

# THE MESSENGER

SUMMER 2023

Christ Church

King and Queen Parish

*In the Episcopal Diocese of Washington Serving*

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

# CHURCH YARD SALE

**SATURDAY, June 17, 2023**

**8:00 AM TO 12:00 PM**

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH YARD SALE**

**37497 ZACH FOWLER ROAD, CHAPTICO, MARYLAND 20621**

**TABLE RENTALS AVAILABLE \$15.00**

**CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR INFORMATION**

**(301) 884-3451/OFFICE@CCKQP.NET**

## 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



Summer is one of my favorite seasons. Not only because I associate it with my native Californian terms of “fun & sun,” but also because the season offers a different rhythm for many of us. We slow down, we might take vacations, we might venture out a bit in ways we do not regularly do, and it is good. Summer is also a good time to talk about the importance of Sabbath, as part of our cycle. In church language, we call Sabbath a day to put everything aside and turn our attention to God. Sabbath is also about physical rest, about mindfulness, and ultimately a renewal.

From my favorite book on the topic, Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight In Our Busy Lives, author Wayne Muller writes about the importance of Sabbath in all of our lives, and he uses an image that begins with fruit; *“The fruit contains the seed, and the seed contains this fruit. What we harvest in this season provides the seed for the next season. In Sabbath time we taste the fruit of our labor and prepare the seeds for the week to come. If we are too busy, if we do not rest, we miss this rhythm. One day we look up and it is winter, and where are the fall days, brisk and clear, leaves ablaze? How did we spend them, what were we doing?”*

With this written urging from Muller, I want to invite you to a Holy Sabbath this summer. Your parish has opportunities to engage with you in this important time. Stop, clear out the clutter, or even recycle – both can be accomplished via our June 17<sup>th</sup> Yard Sale. Come with your church friends to a Blue Crabs Baseball Game on July 22<sup>nd</sup>! Go out of the norm, and after one of our August services, join us for our Lunchtime Ice Cream Social on August 20<sup>th</sup>!

Sabbath is rest, and changing up routines, but never forget, Sabbath is holy. God should not be kept out of the rhythm of our lives. Instead, I invite you to come to church throughout the summer. See who else shows up, greet guests and tourists coming through, and find rest and rejuvenation as you gather with God in the holy worship space. If worship feels routine, shake it up and attend the “other” service once or twice, see how and where you encounter God in the differences. When travelling...go to church! I love when people travel and bring me bulletins back so that I can see where they have been, geographically and spiritually.

There is something for all of us this summer, and I pray that as you remain connected through God, by remaining connected to Christ Church, that you find ways to practice the type of sabbath that will ultimately offer you the rest and rejuvenation that God desires for you.



# A Big Strawberry Thank You



🍓🍓 I would like to thank all the parishioners of Christ Church for making this year's Strawberry Festival a great one! Thank you to our amazing church community who helped advertise, organize, finance, put up, pick up, cart, bake, mix, prepare, run, sing, cashier, serve, clean, and put away towards a common goal. This is what makes a church community – working together under pressure, but happily doing so.

**Thank you** to Father Peter Ackerman for helping with many things at the festival, though I really think he liked the strawberry dipping the most.

**Thank you** to Keith Owens and Brandon Frawley our Senior and Junior Wardens, and Dave Hudson for being available to answer all questions, set the thermostats and all their help in general.

**Thank you** to Jenni Groht, Parish Administrator for all the many things (too numerous to even list) she did for the festival.

**Thank you** to Amy Topolski for spending the day with me at The Loveville Produce Auction learning about the fascinating cutthroat world of strawberry bidding and winning and taking the berries back to the Parish Hall. Thanks to Keith and Karen Owens for being there to unload all the strawberries. and thanks to Amy Topolski for all the shopping afterwards and more unloading.

**Thanks** to Greg Penk for arranging for the Bushmill Band and Patuxent Rounders to play such great music for the enjoyment of the volunteers and our festival guests. And for help with clean-up.

**Thank you** to Monty Wright for placing and picking up all the festival signs and setting up all parking signs.

**Thank you** to Helen Wright, Robbie Loker, and Sarah Frawley for the numerous ways they helped with the festival, and always answering calls and texts.

**Thanks** to Mark Topolski for mowing and making the yards around the rectory and parish hall look great.

**Thanks** to Darby Nicholson (Fred Wyant's granddaughter), Ethan Frawley, and Susan and John Tyner for taking care of all parking for the festival.

**Thank you** to Herbie Redmond for organizing the tent pick up and put up again this year and thank you to all the guys who helped put that big old tent up: Keith, John, and James Owens, Brandon Frawley, John Tyner, and Monty Wright – hope I didn't miss anyone.

**Thank you** to our beloved, and “without them no festival would happen” kitchen crew organizers Betsy Franklin and Lynne Redmond who can handle any crisis and create wonderfully delicious desserts. And for your constant friendship and support.

**Thanks** to everyone who helped in any area relating to berry prep, kitchen, baking cakes, cooking pies, cashiering, set-up, clean-up. lifting, carting, setting up tables, tablecloths, napkin baskets, chairs, and serving line: Betsy Franklin, Lynne Redmond, Dave and Karen Hudson, Herbie Redmond, Mary & Dave Simmons, Bill Edger, Karen Colton, Beth Fitch, Julie, Tad & Austin Burch, Helen & Monty Wright, Bob Donaldson, Michelle Gardiner, Pam Tyson, Sherry Carruth, Betty Fuqua, Barbara & Ava Drumgoole, Mark & Amy Topolski and Macie, Keith and Karen Owens and James, John, & Cecelia, Laura Rocheleau, Sara, Brandon, Ethan & Destiny, Kailynn Frawley, Susan McQuilkin, Brenda Monshower, Nellie Kauffman, Janice Pilkerton, Debra Gray, Marcus Thompson, Donnie Morgan, Diana & Dan Donahue, Lynn Burton.

**Thanks** to Jeanette Gauthier and Sara Downs for selling strawberries, cookbooks, and ornaments.

**Thanks** to Kaye Chewing for being at the hall bright and early Sunday to help with so many things, plus letting us use your beautiful rock garden rocks.

**Thanks** to Karen and Cecelia Owens, and Sue Vencelov and granddaughter Sarah, and Laura Rocheleau for taking on Chocolate-covered strawberries, and to Macie, Cecelia, James and John who sold a lot of chocolate covered strawberries.

And **thank you** all who supported us by coming out and enjoying the day and spreading the word about the festival. All help in any way was appreciated. As always, **thank you** to my husband, Robert, who has to go through Strawberry Festival preparation with me every year. I sincerely hope I have left no one out – unintentionally if so. Thank you, Shelby

THANK YOU,  
SHELBY  
OUR STRAWBERRY QUEEN





# The Episcopal Church *welcomes you*

## **Weekly/Monthly Reoccurring Events:**

\* Tuesdays Prayer group (Helen Wright POC) 7PM Church (2nd and 4th Tuesdays June, July and August)

\* 1st Wednesday-Building and Grounds Meeting 6:30PM Parish Hall

\* 2nd Wednesday- Vestry Meeting 6:30PM Parish Hall

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**June 17 - Yard sale**

**Parish Hall**

**July 22 - So. Md Blue Crabs Baseball Game**

**Regency Stadium**

**August 20 - Ice Cream Social**

**Parish Hall**

## ***The Christ Church Magnolia Tree***

***At the March 25 celebration of the new ministry of Fr. Peter Ackerman, Christ Church presented him with a magnolia tree to be planted in the church yard. It is a "Little Gem" evergreen magnolia that will grow to 20 ft. The following is an excerpt from the presentation.***

***Why a magnolia?***

***The magnolia tree represents the putting down of roots of you and your family. In Chaptico where we welcome Marie and Harry, Floyd the cat and daughter Amy when she is in town.***

***Magnolia trees can live for over a century and symbolize our hope for a long-lasting relationship with the people of Christ Church.***

***Magnolia blossoms are known for their hardiness. Its flowers are like people and parishes that go through challenges in life yet still manage to bloom.***

***And finally its white flower while often symbolizing purity and innocence is also a symbol of new beginnings.***

***Fr. Peter, Christ Church celebrates and gives thanks that you are among us and one of us.***



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

***BRANDON FRAWLEY***

***JUNIOR WARDEN***

Greetings all, from the Buildings & Grounds Committee! First, I'm sure that everyone who has been to church in the last few months has seen the new wheelchair ramp that was installed last winter. This was a large and arduous project, and the church owes a huge thank you to Mr. Randy Guy who worked closely with Dave Hudson to design the ramp to match the existing architecture and built it donating all the labor and materials at no cost to the church. The Buildings & Grounds Committee is working on a design for an interior ramp to help our parishioners and visitors get up the stairs once inside the front door.

We have had a busy spring and are anticipating a productive summer with a few projects planned. We kicked off the spring season with a church clean up day on April 8<sup>th</sup>, we had a lot of help and were able to take care of quite a bit of tree trimming and general yard maintenance at the church. We were also able to plant the tree presented to Father Peter at the Celebration of new Ministry/ Rector installation. Keith and Karen Owens also spent some time cleaning headstones in the cemetery. Thanks to all who volunteered their time to clean up the church yard.

The summer grass cutting teams have been in full swing for the last two months, a big thanks to Mr. Mark Topolski who has volunteered to cut the grass at the parish hall and the rectory all summer. The trim work at the parish hall and rectory is being completed by two teams that alternate monthly. Thank you to Team 1: Herbie Redmond, John Harhai, Dave Simmons, Dave Hudson, and John Tierney and Team 2: Monty Wright, Keith Owens, Donnie Morgan, and Debra Gray (and family) for all the hard work that goes into keeping the edging weed eating and sidewalk blowing up to par. Also, a big thank you to Mr. Brad Reeves who volunteers his time and equipment to maintain the yard at the church.

As far as upcoming projects go, painting in the big room of the parish hall will be completed by Dean's Painting who has graciously volunteered to donate their labor. Thanks to generous donations from some of our parishioners the blinds in the hall will be replaced with updated and modern blinds. The Buildings and Grounds Committee is also working to replace the church sign in the front church yard with a new and upgraded version. More to come on that but we should have a plan in place this summer.

That's all from the Buildings & Grounds Committee for now, anyone interested in participating can reach out to me for info or just come on out to a meeting. For now, Buildings and Grounds Committee is meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm; in September we will move our meetings to the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm. Our meetings last for roughly an hour and are more productive with more members!

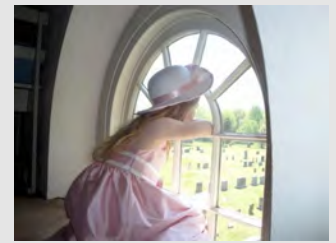
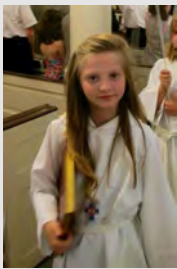


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## SPOTLIGHT: AVA CIABATTIONI

*Ava was asked to be the guest speaker Pentecost Sunday  
May 28, 2023.*

*Please enjoy her words.*



Good morning to all,

As many of you know, my name is Ava Ciabattioni, and I stand before you today as a graduating senior at Chopticon High School and a lifelong member of Christ Church, Chaptico. This upcoming week holds immense significance in my life as on Tuesday, I will be turning eighteen and entering into the realm of adulthood, and on Thursday, I will in fact be graduating from high school. Amidst this exciting and ever-changing time in my life, I wanted to take this opportunity given to me by Father Peter to express my deepest gratitude for the profound impact that my time at Christ Church has had on my upbringing. I truly would not be the person I am today without the immeasurable love and unwavering support that this parish community has provided me with throughout the years.

When I look back on my journey at Christ Church, I must admit that my earliest memories are somewhat hazy. I was baptized here when I was less than five months old and attended regularly as an infant with my grandmother, who played an instrumental role in fostering my spiritual foundation during my childhood. The memories that stand out most vividly from my childhood are those filled with innocence and joy. I can recall Easter Sundays spent eagerly searching for hidden eggs in the cemetery, the sweet anticipation of dipping chocolate-covered strawberries on Saturday nights before the Strawberry festivals, and the making of crafts during Friday Night Sunday Schools, many of which are still at my house to this day. These simple and carefree moments are what formed the initial connection I felt with this church as a child.



However, as I journeyed through adolescence, like every young person does, I eventually began to outgrow the innocence and carefreeness of my childhood. The world around me suddenly became more complex, and I became increasingly aware of its struggles and injustices. During these incredibly unique years I witnessed the rising impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, political controversies that seemed to divide nations, wars raging across the globe, poverty leaving many in despair, and even my own personal struggles which I had to face. However, in the face of a seemingly faltering world, instead of growing jaded and disillusioned, my time in this church provided me with solace and refuge. It was within the walls of Christ Church that I discovered my anchor in the Lord and found my true calling in this world.

Through the guidance and unwavering support I received from this parish, I am wholeheartedly committed to following Christ and working to serve others in my daily life. As Father Peter's sermons consistently remind us, as Christians, it is our responsibility to carry Christ's message beyond the confines of our church walls and into the world. Although we had not had him in our parish for long, this notion has resonated deeply within me. Although I recognize that I, like everyone else here today, am far from perfect, my time in this church has instilled in me a resolute determination to never lose hope in the face of injustice and to confront the struggles of this world with unwavering resilience. To truly follow Jesus is to break societal bonds in order to do what is right, and stand up against injustice in this world, which is what I strive to do in my everyday life.

As a result of these transformative experiences, I am thrilled to share with you all that this coming fall, I will be embarking on a new chapter of my life at the University of Maryland. There, I will be pursuing a degree in biology with the goal of becoming a conservation biologist. As the timeless phrase goes "leave this world a little better than you found it," and with that I am deeply committed to making a positive impact on our planet. The values and teachings I have absorbed during my eighteen years in this church have not only shaped my character but have also ignited a burning passion within me to contribute meaningfully to the world. As I stand here before you today, I am overwhelmed with profound gratitude. I want to express my sincerest thanks to each and every one of you who has been a part of my journey at Christ Church. This parish has truly been the place where I have matured and discovered my calling in this world.

Thank you.



### **BULLETIN SUMMER EXPERIMENT**

This Summer the Vestry agreed that a newly formatted bulletin will be used to reduce printing costs.

Beginning the first Sunday in June the bulletin is printed on one sheet of paper, with a special insert with that Sunday's collect-prayer, and readings in it. Even with the cost of the inserts for each Sunday, the parish saves money as less paper and copier ink are used.

Though it is certainly convenient, especially for visitors, to have the worship script before the parishioner, it is also wasteful to reprint weekly what is already printed and bound in books sitting in the pews. Fr Peter likes the idea of being economical as it also helps the environment, as well as encouraging us to be a hospitable people to those around us who may be confused about which page or hymn we are on. Rather than have hospitable bulletins, we can be the hospitable people Jesus calls us to be.

Finally, beginning in the fall, we will be eliminating from the bulletin the long list of prayers requested for people outside of our parish. Instead, the church office staff member will collect and print a monthly list. That list will be sent out at the first of the month, with the first Sunday bulletin, and copies will be available in the church for those who wish to take that monthly list home and pray over the listed names.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

***Kenny Oliver***



**August 15, 1955 – April 19, 2023**

**He will be missed.**



**Mrs. Helen Wright**

### **Administrator's Angel –**

For each quarterly issue of the newsletter, our Office Administrator, Jenni, will help us to highlight someone who, from the eyes of the administrator, stands out as an Angel, worthy of notice. This month, she would like us to pay special thanks to **Helen Wright**. Helen does so much around the office and for various events. She took the lead last winter at running our Christmas collection for needy Prison Fellowship children. Additionally, Helen helps at many of the events, and recognizes that we share the space with other church and outside groups. She is a parishioner of service who makes sure that when the event that she is associated with concludes, all countertops are wiped, items put away, trash discarded, and linens for washing are removed. Helen is a true angel of service and responsibility, recognizing that more goes on at the church, than just her events. For these reasons, and so many more, we want to give thanks for Helen Wright being our Administrator's Angel





## **WHAT IS REALM AND WHY?**

### **Q. Explain why we have implemented the Realm System?**

A. Prior to implementing Realm, we were using 4 different systems to handle, accounting, annual giving, communications and the church directory. Obviously, this left us with 4 different databases to try to maintain. It was very **time consuming and inefficient**.

### **Q. How will Realm solve this problem?**

A. Realm combines all these functions and more in a single database system. Realm was developed specifically for use by churches, so many of its functions are tailored for a church's unique requirements. The system is built around a single database that provides a profile for each member.

### **Q. Can you explain some of the capabilities of Realm.**

A. There are quite a few capabilities available in the system, but we have decided to roll them out slowly so that everyone will be able to have time to adjust to sometimes new ways of doing things.

1. The first capability to be implemented was Accounting. We transitioned from QuickBooks to Realm on January 1, 2023. This was a pretty smooth transition with little impact on anyone but the Office Manager and the Treasurer.
2. The second capability to transition will be Payroll. That will happen June 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. The third system to be implemented will be the Church Directory which is rolling out now. It has taken some time to implement because we had to combine the 4 databases into one, verify its accuracy and then invite members to create Realm Accounts. By logging into Realm, members can review their individual profile, make corrections, if necessary, upload current photos and manage their account themselves. The goal is for as many members as possible to have online access. Updates to the system for members without online access can be done by the Office Manager or Treasurer.
4. Creating an online account gives members access to other features of Realm. The Realm Connect App can be downloaded from the App Store for iPhone or Android. This provides mobile access to the user's Profile, News, the Directory, Giving History, upcoming Events & online Registration, Group Activities and more.

We recognize that Christ Church's membership is diverse and not everyone will choose to go online, so we plan to enable these capabilities slowly and maintain the old way doing things as well. However, in order to move forward, the Church must be prepared for the future.

## ***DID YOU KNOW.....?***

Q. What is involved in the Treasurer's job?

A. The primary responsibility of the Treasurer is to look after the finances of the church. To accomplish that requires a number of tasks:

1. Working with the office manager to approve and sign checks.
2. Creation of an annual budget to be approved by the Vestry.
3. Managing an annual pledge campaign to hopefully bring in enough income to cover expenses.
4. Recording contributions in the Realm system and providing Quarterly reports to members.
5. Monitoring expenses to try to stay within the budget.
6. Reconciling the checking account and Visa account monthly.
7. Preparing monthly financial reports for review by the Vestry.
8. Working with Morgan Stanley to ensure our Endowment investments are doing well.
9. Dealing with ongoing problems with the IRS over quarterly employment filings.
10. Implementing the new Realm accounting and payroll systems.

This a product from the Psalm section of our Lenten series on The Book of Common Prayer. The gathered engaged in an exercise where we only had one psalm verse, and had to then compose the next. The most recent writer, would fold down the page so that the line that inspired them was no longer seen, and only their verse would be read to inspire the next person, and so on.

Beginning with an established verse (the opening line to Psalm 118) we did the exercise, bookending it with the same psalm verse.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
His mercy endures forever.

He keeps me safe in all that I do.

Though his arms are not visible,

He holds me tight and I cherish His holy embrace  
And I am at peace knowing he will never leave me.  
Give us grateful hearts for the many blessings he has  
given us.

Let us give thanks that he is here for us, and for our  
troubles.

Let your bountiful grace flow upon us, Lord.  
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
His mercy endures forever.

*Spiritually composed during an exercise as part of the Lenten Book of Common Prayer Class by: Lynn Burton, Barbara Drumgoole, Sara Frawley, Robbie Loker, Mary Ann Oliver, and Rev. Ackerman*

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CHAPTICO MD

# BASEBALL

Night

TICKET ONLY

**\$10**

SATURDAY

**22**  
JULY



## REGENCY FURNITURE STADIUM

11765 SAINT LINUS DRIVE, WALDORF, MD 20602



**GAME STARTS AT 6:35 PM**



**BBQ TAILGATE 1 HOUR BEFORE GAME**

SIGN UP SHEET IN BACK OF THE CHURCH ON SUNDAYS  
OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE ON WEEKDAYS

CUT OFF FOR SIGNUP AND PAYMENT: JULY 16, 2023

# 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  
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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 Deatrack, Paul Nelson, Lynne Redmond

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

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