

THE MESSENGER

Winter 2023

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

Website: 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

301-884-3451

December Schedule 2023

Sunday Dec. 3 - Advent 1
Eucharist - 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Sunday Dec. 10 - Advent 2
Eucharist - 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Saturday Dec. 16 - Blue Christmas Service
(for those for whom the holidays are less than joyful) - 3 p.m.

Sunday Dec. 17 - Advent 3
Eucharist - 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Sunday Dec. 24
9:00 a.m. *Advent 4* Eucharist (no music)

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service
8:45 p.m. Festive Music
9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Monday Dec. 25
Christmas Day Service - 10 a.m.
(no music - warm and contemplative)

Sunday Dec. 31
1st Sunday After Christmas Eucharist
(8 a.m. & 10 a.m. -with Christmas Hymns at
sermon time)

Weekly/Monthly Reoccurring Events:

- ◆ 1st Monday-Building & Grounds Meeting 6:00PM - Parish Hall
- ◆ 2nd Tuesday - Vestry Meeting 6:30PM - Vestry Room
- ◆ Wednesday's Prayer group (Helen Wright POC) 7PM - Church
- ◆ 3rd Wednesday-Healing Service w/Fr. Peter 7PM - Church



Rector Reflection

My mother recently told me a story about how a particular song affected her at an inopportune time. In the late 1970's my actress mom was cast in a tv movie, that had her reprising her role as the eldest daughter to the Anderson family, Betty, in *The Father Knows Best Christmas Reunion*. In one scene that took place on Christmas Eve, her character stood by the household Christmas tree and cried as she worried about her pilot husband who was flying in treacherous weather. To get herself to cry real tears, my veteran actress mom had some personal tricks. One, which she used while filming this scene was to quietly sing a slow version of *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. Doing so, she was able to prompt her tears to flow. The downside was that filming this scene took the better part of the day. Over and over, as they filmed her and the other actors from every angle, she continued to quietly sing, and subsequently cry.

A month or so later, nearer to Christmas, she appeared live on our local PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) channel hosting a fundraising drive for the station. Reading off her cue cards, she introduced her next guests, The Muppets, who were performing via a prerecorded video, which she had not seen before the video's live airing.

And wouldn't you know it. The Muppets sang *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*! The result was not pretty! My mom had so trained her psyche on that arduous emotional day on the *Father Knows Best Christmas Reunion* set, that upon hearing the very tune, even from silly puppet voices, months after she filmed the tv movie, she began to weep, on live television!

Ever the consummate actress, when the camera came back to her after the Muppet segment, she used the tears to express what a wonderful performance they all just saw and added in a pitch to support the network. To this day she wonders what people thought at the time of her emotional reaction to joyful caroling Muppets!

December is a time where different emotions flow. From our familiar decorations at home, the readings, and hymns at church, to the movies and songs we watch and listen. And our circumstances play a role as well. Familiar items such as I have described can bring forth joyful memories, yet these same reflections can turn melancholy when friends and family are no longer around. It is an important reminder to all of us to remember that not everyone feels the same spirit of the season each year.

Continued next page...

Rector Reflection Cont...

This reason is why I am delighted at the varied opportunities at Christ Church Chaptico in December. For instance, if you are not in a holiday mood by Saturday December 9th at 7p.m., consider coming to the church to watch and hear Patuxent Voices perform soul lifting seasonal music for half an hour or so.

If you are struggling through different circumstances, due to loss of one kind or another, perhaps you will attend our Blue Christmas Service on Saturday December 16th at 3p.m. The purpose of this service is to use the season and some of its music to quietly name your reality. The result is many who attend this service are able to better enter the season with new authenticity.

Giving is also a way where people find a way into the spirit of the season. As you will read in this newsletter, we are supporting Angel Tree again this year. You can go online and choose the young person you will support, whose parents are incarcerated. Your gift of \$30 will allow Christmas presents to be purchased for the child, which will be given to the child as from their imprisoned parent. (For those who want to participate but do not use computers, make your donation through our parish, and put “Angel Tree” in the memo line of your check and the child/children will be chosen for you).

Finally, and a little more local, is that our Vestry agreed to invite the congregation to donate to “Staff Gift.” These monies will go to our Administrator, Jenni, and Organist, Marcus as a way of saying “thank you” for the work that they have done on our behalf this year. For full disclosure, depending on the amount brought in, the Vestry Wardens may provide me, the rector, with a “thank you, as well, and if they do, I made it clear that mine should be much less than that given to the other employees.

As your priest, it is always my hope that the waiting for the Messiah during Advent will birth Christ anew into every parishioner’s life at Christmas. That birth of the individual “something new for you” is the true gift I pray is bestowed upon all this season. This reason is why I hope, in addition to our regular and Christmas Eve and Day services, that you will find what you need from this parish to meet Jesus anew in an authentic and spiritual way. It can happen!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Peter Ackerman

Tending our Soil

Recently, when talking about making plans with family members, I was asked “Do you have your gardening meeting next week?” Confused, I paused to think about my schedule – quickly realizing that I had no idea what “gardening meeting” I was being asked about. I frantically searched my memory for appointments with old friends who may be interested in gardening... I even went so far as to think about the season and what vegetables might be best to plant in the fall... and then it dawned on me; I was being asked about the schedule of Christ Church’s own Tending Our Soil team, for which I fill the role of Team Leader. So, since the details of this *fairly* new endeavor have been somewhat lost in the mix for those who aren’t intricately involved in this stage of the Tending Our Soil initiative, I thought I might spend a couple minutes explaining just that. I hope that, by the end of this article, you will have a greater understanding of the Tending Our Soil initiative at Christ Church and your crucial role in the process of our little gardening group.

What is Tending Our Soil? First things first – Tending Our Soil is not a gardening group. In short, Tending Our Soil (TOS) is an initiative made available to us by the Diocese of Washington for congregations who are looking to serve God, strengthen faith and build community in our own proverbial backyard. The TOS initiative gathers a team of individuals from our congregation to walk through some exercises to learn more about who we are and who our neighbors are, so that we can discover any unmet needs in our local community. The hope is that we will discern a pathway for our church to meet those needs. The idea is that you don’t have to go far to meet God – He’ll meet you right where you stand and he’ll provide a way to serve.

So, where are we in the process? How long is this process? Why is Christ Church involved? Our TOS team, made up of 7 individuals (Donnie Morgan, Robbie Loker, Mary Ann Oliver, Amy Topolski, David Simmons, Fr. Peter Ackerman and Sara Frawley), has been meeting monthly since June. We have attended two diocesan-hosted Learning Labs in Washington D.C. and we are currently working on finishing up our third module. The TOS initiative is a 2-3 year process and we are about half-way through the first year. Our Vestry voted early this year to get involved with Tending Our Soil to help us, with our new Rector, discover who we are today and where God is calling us to serve together as Shepherd and Flock.

Over the past few months, our team has learned about one another, about the things that drew us to Christ Church, the people we’ve connected with and our reasons for staying. We’ve explored past failures and successes, we’ve learned about stages of vitality in the church, and we have explored our own storytelling abilities, sharing stories that we’ve heard, experienced and seen in our own journeys at Christ Church.

What’s next? Do you remember the first time you felt like you belonged at Christ Church? How about the first event you attended here? Can you think of a story about Christ Church that happened long before you attended but that feels familiar anyway? Is there a person who attends (or attended) Christ Church over the years that has impacted your life? Most of us can answer these questions easily with a story – and many of those stories coincide with the stories of others as well.

On **Sunday, January 7, 2024**, Christ Church will be hosting a very special Storytelling Eucharist at both the 8AM and 10AM services. The Tending Our Soil team invites YOU to come, share your stories and listen to the stories of other people, events, occurrences, and even historical moments as we celebrate the Eucharist in a non-traditional, fun, fond-memory evoking service.

Blessings,

Sara Frawley

Team Leader, Tending Our Soil



History



Article from
"The St. Mary's Beacon" Newspaper
January 7, 1886



[Local Correspondence.]
 CHAPTICO, Dec. 30, 1885.

Messrs. Editors.—Since the antique village of Chaptico has become noted for its many "stores," to prevent the impression that in the desire for mammon religion has lost its zeal, I ask the privilege of inserting in the columns of your valuable paper an imperfect account of the first Sunday School Christmas Tree remembered to be in Christ Church, Chaptico, although the church is one of Colonial days. At 8 o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, the 28th of December, there was quite a gathering of children with their friends at the church to see the result of the earnest efforts of the teachers to please the little ones in the arrangement of their first Sunday School Xmas Tree which, when lit up by its 24 candles, presented a very pretty scene and did credit to those who planned it, but I feel satisfied every labor was compensated in the happy little faces gathered around to receive what had been prepared for each scholar. The services (which were held in the gallery of the church) consisted of singing, prayers and responsive reading by the Rector, Mr. Reed, and the children. First on the programme was the chorus, "Ring Out Ye Bells." The singing was accompanied by the ringing of the church bell. The services were closed with singing, "Gather Around the Christmas Tree." During the singing of that, the children left the gallery and marched up the aisles, led by the rector and the superintendent, to the front of the chancel, where the tree stood. In the efforts to please all, the wants of some were provided for, as one young man who at Hymen's altar had recently been deprived of a devoted sister's loving care over his household, was presented from the Christmas tree, as housekeeper, a very pretty little doll, attired in red dress and white apron. This was the first, but I trust not the last, by many, such pleasant gatherings around the Sunday School Christmas Tree at Old Christ Church, Chaptico.

OBSERVER.





The Episcopal Church
welcomes you



Administrator's Angel –

This month's Administrative Angel is **Dave Hudson**. Dave, and his wife Karen, have been with us for a short while, and both are joyfully involved with our congregation and events.

Dave, who is a member of our Buildings and Grounds Team, helps with many projects and fixes around the property. Beyond his helpfulness, Dave remains with vendors while they are on the property, and regarding all projects he remains in conversation with the office. Doing so before the project is scheduled, during its execution, and letting me know when it is completed, Dave is conscientious that his work is not the only event on the property at any given day. For these reasons, it is my pleasure to name Dave as one of our Administrative Angels!

**SENIOR WARDEN
KEITH OWENS**

What a great meal we shared at the Parish Thanksgiving dinner! Thank you to Mark and Betsy for cooking turkeys, they were delicious. The side dishes did not disappoint, and the deserts nearly caused me to burst!!

I hope everyone can join in the Advent and Christmas celebrations. A full sanctuary is a happy one.

When I'm not attending vestry meetings I might be out hunting, fall is a wonderful time of year.

Please invite a friend, relative or neighbor to church in the coming month.

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

Greetings from the buildings and grounds committee. Our grass cutting season is winding down and I wanted to start with a big thank you to all who volunteered time this summer cutting grass, trimming, and keeping our grounds looking great through the summer. Mark Topolski, Herbie Redmond, John Harhai, Dave Simmons, Dave Hudson, John Tierney, Monty Wright, Keith Owens, Donnie Morgan, and Debra Gray (and family) all volunteered countless hours to keep ahead of the weeds, THANKS Y'ALL! I will be looking for volunteers again in the spring, so if you are interested in volunteering your time please let me know and I'll add your name to the list, there is always room for more hands.

Since the last newsletter, the Buildings and Grounds Committee has seen the completion of a few projects such as the cabinets installed in the back of the church, a new sign posted in the front yard of the church, painting and new blinds installed in hall, and repairs completed to the chimney in the rectory. We've also completed some scheduled maintenance with our annual HVAC and fire protection systems inspections. A few repairs were completed to the HVAC systems in our buildings and our extinguishers and fire suppression systems are ready for another year of service.

The biggest news from the last few months, that I'm sure most everyone is already aware of, was the electrical fire in the church that occurred on the evening of October 19. We were blessed that the fire started while we had people in the building, and thanks to the quick actions of those who were there no one was injured. The fire was contained to a very small area under the building and no major damage was sustained. Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department responded to the 911 call and ensured that the fire was out and the church was ventilated properly. The cause of the fire was determined to be a bad electrical connection in the HVAC system. The company who completed the installation of our HVAC units came out the following day to complete repairs and brought the wiring up to code. We had the affected areas and the repairs inspected by two electricians and the system was restored to operation. Thanks to the quick actions of those who were there, what could have been a major event with injuries to parishioners and significant damages to our historic church, was reduced to an evening of nervous excitement with a lot of flashing lights, and a healing service held in the church yard.

That's all from the Buildings and Grounds Committee for now. Meetings are the first Monday of every month in the parish hall at 6 PM, typically last for about an hour, and are more productive with more members and ideas, all are welcome to attend!





This year, the parish is invited to support a child through Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program. Children, who have an incarcerated parent, will receive gifts that will come to them from their imprisoned parent, through your generous giving. Following a tremendous response last year, this year our Vestry committed us to supporting 45 children at \$30 each.

Here is a special link for our parish, ["Angel Tree: Christ Church"](#) from which you can go online and choose which young person you will bless this Christmas. For those who do not have computer access, you can make a check out to Christ Church in the amount equal to \$30 per the amount of young persons you wish to support, writing "Angel Tree" in the memo line. **December 18th** is the deadline to sponsor a child by submitting payment to the church, via dropping at the office or putting in Sundays collection.





CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Worship With Us!

25390 Maddox Road, Chaptico, Maryland

BLUE CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

Service at **3:00 PM**

A service for those whom the holidays are especially difficult.

CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

Advent 4 **Morning** Service at **9:00 AM** (no music)

Family Service at **5:00 PM**


Special Music at **8:45 PM**

Service at **9:00 PM**

CHRISTMAS MORNING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022

Service at **10:00 AM** (no music)





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King and Queen Parish

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[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: John Deatrick, Paul Nelson, Lynne Redmond

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

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