

THE MESSENGER

Fall 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
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

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.



Rectors Reflection

Imagine my surprise at what I discovered while cleaning out my office and the hope that it brought me. As a firm believer in God providing signs for us, I have no doubt that the artifact I discovered was meant for me to see now. Any sooner, it would not have carried so clear a message.

Throughout all the vocations of my life whether my office was a film soundstage, someone's home while on location, or a production motor home. I developed the habit of settling in and making use of whatever space was provided, rather than making it truly my own.

Thus, for almost three years now, except for putting my collection of books on my office shelf, I allowed the desk and its contents to remain just as they were the day I began serving the parish. Eventually, though, with folders and such piling up, I knew it was time to make my office space work for me.

So, over the summer (and I am still at it while composing this reflection), I began cleaning and clearing away what was no longer needed for this clergy person. Much paperwork has either been recycled or appropriately filed away. It was during this careful review of each desk file's contents that I made the discovery which reminded me of my current purpose here as rector: that we can serve God better by working together as the church.

Many parishes, at this point in their history, are figuring out how to adapt and be "church" today. It is not easy, especially when parishes focus less on God and the leading of the Holy Spirit, and more on simply keeping tasks going as they always have. Add the pandemic when many left their worship communities and those who remained were forced to take sole ownership of what they valued—and parishes often find themselves as disconnected parts of a whole. In such situations, members may lift up parts of what it means to be the church but not fully live into being the church: sharing, inviting new voices, bodies, and ideas to the table. When this occurs, a parish becomes insulated. While it may desire to grow in number, focus, and pastoral strength, the opposite often happens even as people feel good because the familiarity continues.

This has been part of the identity I have found in my almost three years at Christ Church, Chaptico. Well-meaning, big-hearted, generous, good souls not always serving as well together as a community known as "church," though still creating some good with their efforts.

With my experience, the direction the congregation wants to go (indeed, the very reason I was called here), and God's invitation to adapt into being the church of today, we have spent good time and energy moving toward that vision. Yet, as is always part of adapting, there is resistance. Though I embrace reluctance as a natural part of change, it can also make parish leadership frustrating for a rector.

Such was the place I found myself after my recent vacation. In prayerful conversations with God, I asked whether the path I am helping us pursue working together better, welcoming both new and long-term members, and seeking God's direction not as siloed ministries but as a parish-wide team was truly the right way forward. I have no doubt it was God who directed me to clean my workspace, for the answer was waiting there.

On one sheet of paper, I found the leadership list of a parish ministry from more than a decade ago. It was for a community festival, listing who oversaw each part of the whole: parking, a yard sale, parish tours, food, and more. What surprised me was that I recognized and could put a face to each person on the list. I have no doubt that none of them carried out their work alone and that many more members of the parish contributed to making the ministry happen.

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With that single piece of paper, left in an unmarked file for over twelve years, God answered my question. In essence, our congregation is already on its way to becoming better at serving together as the church will grow into that identity fully, because we have done it before.

And what strides we are making. Our prayer group is adapting in ways that better connect and invite the congregation into prayer ministry. Our Ministry Fair in early September will give everyone an opportunity to discover what we do and where they might serve in parish life. Our newly reimagined Pet Blessing Saturday in October is already drawing responses from people eager to be part of the team.

The good news is that God guides us through our experiences. My hope is that every parish ministry, whether for a dinner or an event, will have a follow-up meeting to ask: What worked? What did not? What might change next time? If we enter into ministry expecting it to be messy and imperfect, we may better see where God is leading through our experimentation.

People join a parish for many reasons, and community and participation are often a large part of what they seek. But most are also looking for that “something else” that only a parish can provide: a sense of living into God’s higher purpose for us today. That ideal flows from action, yet it begins in the same place I did—before making my office space my own—with a willingness to pray, to listen, and to look for the answers God places right before us.

May we continue to seek God’s guidance and adapt into our identity today—as once we did in our past so that we may live, serve, play, and pray together as God’s church.

Yours in Christ, Peter +

Buildings and Grounds

Donnie Morgan, Junior Warden

Greetings Christ Church family! I would first like to thank everyone who attends our B&G committee meetings and all who tend to the needs of the property. I'd especially like to thank all who participate with the yard work. There were a few electrical repairs completed at the church and hall that will make things safer and up to date. We also replaced a couple parts on the AC units at the hall to get them running properly. Along with those repairs we also had a few trees removed that were falling or already down. The trees in front of the church received much-needed pruning and are in good shape. That being said I feel Mark Topolski has done an amazing job with the grass cutting and coordinating with the arborist to get the tree work done.

I look forward to seeing everyone this fall at church and at the wonderful events that are planned.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

TENDING OUR SOIL

Happy Fall Y'all!

I can't believe it's Fall already! Summer feels like it flew by and yet it was so nice to slow down a bit, take in the summer sunsets, enjoy the down time a bit, spend a little more time with family and friends as we enjoyed the longer days and the slower pace. While the hustle and bustle of the summer might've seemed to slow a bit, the progress towards our goals has continued forward, full steam ahead... and what a ride it has been!

This summer, we adopted the Prayers of the People that the TOS team authored, and you've all really embraced the connections and interactive nature of the prayers that we intended when we wrote them. We had so much positive feedback that we've requested to continue using those prayers until the liturgical season of Advent begins at the end of November. Please do continue to add your "popcorn prayers" in response to the LEM's prompts during the prayers of the people. It means a lot to hear our names said aloud in church and to know that our friends are praying for us.

Speaking of meaningful connections, Our Tending Our Soil team, Vestry, and ministry leaders have been working behind the scenes to put together a Ministry Fair on **Homecoming Sunday, September 7, 2025**. We've put together a ministry brochure to list the various ministries that happen at and with Christ Church so that all the information, including who to reach out to, brief descriptions of ministries and how to get involved are all in one place. At the ministry fair after church in the parish hall, you'll have the opportunity to visit with people who are actively serving in ministry here at Christ Church. You can browse pictures and information, ask questions, see where the needs are, maybe even find something that peaks your own interest... it's often said that one of the best ways to get to know the Lord is to serve someone else. There are many ways to serve at Christ Church – many ways to get involved - many ways to find meaningful personal connections.

If you're waiting for a sign, this is it. ----->



This summer, someone had an idea for a pet blessing on St. Francis Day and so, this year, we're doing it! If you're interested in getting involved, contact Robbie Loker asap!

That reminds me.... If you have an idea, bring it to the team! We'd love to work with you to help you figure out next steps to get something going or get involved in something. That's what Tending Our Soil is here for – to help us discern where God is calling us to serve, right here, in our own backyards, in ways that are meaningful and impactful to this community. This is NOT a call for ideas so that the Tending Our Soil team can take something and run with it... it IS, however, **an invitation** for you to reach out for help with something that you have an interest in being part of or getting started.

Please keep our team in your prayers as we continue this work!
Robbie Loker * Donnie Morgan * Mary Ann Oliver * David Simmons
Amy Topolski * Fr. Peter Ackerman * Sara Frawley

Liturgical Volunteers: We are always looking for more LEMs, Lectors, & Greeters for 8 AM (Rite I) Sunday morning worship services. Anyone interested can contact Liturgical schedule coordinator Monty Wright at cell phone number 240-434-2883 or via e-mail at: wrightjm@md.metrocast.net

Let's get to know: Dave Hudson

We are so lucky that Dave came to us from All Saints after being a member there since 1992. Since Dave set foot in Christ Church Chaptico he has been a very active member!

When Father Chris Jubinski was being shared between Christ Church and All Saints we had the Fat Tuesday dinner at All Saints. Dave was the only man from All Saints who helped with the dinner. The rest of the kitchen was filled with the Christ Church men. Not long after that Dave became a member of Christ Church. He was very impressed with the turnout and fellowship.



Dave's favorite story from the Bible is fittingly David and Goliath.

His favorite hymn is "In Christ There is No East or West".

Dave's current ministries with us include the trifecta of being a LEM, Lector and Door Greeter. He previously was our Junior Warden and is also still a member of the Building and Grounds committee. He can be seen on many occasions assisting with the grounds weed trimming, setting up events or any of the numerous activities that go into the maintenance of church and hall. Dave believes as members of the church we need to take on the ownership of keeping well-maintained facilities and grounds. He is as active as his body will allow!

Dave grew up in the Methodist church. Once he became an adult, he migrated to the Episcopal faith with the influence of his grandfather and didn't turn back.

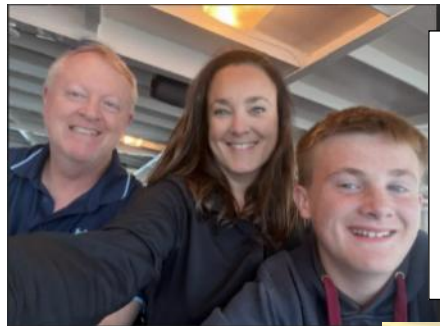
Outside of church Dave is active in the Optimist Club, after being a past president. He also enjoys cooking with his lovely wife, Karen.

Dave tagged Paul Oliver. We can't wait to learn about our fellow parishioner Paul!

WHAT DID WE DO THIS SUMMER?



John and Debbie Dorsey
Road Trip to St. Louis and
the Huntsville Botanical
Garden at the Mother Earth
Troll by Thomas Dambo



The Pettigrew Family Road
Trip to Mammoth Caves in
Kentucky and SS Badger
Ferry across Lake Michigan
to Wisconsin

Laura Rocheleau and her girls on a
Carnival Cruise to the Bahamas



Anne Saunders enjoying
her family at Deep Creek
Lake and Ocean City



Julie and Tad Burch at
The Grand Olde Opry,
Nashville



**Mark and Amy
Topolski** in Las Vegas
and The Grand Canyon



WHAT DID WE DO THIS SUMMER?



Kailynn and Kellan DuBuque
(and big sister **Carolina Quinn**)
welcomed baby boy, **Cohen**
Patrick DuBuque, on Thursday,
August 21, 2025!



Ethan Frawley & Destiny
Cusic closed on their first
home (Lusby, MD) on
August 22, 2025!

Clayton and Caitlyn
Frawley welcomed their
son, **Caspian James**
Frawley on Tuesday,
August 19, 2025!



Father Peter enjoyed
several weeks on the
west coast visiting
family and friends



Bob Donaldson sailing "The Evergreen"
for a WIN in the
2025 Dahlgren Cup Regatta



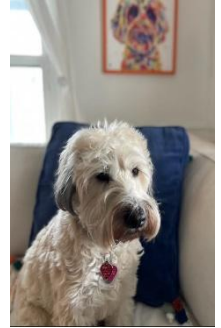
Attention Pet Lovers!

Christ Church is planning a Pet Blessing on
Saturday October 4, 9 am to 10:30 a.m.

We need your ideas and help - this will be a great outdoor affair
celebrating all God's critters.

Call or text Robbie Loker 301-904-6634 now with your ideas and
connections in the pet community.

Special thanks to Sammy Ackerman and Rosie Loker
for use of their photos in this spot!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 7: Homecoming Sunday Service
Potluck and Ministry Fair

October 4: Pet Blessing 9-10:30 a.m.

October 25: Annual Bonfire 6-9 p.m.
Bring a friend

November 23: Annual Parish Thanksgiving

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Group Renewal – Beginning this September the twice per month Prayer Group will meet to pray over our parishioner prayer list as well as the names of your family and friends whom you submit to them. All parishioners are invited to join the team, who will meet in the church on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm, and the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30 am. Beginning in September, a member of the Prayer Group will collect the names of family and friends. The September contact person is Helen Wright, whose number can be found in our Parish Directory found in Realm.

Confirmations at Washington National Cathedral November 15 - If you are interested in being Confirmed or Received (if you were baptized in another faith tradition) in The Episcopal Church, please reach out to Fr. Peter so that you can engage in both personal preparatory session as well as one group gathering and be Confirmed/Received at the Cathedral in mid-November.



WE REMEMBER



Jane Dent Cooper

February 25, 1943 ~ June 17, 2025

Jane went into the hands of God on June 17th. Jane was a kind soul and will be missed by many. Keep Ebie and her family in your

John "Jack" Williams

April 1, 1948 ~ July 15, 2025

Jack entered eternal rest on May 15. Keep Nancy and his family in your prayers. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Michael Moore

August 14, 1946 - August 28, 2025

Mike went to his eternal rest on August 28. May his soul and the souls of all the departed rest in peace. Mike was once a vestry person and very active in the church. Keep Cheryl and his family in your prayers

Jane Cooper

Layered Fruit Salad

Jane Cooper

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 lb. red seedless grapes | 2 oranges, or 1 (8 oz.) can mandarin orange slices |
| 2 bananas | 3 kiwi |
| 1 (16 oz.) can peaches, chopped | 1/2 c. orange juice |
| 1 pt. fresh raspberries | 2 to 4 T. powdered sugar (opt.) |

I like to use a trifle bowl to serve this.

Rinse grapes. Cut in half, if desired, and put in bottom of bowl. Peel and slice bananas, and put into the 1/2 cup orange juice. Drain bananas and put slices over grapes. Drain peaches and chop. Assemble over bananas. Carefully rinse raspberries. Sprinkle on top of peaches. Peel oranges. Remove the white skin and membrane and chop, or use mandarin orange slices, drained. Put on top of raspberries. Peel and slice kiwis, and place on top of oranges. Pour remaining orange juice over fruit. Cover with Saran Wrap. Keep refrigerated until ready to serve. Before serving, sprinkle with powdered sugar, if desired.

Note: Good served with macaroons or oatmeal cookies, wafers or pound cake and coffee, or dessert wine, as desired.

Nutritional Information: 137 calories, 2 gm protein, 33 gm carbohydrates, 3 mg sodium, 1 gm fat, 0 mg cholesterol.

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Jane was a big part of creating the Christ Church Cookbook.

The Cookbooks are still available for purchase. If you would like a copy, they are \$5.00. Contact the parish office or Julie Burch to get a copy.

BEST RECIPES AROUND!!!

CHRIST CHURCH

King and Queen Parish

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

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Parish Hall: 37497 Zach Fowler Road
Mailing: P.O. Box 8 Chaptico, MD 20621
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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

Robbie Loker—Registrar

Members of the Vestry

Class of 2026: Barbara Drumgoole, George Kennett, Mary Simmons

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

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

