

# THE MESSENGER

SPRING 2025

Christ Church

King and Queen Parish

*In the Episcopal Diocese of Washington Serving*

*ALL God's people since 1640 Episcopal Diocese  
of Washington*

## CHRIST CHURCH

25390 Maddox Road

Chaptico, MD

Parish Hall and Office 37497 Zach  
Fowler Road

P.O. Box 8

Chaptico, MD 20621

### Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist  
(Rite I)

10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist  
(Rite II)

Phone: 301.884.3451

E-Mail: [office@cckqp.net](mailto:office@cckqp.net)

Website: [www.cckqp.net](http://www.cckqp.net)

### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Rt. Rev. Mariann E. Budde  
Bishop of Washington

The Rev. Peter Ackerman Email:  
[frpeter@cckqp.net](mailto:frpeter@cckqp.net)

301-884-3451

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### 2025

### April 13 ~ Palm Sunday

(Sunday Services at 8am and 10am)

### April 17 ~ Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. ~ Agape Supper (Parish Hall)

7:15 p.m. ~ Stripping of the Altar  
(from Parish Hall to Church)

8:00 p.m. ~ Midnight Stay Awake  
(One hour in prayer)

### April 18 ~ Good Friday

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service  
Followed by Stations of the Cross

### April 20 ~ EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Easter Egg Hunt Following 10:00 a.m. Service

# Shrove Tuesday — Pancake Dinner



**All Parishioners and Friends**

***Pancakes, eggs, and various meats***

***When: Tuesday March 4***

***Time: 5:30 pm - 7 pm***

***Where: Parish Hall***

**Hosted by the Parish Men**

**Cost \$7.00 Adults – kids eat free**

## **Significance of the Observance of Shrove Tuesday**

The day before Ash Wednesday is called “Shrove Tuesday”. It is the last day of the Ordinary Time I (before Lent). The word “shrove” is a form of the English work ‘shrive’, which means to obtain absolution of one’s sins by the way of Confession and doing penance.

Thus Shrove Tuesday was named after the custom of Christians to be “shriven” before Lent.

## **Burning of Palms**

This is the proper day to burn the old palms used in last year’s Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion to be turned to ashes to be used tomorrow, on Ash Wednesday, the start of the Lenten Season.

## **Other Tradition**

In other countries, Shrove Tuesday is called “Pancake Day” or “Pancake Tuesday”. Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients which are often not consumed in the Season of Lent.



## *Rector Reflection*

### From the Rector's Desk

This year, the Vestry advised me that my annual focus is to be on education. I received positive feedback for the Instructed Eucharists I held in late January. With that educating focus in mind, I thought I would reveal details around a ministry source that people may not know about.

Every Episcopal Church has a Rector's Discretionary Fund. The purpose of this fund is for the rector to help engage in outside of the box ministry opportunities. For instance, while at Christ Church, I have used the fund to buy gasoline for an individual in need, newly sober who had a new job, but not enough money to fill up the tank before the first paycheck came in. That request came by phone, we met at a local station, and I filled up the car, encouraged and prayed for the person. Another time, at an establishment that I frequent, the owner, who knows what I do for a living, asked if our parish had a clothes closet. She informed me that a homeless individual, who she lets use her business's restroom facilities, recently had his coat stolen. As this was a time where the temperature was going down, and us not having such a supply of clothing, I offered to buy a winter coat and bring it the next day. Through the Rector's Discretionary Fund, I purchased a heavy winter coat which was given to the individual in need.

Sometimes the support for the needy is not as hands on. At least once per year I receive a phone call from someone whose heat is getting turned off due to inability to pay bills. After receiving the requisite information from them, I phone the utility company and pay, at least part of, the debt. Of course, the fund can also help parishioners. Even for something like a parish dinner that costs, if there is a financial hardship keeping you away, I am willing to help supply what is needed, so that the parishioner can attend. Because of the pastoral nature of a Rector's Discretionary Fund, I will report the use to the Treasurer and Vestry but never identify the individual who received the assistance.

The Rector's Discretionary Fund is a precious ministry, and the Episcopal Church rules help to make sure that it is not misused. The use of the money must be for "pious and charitable purposes," and not benefit the rector who has sole discretion on how the funds are used. Additionally the rules offer the opportunity for there to always be an income stream into the reserve. For this year the Vestry chose the option, where our Treasurer makes an estimate of one Sunday's worth of Open Plate giving (non-pledged, non-otherwise restricted) and places that estimated amount into the Fund.

Finally, a person can also donate directly to it. A check made out to Christ Church, with "Rector's Discretionary Fund" in the memo line, or cash in an envelope marked as the same will add to the fund (and is tax deductible. If ever you want to direct your financial thanksgiving to something church related, making a gift to The Rector's Discretionary Fund is an acceptable option.

So, now you know. With appropriate transparency, and sharing the guidelines, and some examples, I pray that you see that I take the use of this source of financial assistance seriously. I am grateful for the ability that The Rector's Discretionary Fund provides for me to serve those in all sorts of needs. If you ever need the help, please let me know. I see the distribution of the funds, and the conversations around them as a special privilege. I am delighted to be entrusted with helping people in this manner, and blessed are those who support these pious and charitable efforts.

Yours in Christ,

Fr .Peter



## *Senior Warden ~ Greg Penk*

Thank you to Father Peter and the Vestry for choosing me as the Senior Warden for 2025, and a hearty welcome to new Vestry members Shelby Opperman, Robbie Loker and Donnie Morgan Donnie, our new Junior Warden, jumped right in to coordinate furnace repairs for the both the church and the Parish Hall, with an assist from Dave Hudson, who arranged for new water pipes to be installed in the furnace room at the church. Heat was restored, and although a few events at the hall were cancelled, no church services were affected.

On a personal note, our Vestry Handbook suggests starting our morning with the Daily Devotion “*In The Morning*” (BCP page 137). I’ve added a few collects; one of my current favorites is:

### *In Times of Conflict*

*O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

This helps to remind me that as a church, we are all one family. We may not always agree, but at the end of the day we can depend on each other. This has been my experience as a member of the Christ Church family, and I see it every day, inside and outside the doors to the church building.

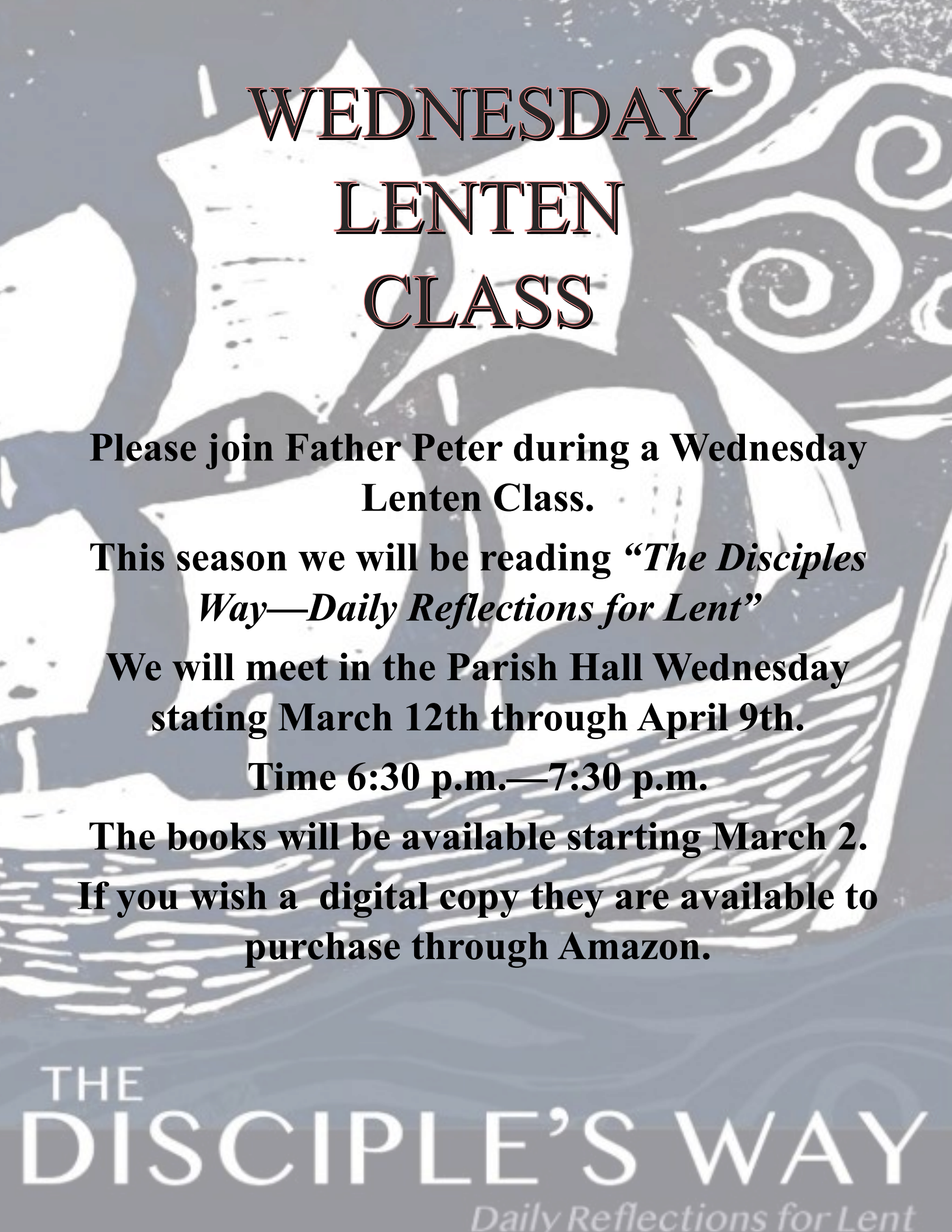


## ***BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATE***

***Donnie Morgan***  
***Junior Warden***



Greetings fellow parishioners! I'm excited for the next year with everyone and the events and activities at Christ Church. We have a church workday planned for April and will schedule a workday for the parish hall sometime in the future. B&G members remedied a couple heating issues at both the church and hall. The buildings tend to have some age to them which can lead to some challenges. We have a great group of people on B&G capable of resolving any issue. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 6pm if you'd like to take part in the fun.



# WEDNESDAY LENTEN CLASS

**Please join Father Peter during a Wednesday  
Lenten Class.**

**This season we will be reading “*The Disciples  
Way—Daily Reflections for Lent*”**

**We will meet in the Parish Hall Wednesday  
starting March 12th through April 9th.**

**Time 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**

**The books will be available starting March 2.  
If you wish a digital copy they are available to  
purchase through Amazon.**

THE  
DISCIPLE'S WAY

*Daily Reflections for Lent*



# St. Patrick's Dinner

*Eat, Drink, and Be Irish*

*Corned Beef, Cabbage and all the trimmings*

*Saturday, March 15th*

*6:30 p.m.*

*\$30.00 per person*

*Call for reservations 301-884-3451*

*Limited Seating*

*Reservation Cut-Off March 13 at Noon*

*Pay at the door*

*Christ Church Parish Hall*

*37479 Zach Fowler Road, Chaptico*

*LIVE Irish Folk Music*



# TENDING OUR SOIL

Hi friends!

At the time of my last report in the Fall newsletter, our Tending Our Soil (TOS) team was finalizing our Mission and Vision Statements. Those statements have since been finalized and adopted and can be found below and on the back of the weekly Sunday bulletin.

## **Mission Statement:**

We live the message of Jesus Christ as a Godly presence, influencing and encouraging all persons to gather in community for worship, service, and play.

## **Vision Statement:**

Christ Church expresses God's love by being welcoming and attentive to individuals and the wider community, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In January, at the Annual Meeting, I shared our short-term goals with you. These goals, summarized are:

To increase personal connection and engagement among worshipers

To develop and communicate paths of discipleship (culminating in a Ministry Fair on September 7, 2025), and

To regularly participate in active community service that extends beyond our parish walls

All of these goals are reachable (to some degree) within this calendar year and, as we continue to move forward, we will be developing more goals with actionable steps to help us live into our vision by carrying out our mission in real time.

For each newsletter in the foreseeable future, you'll meet two parishioners, introduced and re-introduced to you by the Tending Our Soil team. The purpose of sharing these interviews is so that we can learn more about the people we worship with. By learning about our fellow parishioners, we grow in understanding one another and discovering each other's gifts, talents, interests and faith stories. Our faith stories define the common thread that runs through each and every one of us, weaving love through our spirits and into our lives. If you'd like to share your story, please reach out to one of the Tending Our Soil team members (listed below). We'd love to help you share your story!

By the time you read this report, we will have held the Greeter Refresh and Brainstorming Session on 2/23/25. From that meeting, we hope to bring some of your ideas into our Sunday morning practices to make sure every person who enters the doors of our church feel more loved, cared for, and personally connected to the people they encounter and, more importantly, to God in our midst. In the coming months, how can your presence, talents and gifts contribute to this goal?

Please keep our team in your prayers as we continue this work!

David Simmons \* Amy Topolski \* Fr. Peter Ackerman \* Robbie Loker \* Mary Ann Oliver \*  
Sara Frawley \* Donnie Morgan



Photo from: Tending Our Soil, Learning Lab, including Guest Speaker Dr. Jake Mulder







# *EASTER FLOWERS MEMORIAL AND CONTRIBUTIONS*

*Easter is a wonderful time to honor loved ones you've lost or special people in your life today. Flowers and plants displayed in the church on Easter are a beautiful way to honor these individuals.*

*All dedications are listed in our Easter bulletin. While any amount is welcomed, the suggested contribution is \$35.*

*Envelopes will be available in the back of the church.*

*Donations need to be in hand no later than*

*Palm Sunday April 13*

*ensuring that the names of your loved ones are published in the Easter Sunday bulletin*

*We remember*

**Marvin Smith**

***June 8, 1936 - October 24, 2024***



We miss his contagious smile and keep Suzanne and their family in our hearts.



2025 Christ Church Chaptico Grace & Gratitude Recognition recipients are: Barbara Drumgoole and Ava Ciabattoni for their dedication to serving others.

## **Administrator's Angel – Monty Wright**



This quarter we are highlighting Monty Wright as our Office Angel. Along with his wife, Helen, Monty is a blessing to our parish. Monty is helpful to needs of our parish office. He regularly volunteers for occasional folding of bulletins and inserts and putting the latter into the former. His communication skills are wonderful. Since he is the one who puts together the list of those who serve on Sundays – Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Acolytes, and Greeters – and readily provides updates when changes are made, so that our bulletins have the most up to date information. Another appreciated skill is that he anticipates what special services are coming up and seeks answers to the rector's needs, so that he can schedule the hoped for lay ministers. Sundays he is often present to make sure that needs are met, and he helps with the setting up and take down of coffee hour. On top of all of this, he helps to manage the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Above and beyond just the office, we lift up appreciatively, Monty Wright as this quarter's Office Angel!



## *Let a get to know:*

### *Sarah Pettigrew*

Sarah primarily attends the 10:00 service. However she does enjoy the traditional “high church” Rite 1

Sarah has attended Christ Church for a little over 2 years. Her husband Jeff and son Zachary (one of our awesome acolytes) also attend with her.

Sarah is avid skier and, fun fact, her high speed on skies is 50mph!

While Sarah was exploring churches she came across our church which is close in distance to her home. She loves our traditional liturgy and the fact that Father Peter respects that aspect. She states that everyone is so very nice and we have a beautiful place to worship. She enjoys the music and provides a shout out to Marcus for his skill playing the organ. She is interested in the ministry of Our Building and Grounds team

A time when Sarah has felt closest to God was at the birth of her only son and having the ability to conceive him.

One of her favorite bible verses is

*“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 4:7





## ***Let's Get to Know:***

### ***Debra Gray***

Debra attends the 8:00 Rite 1 service. Debra would like to share the following with us:

I was raised in Christ Church my entire life and attended Sunday school here. My parents and grandparents were members also, Christ Church is our family's church. I can remember back when Reverend Hall was our Rector.

I attend church now with my daughter Arielle, and my sister and brother-in-law Janice and Richard Pilkerton.

For the past few years I have also been working with the grass cutting ministry by taking care of weed whacking at the church hall.

For hobbies I don't have a lot but since I have retired 5 years ago my sister and I have been experimenting with crafts. My family farmed tobacco for many years so we have a lot of tobacco sticks from those days. We loved the idea of displaying them so we thought making crafts would be a great way of honoring our family's legacy we began the crafting adventure by making Christmas ornaments out of the tobacco sticks. We have moved onto bigger items such as Santa and snowman porch leaners, Crosses for graves and door hangers, scarecrows and patriotic flag porch leaners also.

When the weather is warm I also enjoy working in the yard, gardening and hanging out by the pool or planting my toes in a sandy beach

A few bible verses that touch me are:

*John 3:16, I believe there is a greater life beyond our life here on earth. One day we will be reunited with God, Jesus and our loved one's*

*Philippians 4:13 helps with the tough times and reminds us He is always with us and with His help anything is possible.*

*Psalm 139:13-16 My daughter is special needs so this truly touches my heart as I know she is perfect in every way She made me a better person and I am thankful that God chose me to be her mother.*



# PARISH LIFE ~ OCTOBER 2024

## Bonfire





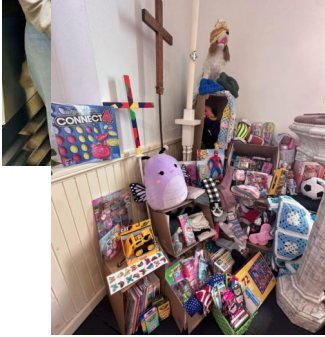
# PARISH LIFE ~ DECEMBER 2024

## Holiday Family Night

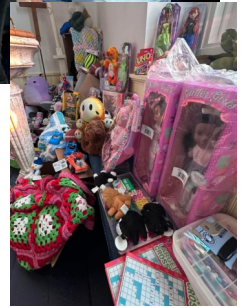




# JOYFUL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2024



We partnered with [Church of Ascension Food Pantry](#) to bring joy to those in need. "Joyful Giving" Through this project we helped provide much needed items to the elderly, homeless, and children over the Christmas season. Thank you all who participated in this outreach.



## WRAPPING ARMS 'ROUND MANY (WARM)

FEBRUARY 2025

Typical sleeping accommodation for WARM guests. Duffel bags and pillows have been sanitized and awaiting to be filled with clean sheets, blankets and hand towels by Christ Church laundry team. We had 16 parishioners support in various ways - monitors, mid-week laundry, transport of cots, bins and stuffing bags with linens for WARM week at Holy Angels-Sacred Heart.





***EASTER EGG HUNT : SUNDAY April 20th***

***Immediately after Rite ii (10:00 a.m.) Service, Weather Permitting***

As in previous years, a “special” area will be roped off for our youngest Easter Egg hunters.

Typically, lots of filled plastic eggs are hidden in the church’s cemetery ground. Eggs are filled with candy, jelly beans, coins, trinkets, or other kid-friendly items.

We currently have plenty of empty plastic eggs left over from previous years. There is NO need to buy more plastic eggs!

If anyone has empty plastic eggs from previous years they want to donate for the effort, please drop them off at the church, parish hall, or give them to Monty or Helen Wright anytime before Palm Sunday March 24th.

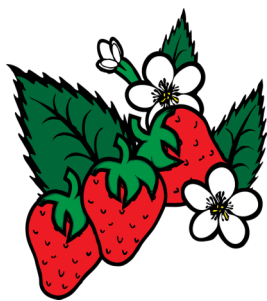
Parishioners are invited to either:

1. Make a donation of fillings item(s) for plastic eggs
2. Make a monetary donation to buy such egg fillings.

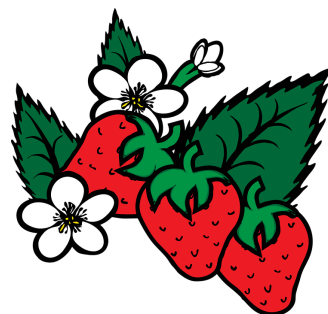
PLEASE drop off any donated egg fillings items just inside the church (into marked containers) by Good Friday March 29 so these eggs can be filled and ready to be hid by early Easter Sunday morning.

If you would to make a monetary donation to help buy egg filling items, please see or contact either Monty (cell: 240-434-2883, email, [wrightjm@md.metrocast.net](mailto:wrightjm@md.metrocast.net)) or Helen Wright (cell: 301-481-1530, email; [helenwright1530@icloud.com](mailto:helenwright1530@icloud.com)).

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you know of children who likely WILL be attending this Easter Egg Hunt, please let Monty or Helen know. Helpful if their age is provided too. This will give us a better idea of how many children might participate and how many eggs to fill.

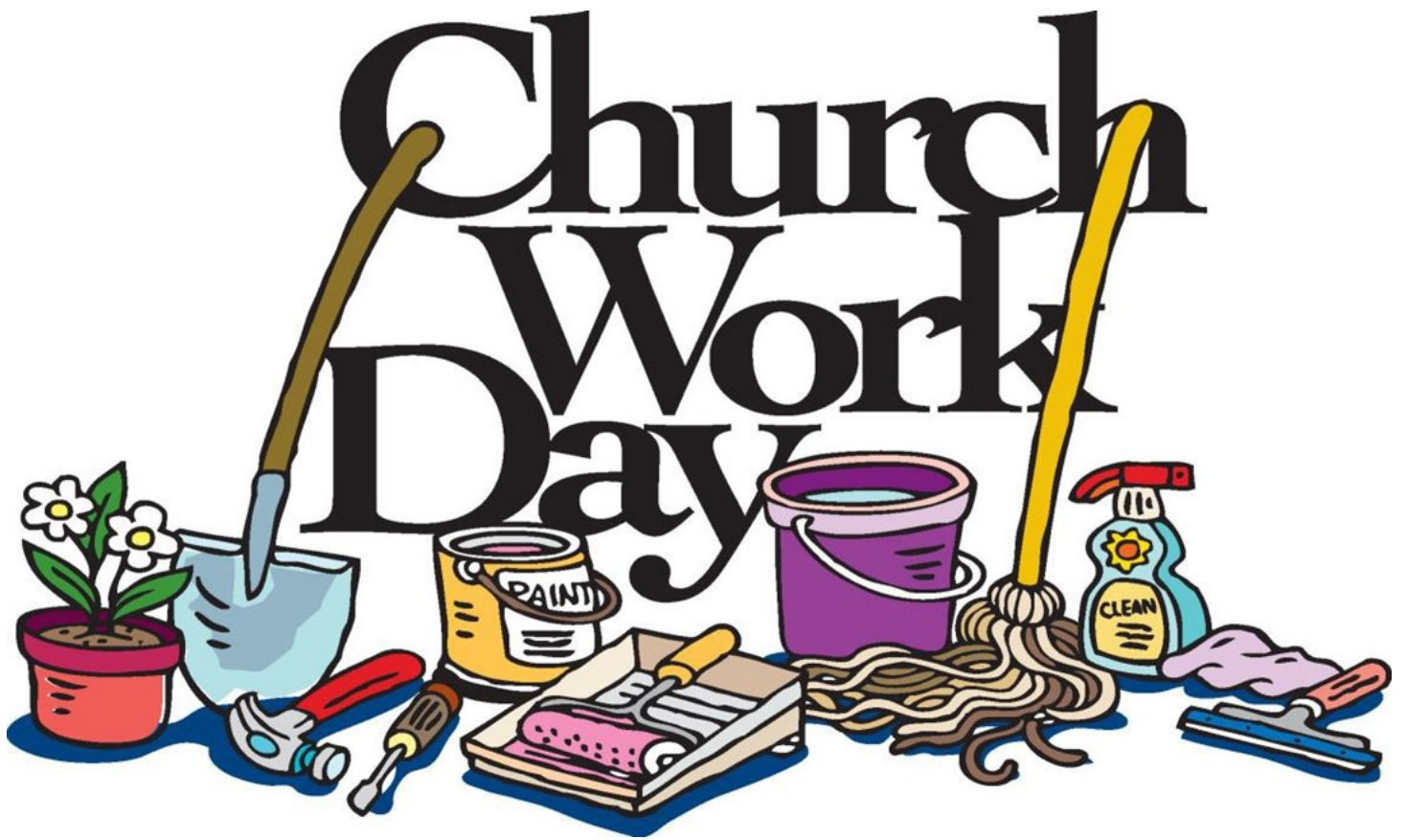


**Mark you calendar:**



**Christ Episcopal Church, Chaptico  
invites you to their  
31st Annual STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL  
SUNDAY, May 18th, 2025  
New Hours: 12:30 – 4:00**





Your help is needed and much appreciated!

Christ Church  
Saturday, April 12  
(April 19th rain date)  
8:00 a.m.  
Meet at the Church

*Many hands make light work.*



## *JOIN CHRIST CHURCH'S TEAM*

The Run & Fun Walk was founded in 1996 and has raised over \$850K for  
Hospice of St. Mary's County.

100% of net proceeds benefit Hospice of St. Mary's in providing comfort, care, and support for the terminally ill.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2024**

**FUN WALK - 8:45AM**

*One loop through the streets of beautiful and historic Leonardtown,*

Pick up your race packets at the Governmental Center starting at  
7:00 a.m.

Wear your Christ Church T-shirts if you have one.  
Register with the QR code below and join *our team*

**Christ Church Chaptico**



<https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/Leonardtown/run4hospice>

Registration is \$48.70 with includes a \$3.10 Processing Fee

Price increases to \$54.00 after February 28, 2025

**Meet at the Potomac Building - 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown**

*If you have any questions please contact Julie Burch 301-904-1228*

# CHRIST CHURCH

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A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington... Living the Way of Love since 1640

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[The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde](#)—Bishop of Washington

The Reverend Peter Ackerman — Rector

Jennifer Groht—Parish Administrator

Greg Penk—Senior Warden

Donnie Morgan —Junior Warden

Marcus Thompson—Organist

Bob Donaldson—Treasurer

Vacant—Registrar

### Members of the Vestry

Class of 2026: Barbara Drumgoole, George Kennett, Brenda Monshower

Class of 2027: Diane Donahue, Mike Oliver, Greg Penk

Class of 2028: Shelby Opperman, Donnie Morgan, Robie Loker