finance committee presented a summary of ideas heard at those zoom sessions along with draft options for a new apportionment formula. We have made further adjustments to those options, based on feedback received.

We hope you will join us for one last zoom conversation about this project. All members of your parish are invited, please share this invitation with them.

Wednesday, November 6th @ 7pm
Link to Presentation

Megan Timms is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Apportionment Project

Time: Nov 6, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85234863225?pwd=IVJl7jO0sg5zd7mqRgUHHmaD6YG3WW.1>

Meeting ID: 852 3486 3225



- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Jack Boyd | 15 John Smith |
| 2 Geoffrey Longfellow | Corrine Granger |
| Emily Adams | 16 Luther Tucker |
| 3 Mary Hawkins | Deb Dawkins |
| Emilie Todd | 17 George Seger |
| 5 J. Court Stevenson | Patty Fox |
| 6 Trish Weise | Katie Chapple |
| Deena Brandow | Bruce Kellermeyer |
| 7 Nancy Matthews | Katie Roe |
| 9 Andrea Nashold | 18 Alex Todd |
| 10 Mike Hemming | Kristen Payne |
| Fern Brooks | 20 Dakota Kellermeyer |
| 11 Sue Newnam | Charlie Boyd |
| 13 Linda Goss | 22 Dale Smith |
| 14 Travis Fisher | 27 Millicent Sheets |
| Mark Powell | 29 Goldie Radziewicz |
| | 30 Barbara Hargroves |

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

Christmas Poinsettia Donation Form



I wish to share in decorating Christ Church for our celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. Enclosed is my/our contribution of \$ _____.

Make all checks payable to *Christ Church, St. Peter's Parish.*

Name: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

In Memory of _____

*Please complete the form above and return it with your contribution to the address listed below by Wednesday, **November 27, 2024.***



CHRIST CHURCH
EASTON

111 South Harrison Street
Easton, Maryland 21601-2907
phone 410-822-2677 fax 410-822-0932
www.christchurcheaston.org



Advent Angels

The Angels should start to flow through the Church during the week of November 11th, 2024. Sign up sheets can be found in the Narthex. Please pick an angel off the tree and on the sign-up sheet write your information in correspondence with the angel. All gifts are to be in by Thursday, December 12th, 2024 so that they can be blessed on Sunday, December 15th, 2024 and ready to go out that following Monday. Thank you in advance to all who plans to participate! If you have any questions

CHILDREN'S HOME FOUNDATION ANNUAL GIVING

The mission of the Children's Home Foundation is to grant financial aid to local students looking to enhance their employment opportunities through education and training at local community colleges, specialty trade schools or certificate programs. Students may be recent high school graduates or non-traditional students. CHF also grants camperships to children of the Eastern Shore to attend over night or day camps in the summer.

"As our Diocesan office notes, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we are asked to dedicate our alms basin's collection to this ministry. You've been generous, loyal, and faithful to the CHF and I will attend 2 services to speak to our congregation's about our work for the growth of The Diocese of Easton. I hope you continue this year to support our work." - Sally Akridge

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



Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known
His deeds among the peoples!

Chronicles 16:8