

# THE MESSENGER

Fall 2023

Christ Church

King and Queen Parish

*In the Episcopal Diocese of Washington Serving*

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

## SUMMERTIME FUN



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL



### 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 Eu-  
charist (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

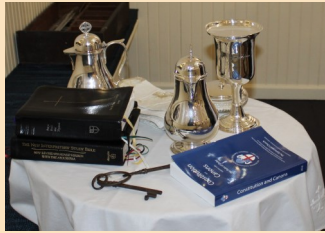
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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

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

301-884-3451

## *Rector Reflection*



Dear Christ Church Friends & Family,

Homecoming Sunday is one of my favorite non-liturgical traditions in The Episcopal Church. This Sunday after Labor Day is when we come back to our weekly worship practices and look ahead at our program year from September until we arrive at next summer.

There is much gratitude in my heart for the wonderful Sunday attendance we held during the summer months. Shorter sermons, skipping a Gospel hymn encouraged many worshippers to come to church on Sundays, where there was still time. Thank you to all, including Marcus and the choir who made room for this June through August practice.

Our Homecoming Service on September 10th includes a Gospel reading where we get the saying from Jesus, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be in the midst of them.” Perhaps my sermon that day will unpack what it means to be “gathered in Jesus’ name.”

The phrase keys on why I think church and religion are important. These days people readily point out where institutions like that fail, but I key on where they bring strength. I liken a church as a gym, where we practice together each Sunday for better spiritual fitness and to be tuned in to the Spirit on a daily basis and not just when we hike mountains or see a beautiful sunset.

Gathering together with our strengths and our weaknesses, our celebrations and concerns, brings Christ into our midst. Believing this viewpoint is one of the reasons that encourage everyone from the faithful to the inquirer to make weekly worship a necessary part of the rhythm of our lives.

It is also a reason why after prayer and reflection during my first year here as your rector, that in conversation with the Wednesday Prayer Group that I decided to expand on their ministry and offer in place of Prayer Group, on the 3rd Wednesday at 7pm each month to offer a worship service dedicated towards healing.

The worship component will last about 20-30 minutes with no Eucharist. With a biblical reading and a short commentary or homily the gathered will have an opportunity from the pews to name (silently or out loud) the names of those we bring with us to God for healing.

Healing for body, mind, soul, relationship, etc are what we can bring. Again, whether for us or for those whom we know and love, we can intentionally together bring those persons and ourselves and place ourselves before God and ask for what ever kind of healing we seek.

Near the conclusion of the short service, I will take a place at the side of the altar. And people who wish to can come to me one at a time, the next in line will leave enough space so that any words exchanged between the worshipper and me can remain private. Those who choose to approach me at this “healing station” can, if they want, specify the healing they seek and for whom, whether themselves or another. I will then anoint the individual’s forehead with healing oil on behalf of the reason they seek.

My hope is that this service of intentionality will help with the two of us, and others in the parish as we pray for one another, the opportunity to bring Jesus into our concerns in a way that we can take with us as the service concludes.

There is a lot I am called to do as a rector. There are business aspects, meetings, administration, fun celebrations and more. But at the heart of it all, I am a priest, your priest, and a priest to serve the needs of the wider community. My main responsibility is to help lead people into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. My hope is that through the monthly - 3rd Wednesday Healing Service at 7pm - we can take Jesus up on the biblical promise that we will hear in the fall. “When two or three are gathered in my name, I (Jesus) will be in the midst of them. Amen, and Happy Homecoming!

Your Sibling in Christ,

The Rev’d. Peter Ackerman aka Fr. Peter



You enter Christ Church and your eyes go to the 4th pew on the right side.

Every Sunday at 8 am sits Amelia Xander Leukhardt. Always perfectly put together, she joins in the Rite One service and leads the congregation to the altar rail for communion, unassisted. With her soft-spoken pleasant manner and an aura of playfulness, you immediately feel that you are in the presence of someone special.

Amelia Xander Leukhardt is indeed a very special lady and especially on August 17, 2023 when she celebrated her birthday.

Born August 17, 1923, in Congress Heights, District of Columbia. Amelia's father was a policeman and one of the last Metropolitan police officers who rode on horseback. As was customary then, her mother was a stay-at-home mom. Amelia graduated high school during World War II. What a time that was. When Amelia turned 19 she married Elmer Leukhardt. Together they had 3 children, Donna, Larry, and Ronald. Today Amelia has seen her family grow to 10 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Once the children had left the home, Amelia started working for NASA. She joined the challenge of President Kennedy for America to put a man on the moon by end of the 1960s. It was exciting to be part of the space race. With no time to waste in this environment, Amelia learned speed reading to keep up with the fast-paced challenge of sending astronauts into space and have them safely return. And yes, Amelia knew some of those astronauts, working directly for John Glenn while he was orbiting the earth in the space craft, Friendship Seven.

After President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, Amelia's career moved to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. While at the White House, she worked for four U.S Presidents. (Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, and Jimmy Carter) She reminisced how President Johnson would provide special luncheons and events for the staff, including cruising on the presidential yacht down the Potomac River.

Soon after her husband Elmer retired, Amelia bid adieu to her government service. Retirement enabled them to travel cross-country several times, visiting a total of 46 states. The great state of Montana is on Amelia's bucket list, so if you are headed that way, she'd love to join you. Amelia's travel adventures are not limited to land as she has enjoyed over 30 cruises. That cruise on the presidential yacht must have started Amelia on her love of setting sail to foreign ports.

Following the death of her beloved Elmer after 53 years of marriage, Amelia moved to her current home in Charles County. In 1998, Amelia found Christ Church and began to attend while the Rev. Dr. Sam Walker was serving as rector. She immediately jumped in to help the late Pat Wyant at the Fall Festival Dinners and then in later years at the Strawberry Festival and Yard Sale.

We at Christ Church are proud to have her as one of ours and to wish her a Happy 100th Birthday. We also invite you to visit Amelia at the 8 am service and then join her and the Breakfast Bunch for their weekly date of good food and fellowship following the service. After all, it's not every day you get to break bread with such an engaging centenarian!

**Happy 100th**  
**Birthday Amelia!**



# The Episcopal Church *welcomes you*

## Weekly/Monthly Reoccurring Events:

- ◇ Wednesday's Prayer group (Helen Wright POC) 7PM @ Church
- ◇ 3rd Wednesday-Healing Service w/Fr. Peter 7PM @ Church
- ◇ Wednesday, Sept. 6th-Building and Grounds Meeting 6:30PM @ Parish Hall
- ◇ 2nd Tuesday- Vestry Meeting 6:30PM @ Parish Hall

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept 10: Homecoming Sunday Coffee Hour (after 10am service)
- Oct 21: Pumpkin Carving & Chili Dinner; Bonfire
- Nov 4: Autumn Fundraiser
- Nov 19: Parish Thanksgiving Dinner
- Dec 9: Patuxent Voices Concert



### WANTED for Winter Newsletter

Do you have photos of Christ Church Christmases past.  
(children's plays, events, the church)  
1950's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, 2000's.

I would like to have a collage of our winter newsletter.

Please contact Julie Burch 301-904-1228

Deadline Nov 15th



**SENIOR WARDEN  
KEITH OWENS**

“Corporate worship.” The senior wardens ramble.

We are suspicious of anything that starts out with the word Corporate. — “Corporate wants us to make cuts, Corporate wants us to redesign our processes, Corporate is reorganizing, i.e. here come the layoffs.” But when it is used with “worship” is just means praying and celebrating the Eucharist TOGETHER.

You could go to church by yourself, just you and the priest, but how enjoyable would that be? I know my experience on Sunday morning is increased and amplified with each additional person that is there. I sing louder when there are many other voices around. Think about that, don’t you find yourself singing louder when there are many others singing (to cover up our insecurities with singing)?

I also enjoy the service MORE when I hear kids talking or squeaking during the service. That’s right, I enjoy it more. It reminds me of my kids playing with toys and wrestling each other during mass, good memories of being newlywed and getting two then three toddlers to church. It was a challenge at the time but I wouldn’t trade the memories for anything.

I also enjoy listening to someone else reading the scripture lessons. When it is read in someone else’s voice and inflection I have heard different meanings that I’ve never realized when reading it on my own. I gain insight hearing another voice read stories I may already know by heart.

I get more from the service when there are more of us there. Corporate Worship means getting closer to God together, made more enjoyable with more and more of us together.

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATE  
BRANDON FRAWLEY  
JUNIOR WARDEN**



Greetings all, it’s been a busy summer for the Buildings and Grounds Committee. We did cancel meetings in July and August but that didn’t slow down the work getting done. Brad Reeves has kept up with the grass cutting at the church assisted by Monty Wright while Mark Topalski has kept the grass cut at the parish hall and our trim work teams have kept the parish hall and rectory looking great. A huge thank you to Brad Reeves, Mark Topalski, Herbie Redmond, John Harhai, Dave Simmons, Dave Hudson, John Tierney, Monty Wright, Keith Owens, Donnie Morgan, and Debra Gray (and family) for the countless hours of labor donated to keep up on the yard work.

In addition to the normal yard work we had to do some extra clean up on the storm water management facility behind the parish hall. Dave Hudson, Monty Wright, Herbie Redmond, Keith Owens, and James Owens spent a hot summer day cleaning up some heavy vegetation around the overgrown storm water management area discharge. Their efforts brought us into compliance with Maryland Environmental Service’s requirements for a storm water management facility.

Looking ahead into the fall, Buildings and Grounds Committee will be scheduling another clean up day in September or October, more to come on a date once we have worked that out. In October our Buildings and Grounds meetings will move to the first Monday of the month at 6:30. All are welcome to attend, our meetings last for roughly an hour and are more productive with more members.

# Prayer Group

By: Beth Fitch

I have been asked to write about our Christ Church Prayer Group, which in September, will return to its regular schedule of every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm (except the third Wednesday, when Fr. Peter will be holding a Healing Service). We meet at the Church, which is a beautiful place to spend quiet time when alone or in smaller groups. Meetings last approximately 20 to 30 minutes.

In the year following the pandemic isolation, while we were without a priest during the week, a few of us felt strongly that we needed to continue weekly prayers for our Parish. Helen Wright provided the glue to hold this small group together and we have each experienced growth, strength, and comfort, as well as honored our Parish's commitment to pray for one another and the world.

Prayer Group is a very informal time when anyone who wishes may join us to pray for our Church and the concerns of our congregation. Please "Come As You Are". We generally have a volunteer leader to help us steer our thoughts. Often, prayers from the Prayer Book are chosen. Sometimes a short reflection is read from a selected author, or a poem or hymn is read. We then simply pray for the persons on our Prayer List, which will be updated each month. We pray the Lord's Prayer together. This is a time, also, when informal requests can be brought, as well as thanksgiving for blessings in our lives. We "gather in His Name", and truly feel that our Saviour is in "there in our midst".

## Administrator's Angel

If you know Robbie, you know what a presence she is in and around this parish. She oversees and services as one of our Altar Guild members, she surprises me and Fr. Peter in the office by bringing in beautiful floral arrangements for our desks. Perhaps most importantly, she lives her faith, by looking for the positive and showing joy wherever she goes. I know I can call on Robbie, and as her schedule allows, she will respond.

The reasons are why I lift up Robbie Loker as an

Administrative Angel!



# An Autumn Evening in Chaptico

Dinner and Silent Auction  
with music by

## Groove Span Duo



Jennifer Cooper

Carl Reichelt

Menu and Ticket Price are TBD

Saturday

**4th**

November, 2023

**6:00 PM**

**Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall**

37497 Zack Fowler Road, Chaptico, MD

For Reservations, call Church Office (301) 884-3451



## Chaptico's West Lyon, Guardian of the past at Christ Church

*The Enterprise*, May 22, 1985

By, Joseph Norris; Staff Reporter

Talking to West Lyon is like going back in time.

One of Chaptico's favorite senior citizens, Lyon is endowed with that unique ability of the storyteller, to weave a tale that sucks you in till you're hanging on the edge as he reels it off, one meticulous detail at the time, taking you in a dozen different directions right up until the end when he pulls it all together with one line that sends you neat to rolling off your seat in laughter.

As he tells it his family comes from the old homestead on Golden Beach Road, and sometimes if you're going along that road you can still see it, an old brown three-story building with nobody living in it. About 1825 his great-grandfather left there and moved to Charles County to the farm where his grandfather was born.

"My grandfather was a big square-shoulder fella, six feet tall, the biggest rascal in Charles County" he recalled. "One Saturday morning he and his friend, Mr Keech, decided 'let's go down to Chaptico Church' Our Episcopal Church dinner was going on then and they rode until they came across Chaptico Run where this runaway carried water to power the gist mill down the run, and you had to ride under it because there wasn't no bridge across there in those days. When you rode your horses underneath the runaway the water would run down your neck.

"They got down there and ate their dinner in the tent, and my grand-pop was wandering around when he saw a pretty girl in the tent washing dishes. So he eased back to her and started talking to her. Now I'm sitting at the dining room table with my grandfather, and he's 80 years-old, he and his wife, my grandmother. And they're telling me about their young days, and he said he asked this girl if he could help her wash dishes. Any my grandmother was sitting across the dining table and said, "That was the biggest mistake I ever made in my life!"

Now that he's retired, one of West Lyon's favorite occupations is taking tours through the historical graveyard of Christ Episcopal Church in Chaptico. Some of the graves bring back memories of faces he knew. Their stories are funny and sad. As he walked along pointing them out, the grim, grey stones seemed to inherit the lives of the men and women who lived in or around the old town since colonial times. There are tombstones with no names, the unmarked graves of slaves, tall bold markers with prominent family names, some family whose lineage lies buried with them. There is the unmarked grave of a pirate who was hung in Chaptico and a former colonial sheriff of the county who was buried standing up at the feet of his best friend by request.

As you enter the cemetery at Christ Church, a cluster of nameless, common-looking stones lay half-submerged at the left of the brick walkway. "I imagine when they built this church in 1736; they buried people with country rocks." Lyon noted. "They're all over the cemetery.

"Right after the War of 1812, nobody had any money to buy anything so they may have uses these stones. Bur, these were put here at least the first few years that the church was built. There's now way to know. I know there were times when nobody had any money and they probably had to use what they could. And they're all over the place.

"All this area was tombstones and during the war of 1812 they broke 'em up. It's all graves anywhere you dig our there" he said.

There is the tombstone of Catherine A. Hayden who died in the late 1800's at the age of 31.

"Kate Hayden lived up at Savona," he pointed out. "During the Civil War, she helped three prisoners of was escape from Point Lookout who were so hungry and near starved, she fed 'em. The reason they let her aid them was because she was epileptic and they felt that if the Union soldiers caught her they wouldn't shoot her. Quite a few years later, she had a seizure and fell into the fireplace and burned to death. Well, that made the Beacon in Leonardtown and the Baltimore Sun copied it, and one of these prisoners she helped read about it and he wrote a long letter to the Beacon talking about how she helped him and his friends."

Nearby is the grave of George Hayden, Kate's brother, who died at the battle of Gettysburg.

Lyon tells a story that their mother went by way of horse and buggy all the way to the battlefield to bring her son's body home for burial.

"Most all these tombstones are old families we're walking through now," he tells a visitor. "This here is the Reeves family. This is Sprigg's first wife, there his tombstone, and that's his one that was killed in the Air Force. He was a second lieutenant. He spent a whole year trying to figure out which branch of the service was the safest. So he decided the Air Force and got killed in a jet fighter crash."

There is a tall marker bearing the name of Hezekiah Garner Hayden who Lyon pointed out was father to all those buried around it.....

"My grandmother wanted my mother to name me Hezekiah Garner Hayden Lyon, and my mother said she'd drown me first. Imagine something like me going around her and you calling him Hezekiah," he laughed.

He read of a name, Samuel Bond Hayden.

"We had two Sam Hayden's in Chaptico," he pointed out. "One was Singin' Sam and the other was Lying Sam."

Continued next page



## Chaptico's West Lyon, Guardian of the past at Christ Church Continued

When asked how they got their names he replied, "Well, Singing Sam sang in the choir all the time and sometimes he drank too much hard cider. Lying Sam didn't drink much but he liked to tell tall stories Lying Sam was probable the best of the two", he added.

Across the road is a little white house that once was a one-room school house. Originally it was a log cabin built in the 1830's. In the cemetery directly across from it is a tombstone sitting on the corner far away from most others in the graveyard.

"This is an unusual one," he said. "This is Harry Knott, Johnny and Bryan Knott's oldest brother. He was buried here because he wanted to be across from that that house. He was born in that little house."

He pointed out the grave of Captain John Carpenter from New York State, who fought in the Revolutionary War and married a St. Mary's County girl at war's end. He noted that he was the direct descendent of Captain Carpenter.

"This is Old Man Bob Brookbank," he said another. "Now, he did something unusual. He was old enough to see the first Model T Ford come to Chaptico, and he lived long enough to see the first man walk on the moon."

Of all the tombstones in Christ Church cemetery, none seems to attract more attention or bear as sorrowful a story as that of Ida Kirk. A sad-faced stone angel with hands clasped in prayer, moss-grown and forlorn, stares humbly up to heaven, She died in 1933.

"This is Miss Ida Kirk," Lyon said, " She lived up here at Budd's Creek. She never married, she was a real nice person and had a quite a bit of money, I think. Just about as nice a person as you could ever want to find. She came down one Friday night and spent the night with the minister's wife and the minister right up here at the rectory, and she got up the next morning, was going to drive to Washington. Miss Ida was driving the car, the minister's wife was on the right hand seat. They got up there next to the pond across from Dr. Boyd's and a bomb went off under the car and blew Miss Ida's legs off. I was there 10 minutes after it exploded. Didn't her the minister's wife, Oh, it shook her up, but it didn't hurt her. Miss Ida was killed in the blast.

But then after they buried her and everything, the gossip started. My uncle lived up on the hill and was going through the swamp to court the minister's daughter and they said he did it. Some said the minister did it, because he wanted to get rid of his wife. Well, if he was good enough to make a dynamite bomb and but it under the hood, he would have put it under his wife's side. There was another story that it was a man who owed her money. Well she had it written in her will that she cancelled all the bills that anybody owed her. But, nobody knows who did it.

"My idea, and a lot of people's idea is that somebody went to Washington or somewhere and hired someone to kill somebody and they came down here and got the wrong car. Nobody killed that woman intentionally. It had to be a mistake. There was no one around here who know how to handle dynamite, for one thing. They found the gunshell in the yard they had to cut to get the gunpowder out to make the fuse with. They put it next to thee manifold so that when it got hot it set the fuse on fire and then it blew up. So that was an expert that made that bomb there wasn't anybody in this county who know how to do that.

I used to take church kids around through the cemetery and one day a bunch of little girls, little tiny things, and I said 'everybody loved Miss Ida Kirk, I didn't know why anybody would want to hurt her, everybody loved her.' One little girl looked up at me and said, 'Mr. Lyon, somebody musta not liked her.'"

In one section of the cemetery, a cluster of tombstones stand in a row.

"Back in the 1920's," he noted, "a bad epidemic went through the town. A lot off small children died."

Another tall marker stands nearby dating from the late 1800's when a mile sickness took a family of young children.

At one corner of the church is a prominent marker with an iron fence around it. The marker bears on name, only a family crest.

"This is the Key Vault," Lyon said. "When they were building the church a member of the Key Family asked if they could have a vault put here for the family. It doesn't o back under the church, they say it does, but it doesn't. And as the years went by every young fella in this county including Zach Fowler had tried to get in there."

The grandparents of Francis Scott Key, the author of our national anthem, lie buried there.

Nearby is one of the most interesting puzzles of the entire churchyard. It is the grave of the young woman Clare Thomas, who died at age 18 in 1883. On the grave between two marble slats sits a cast iron chair. One old story goes that girl's mother used to sit there and mourn.

"A lot of people wonder why this woman had this chair here." West Lyon recalled a wish old gleam in his eye. "Now, that chair has been there ever since I can remember, and it's still in good shape. I tell people, I always heard that she liked to sit in the moonlight, so they put a chair there after she died, but nobody knows for sure. These two old ladies told me one time, 'West, you're not telling that right. You ought to say that it was her ghost to sit in.' So from now on I think I'll tell it that way."

Which reminds you that some of the stories West Lyon tells have been altered for humor's sake, which sets you to wondering about the rest.

# CHRIST CHURCH

## King and Queen Parish

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

Church: 25390 Maddox Road  
Parish Hall: 37497 Zach Fowler Road  
Mailing: P.O. Box 8 Chaptico, MD 20621  
Phone: 301.884.3451  
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8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist

### Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:30am - 1:30pm

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

The Reverend Peter Ackerman — Rector

Jennifer Groht—Parish Administrator

Keith Owens—Senior Warden

Brandon Frawley—Junior Warden

Marcus Thompson- Organist

Bob Donaldson—Treasurer

Karen Owens—Registrar

### Members of the Vestry

Class of 2024: Paul Nelson, Lynne Redmond

Class of 2025: Julie Burch, Sara Frawley, Susan Tyner

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