

JUNE 2025

CROSSROADS

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



CHRIST CHURCH
EASTON

A Message from Patrick Collins, Interim Priest

Dear Christ Church
Family,

We are entering the summer AND by our Church Calendar, we are also entering the Season after Pentecost. You may remember my sermon from months ago where I used a large fabric wheel to explain our liturgical calendar. We are now entering that very large “green growing season”. We have walked through Advent together, we have celebrated Christmas together, we witnessed the arrival of the ‘wise ones’ and journeyed through the Season after the Epiphany. In February, Lent came again and we spent 40 days preparing for God. We journeyed with Christ through Holy Week and we rejoiced at the empty tomb.

Now we will be in a season of “Ordinary Time”. This doesn’t mean that this time is ‘average’ or not worth noting, it means that this season is ordered/numbered. Beginning on the 15th and going until Thanksgiving you will see on the bulletins you will see “The X Sunday after Pentecost”. In June it will be the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays and by the time we get to the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will have gone through 24 weeks to Ordinary Time.

This is the season when we are particularly called to respond to God. In Lent, we prepared; in Easter we celebrated; with Pentecost we witnessed the arrival of the Holy Spirit; and now in this Season after Pentecost we respond to God’s actions on our behalf. We are called to live into our



Baptismal Covenant and ‘seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves’.

With this in mind, I’d like to ask each of us to take some time for discernment. We are already doing this as a congregation but, the same questions that we asked ourselves as a community can also apply to us as individuals.

Who am I?

What gifts has God given me?

Who do I want to grow into?

Who is God calling me to be?

As we enter into this ‘green growing season’, a time when we know things are changing, please take note of the ways that God is already active in your life. Be aware of, and thankful, for the times of challenge and struggle, knowing that those challenges and struggles are actually God preparing you for the next steps and stages in your journey.

Discernment is never easy – but it is always worth the effort.

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

Peace,

Patrick

Mission Update

As I reflect on the missions that I have participated in over the past eight summers at Chris Church, there are many highlights that come to mind. Community projects that were completed, lives that were touched, lives that were changed, thin space moments with God, friendships made, testimonies given, the Holy Spirit at work, I could go on. And, while the impact of these types of experiences varies from year to year, there is one constant.

YOU!

Each year, when a mission team stands in front of you and declares that God has called them to serve others on mission, when God says, “who shall I send?” and they say, “send me.” It is you, Christ Church Easton, who stands up beside those missionaries and says “we will help send you.” You send with prayers and financial support, team after team. You do it joyfully, hopefully, and without question. When I am asked about the most meaningful work that I feel that I do, it is mission that is among the top of that list, because of the way this community of faith lives by word and deed through and through!

Because of your love, support, and hunger for Spaghetti... I am confident to tell you with a couple of checks still coming in that we will meet and exceed our fundraising goal, which provides us the opportunity to bless the communities that we will visit this summer above and beyond what we had hoped to. The students have been blown away by your generosity and faith in them. The beauty in that is how I get to watch their confidence in themselves increase as they feel the confidence that you have in them.





THANK YOU for joining us in this mission to Wilmington, North Carolina. We truly could not have done it without you, and we wouldn't have wanted to anyway.

We depart July 6th and will be gone until the 12th. Please keep our travel and our work in your prayers. 32 of us will travel in 5 vans and one U-Haul beginning 7:00 am on the 6th and hope to arrive in Wilmington by 5:00 pm. We were excited to learn that we will call St. John's Episcopal Church "home" for the week! Please also pray over the other teams that we will be meeting the evening of the 6th and serving alongside during our mission. Additionally, Youthworks (our Mission host) asks for prayers for those who take pride in the community of Wilmington and work tirelessly to revitalize the city and businesses. They ask for prayers for continued strength for the community, for prayers for vision and community growth, as well as

the resources to fuel the work. They ask for prayers over their partner agencies and all who've been affected by the current economic issues that result across the country. And finally, prayers for those who've been affected and continue to be affected by the devastating results of Hurricane Helene.

Our Mission Verse this year comes from Psalm 150, and our Mission song is Praise by Elevation Worship. We hope you will reflect on both while we are away on our mission. I smile just thinking about us collectively lifting up this Psalm and Praise song together miles and miles away from one another during the mission week.



Your trust in the rising generation in Christ is one that I know in my heart will bear much fruit!

Praise the Lord, oh my soul!

Peace & Love.

Rev. Kelsey Spiker



Rector Search Committee Update

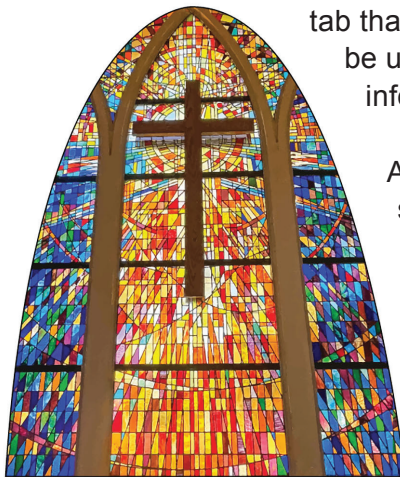
The job posting for our rector position is now live and we are already receiving applications! It did not take long. We are on the schedule we outlined at our Parish Annual Meeting in March.

We are now in the phase of accepting and reviewing applications and we will spend the next few months getting in touch with our top candidates.

Thank you to committee members Peyton Procaccini, Barbara Ayers, and Ruth Heltne for updating the congregation at each of our services this past weekend.

To recap, our rector position is now posted on the Office of Transition Ministry job board, and is being advertised nationally with Living Church Magazine (the magazine of the Episcopal Church), and the Episcopal News Service.

You can find our Parish Profile, Office for Transition Ministry Profile, and the job posting with the Episcopal News Service all on our website. Just go to www.christchurcheaston.org and look for the blue



RECTOR SEARCH

Christ Church, Easton

tab that says "Rector Search." It will be updated whenever we have new information to share.

And here is how you can help: send along or share our job listing with people you know! We all know Episcopalians outside of Easton – maybe they know someone who would be a great candidate? Or maybe you know someone? The more people hear about the job, the more applications we receive, we are more likely to find the best candidates for the job.

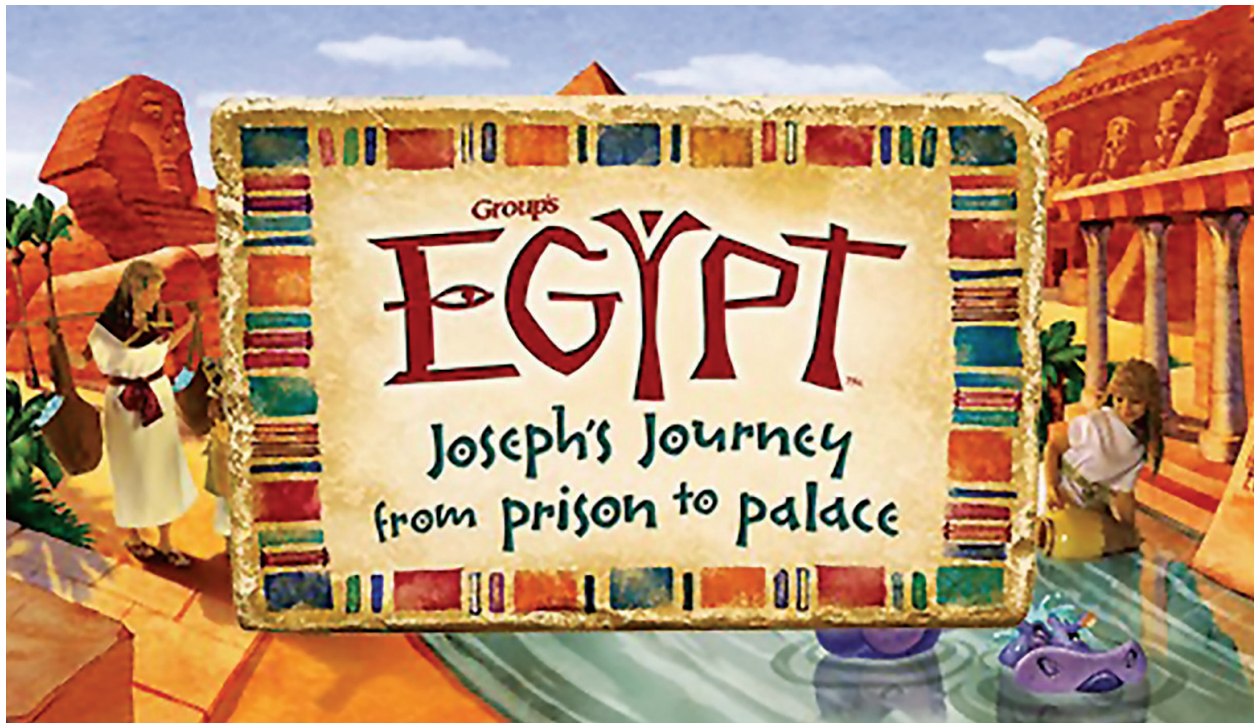
Rector's Warden Jim Marvel mentioned at the 8:00am service over the weekend that he has spoken to Vestry members of other churches in the Diocese who have gone through Rector searches. They each mentioned that their best candidates came from networking by members of their congregations who had spread the word about the job.

This is where we can have a big impact on finding our next Rector!

If you have any questions for the Search Committee, please e-mail: manager@christchurcheaston.org.



Vacation Bible School is June 23-27



From June 23-27, from 5:30 to 8:00pm, children ages 3-10 are invited to Vacation Bible School, where they will travel to Egypt!

We'll explore the life of Joseph, whom God sent to Egypt. Kids will participate in a memorable Bible-times marketplace, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into Egyptian eats, write hieroglyphics, visit Joseph in prison and then in his palace home, and collect Bible Memory Makers to remind them of God's Word.

Plus, everyone learns to look for evidence of God around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes at

Celebration – a time of upbeat worship that gets everyone involved.

Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:00pm, followed by our program ending at 8:00pm.

Anyone who would like to volunteer should contact Dottie Woodard at 410-924-5862. Planning meetings are scheduled for May 25 and June 1 after the 10:00am services. If you cannot attend either meeting but would still like to volunteer, please contact Dottie.

The cost for the week is \$100, which includes dinner each night. You can register for VBS on our website.



Why Christ Church?

Stewardship – Personal Profile:

Christine and Jim Marvel

LOVE + CARE + GIVE

Personal life & family background

Christine and Jim Marvel relocated to the Eastern Shore in 2021 from Atlanta, GA. Christine is originally from Clinton, CT and Jim is originally from Salisbury, MD. After a corporate career with Coca-Cola which entailed living and working in ten different markets across the United States over 33 years, they decided to move closer to family. They have two grown children who still live in Atlanta, Charlie (28) who is in sales for home healthcare and Julia (27) who is a paralegal. They are both involved in charitable organizations; Jim serves on several for profit and not for profit boards. He is also engaged in consulting and other business endeavors.

How did you find Christ Church?

As a result of frequent relocations, we became fairly adept at finding a church home in a new community. Chris's family faith affiliation was Congregational and Jim's was First United Methodist. We visited a number of churches in the Easton and St. Michaels area and had not found the best "fit." A family friend suggested we try Christ Church due to the variety of missions supported by the congregation. On our first visit we felt welcomed by everyone we spoke with. When we returned the next week, Father Bill remembered our names and welcomed us back. This made quite an impression on both of us.

What sparked your interest?

There were a number of things that attracted us to Christ Church. The support of the recovery community appealed to us. Chris enjoys bible and book studies as well as





participation in the women's group. She enjoys participating in the dine around group as well as participating in other volunteer support activities. Jim has ushered in prior congregations and being asked to help added to a feeling of belonging. At the time, Chris Rigaux was re-instituting the men's group and Jim learned about the opportunity to support Habitat for Humanity, which was always a volunteer interest for him. Jim became involved in the vestry and other volunteer activities at Christ Church.

What motivated you to be more involved?

Becoming involved in activities outside of worship allowed us to expand our relationship network and get to know others better. We value being a part of a caring church community where people come together in pursuit of their faith. The encouragement of other members in the congregation was key to our involvement. An invitation to help is an extension of friendship.

Why support our Church?

Christ Church is able to make a meaningful difference in our community as a result of the resources we are able to invest. Those resources come from the time, talent and treasure of the members of our congregation. In order to continue feeding the faith needs of our parish, we need our facilities, our staff and our clergy. I genuinely hope that our membership looks at donations to our church as less of an obligation and more of a two way exchange that enriches our lives, our church and our community.

Hopes and desires for the future?

I look forward to the conclusion of our period of intentional congregational development. The process following Father Bill's retirement, our interim time with Father Patrick and our discernment effort to identify a permanent Rector can be misunderstood.

I have spoken to many members of our congregation who have asked me "why can't we move faster?". This was my thinking following Father Bill's retirement announcement as well. The Episcopal Church follows a unique process to ensure a mutual calling for a permanent Rector.

Some may wonder why we didn't simply post our job, consider candidates and select the best applicants. The intentional steps are much deeper than that and intended to identify someone who can truly lead our congregation into the future for a long period of time.

Think back to some of the things that have been different during our interim experience – know that these changes have been a conscious effort to allow our congregation to experience things that are different as a way of deciding what we want. I remember when "new" Coke was introduced – ultimately, the consequence was that consumers were reminded of what they loved about Coca-Cola classic. We may decide we like some of the new things and choose to keep them or we may decide to discard them – most importantly, we have been exposed to them.

Ultimately, what I earnestly pray for is that we are able to define the dreams of our congregation in a way that allows a potential permanent rector to discern their interest, evaluate their "fit" and ultimately to pursue a call to lead Christ Church.

Thank you to Jim and Christine for sharing their personal discovery of Christ Church and the connectivity they feel. If you would like to share your experience from being involved in our Church, please call John Itell, Stewardship Chair to discuss. His number is 240-675-7244.



Eucharistic Visits & “God-incidences”

By Venita Southworth

I love serving as a Eucharistic Visitor, which means that I am allowed to take the Holy Eucharist, which has been blessed by the priest, to folks that are not able to attend services at church.

Recently, after the Palm Sunday service, I was asked to take Eucharist to my dear friend, Julia Locke, who is a member of our congregation. She is in nursing care at Bayleigh Chase and is currently bedridden. Julia and I love receiving communion together and were in the midst of reading the service prayers when Mariah, her daughter and grandsons, Scott and Cole came into her room for a visit.

At first, I didn't know what to do, and then I explained what we were doing and asked if they would like to join us. Mariah enthusiastically agreed, but the teenage boys weren't so sure. I took a few minutes to explain Holy Eucharist and said it was okay if they didn't want to receive

it, but we could all say the Lord's Prayer together. After the prayer they were more comfortable, and I was able to share the Body and Blood of Jesus with them. I truly was feeling like the Holy Spirit was hovering over us!

I then said that I would leave and let them have their visit but accidentally left my name tag behind.

The next day Julia told me that Mariah picked it up and asked Julia if I was a Southworth. Julia responded that I was and Mariah said, “Oh my gosh, a Southworth man comes to our house and is a mentor for Cole!” As it turns out, my son Andrew has been a mentor for Julia's grandson, Cole ever since his dad died. I believe this to be an amazing God-incidence!!

I had to share this story with you as it was such a beautiful Holy Spirit experience and I'm hoping that it may also encourage others to take on the privilege of becoming a Eucharistic Visitor.





Left Behind

Dear Christ Church Family,

Since I've been here, many of you have been kind and gracious enough to drop off treats and snacks for the staff. Speaking for all of us: thank you! Your generosity is amazing and your cooking is wonderful too.

Being honest, I haven't been so good about returning your plates and dishes. For this, I do apologize. Please know that it wasn't an effort to be ungrateful, it was simply an oversight. I/we are not in the habit of taking dishes or other beloved items from our congregants.

With this in mind, there are several items that have been left in our staff office kitchen over the past year or so. We want to make sure that they get returned to their rightful owner. Please look at the picture and see if any of these dishes are yours. If so, please reach out to the office directly 410.822.2677 and set up a time to come and claim your beloved treasure. All items not claimed will be moved to the parish hall kitchen after the July 4th holiday weekend.



Again, many thanks to everyone who was kind enough to bring treats into the parish office. We enjoyed the treats and deeply appreciate your loving kindness.

Peace,

Patrick

Giving Envelopes

We are revamping our giving envelopes procedure. With so many going to on line payments we find ourselves needing less and less giving envelopes. This year we will be ordering fewer boxes of offering envelopes. If you would still like to receive giving envelopes, please contact Shelley at connect@christchurcheaston.org. The order will be placed in June so please let us know as soon as possible. We will only be ordering envelopes for those who

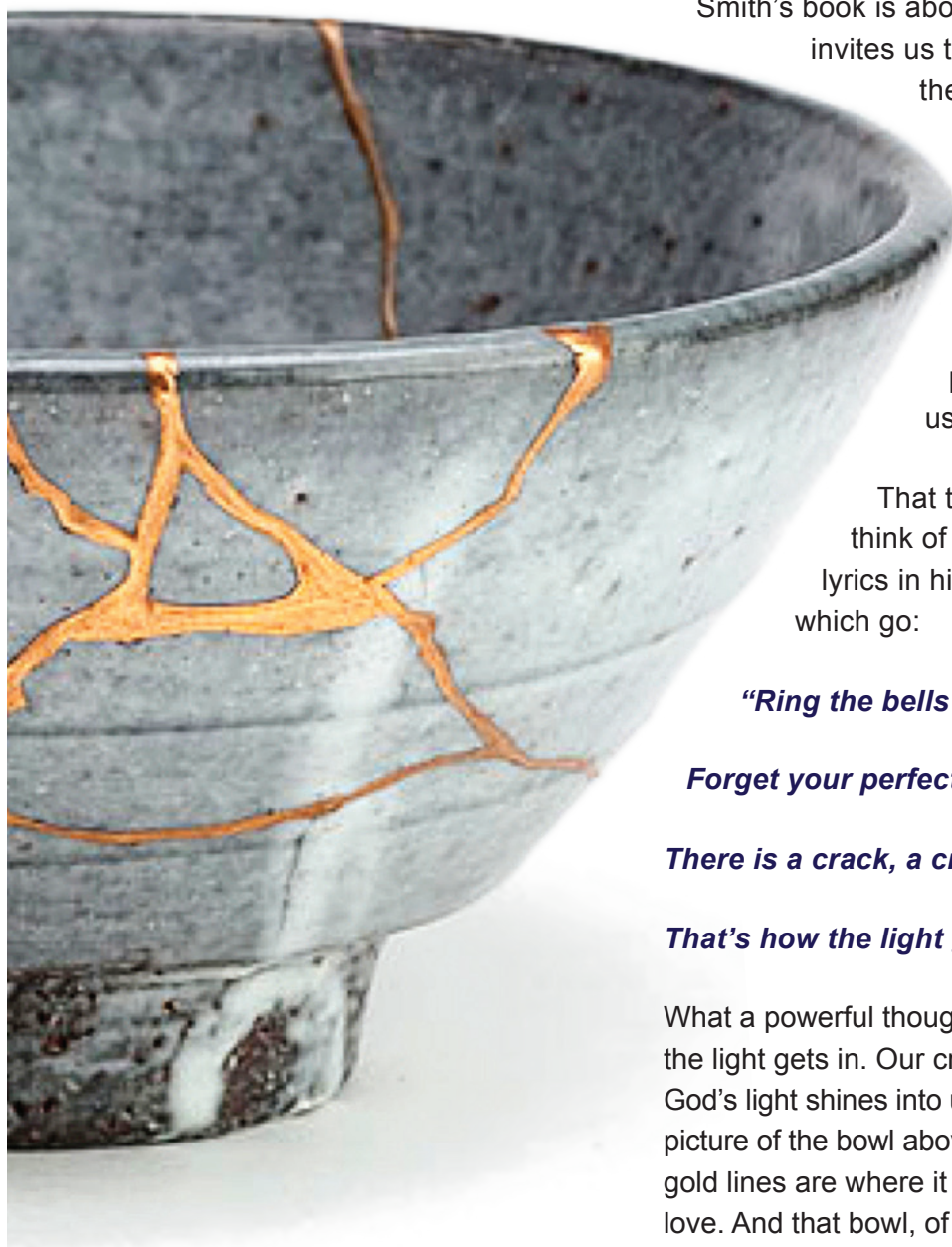
request them. If you have had the same number envelope for a long time and would like to keep that number you may request it but it may not be available. All checks that are received as offerings are easily accredited to your account without the use of an envelope as we scan all the checks and your information is in Realm which recognizes your name without needing an envelope number.



Kintsugi: Broken and Beautiful

Reflection from Rev. Michael Valliant

In her book, “Dear Writer” poet Maggie Smith talks about “kintsugi.” Kintsugi translates to “golden joinery” and is the ancient Japanese art of mending broken ceramics with lacquer mixed with gold, so that instead of the cracks being flaws, they become the highlight, the most beautiful part of the piece.



Imagine if we saw our own scars that way, our own brokenness, as a big part of what makes us beautiful.

With work, that’s possible. We can share our brokenness and see the beauty in each other in how we are being put back together.

Smith’s book is about writing and she invites us to leave the cracks, the flaws in our writing showing sometimes, to offer humility and drop the need to be perfect; to be intentionally vulnerable on the page, which can free us, open us up.

That thought made me think of Leonard Cohen’s lyrics in his song “Anthem,” which go:

“Ring the bells that still can ring

Forget your perfect offering

There is a crack, a crack in everything

That’s how the light gets in”

What a powerful thought: the crack is how the light gets in. Our cracks are the places God’s light shines into us. I love looking at the picture of the bowl above and thinking that the gold lines are where it is patched with God’s love. And that bowl, of course, is us.



CHRIST CHURCH

EASTON

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