SUMMER 2025

THE MESSENGER

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:
offce@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

Rectors Reflection

What I love about Christ Church is experiencing how we are attentive to God in new ways. Part of that focus is the adventure of discovering how to be church in our current context with meaning, not just continually repeating the past trying to get an earlier result.

Case in point is the upcoming re-imagining of our Prayer Group by the core members who make up this community. The Prayer Group , after meeting with our parish's Tending Our Soil, realized that they were missing a core component as named through our Tending Our Soil work of discovery - engagement.

The prayer gatherings had become stale, with the group praying over a list of names, knowing nothing about most of them. There was some disappointment that parishioners outside of the assembly, did not regularly attend prayer sessions. With the idea that we are called to be a church of today not by dismissing our traditions, but recreating them to better represent who we are, and where are our strength's, the reality may change. The Prayer Group has embraced "engagement of fellow parishioners" as their core purpose, leading them into exciting fresh territory, allowing them with a focus towards parishioner engagement to revitalize their ministry.

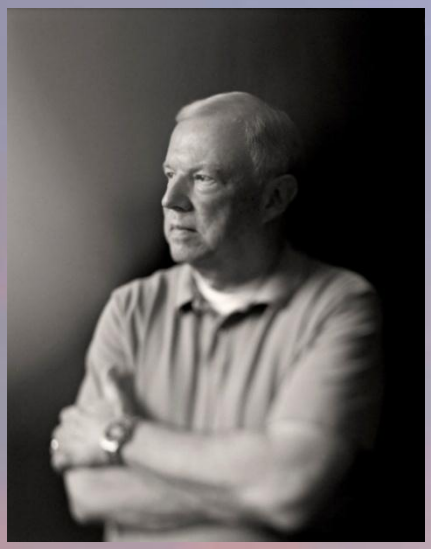
Their thoughtful adaptation will begin in the fall. Starting this September the only printed names for prayers will be those of our current parishioners as they are currently listed in the weekly bulletin. The Prayer Group will extend their personal engagement by becoming more involved with those parish members requesting prayers for a non-parishioner family member or friend. Each month one of the Prayer Group members will be listed as the point of contact for any "family and friends" whom you want prayer for. Engaging, and with the requestor's permission, the Prayer Group will, at their meetings, intentionally pray for each person, beyond just reading a name. Also, if a person remains on their list, a prayer group member might reach back out to the requestor for an update. The Prayer Group hopes that with this personal engagement they might entice others who wish to intentionally pray for those we love, to join at one of the two meetings each month.

A final alteration is that The Prayer Group will adjust their meeting schedule, in order to accommodate our parishioners. Beginning in September, one Wednesday per month will remain at 7pm, but the other meeting will happen on a Wednesday mid-afternoon, offering the opportunity for those who do not wish to drive at night to engage with the group members in prayer.

Change is something people often face reluctantly, but my hope is that the leadership example of the Prayer Group, focusing on parishioner engagement as their priority, will help others in our parish to reimagine ministries so that we can use our traditions to serve God's purpose for us today. Engaging is a good place to begin, and with a further focus on either "us," "or "the outside community," will help us to remain connected to who we are today with a greater sense of purpose.

I hope you will continue to thank those members who take part in the groups listed above for their living experimentation on bringing vitality to our church. As we live into this chapter of our rich history, recreating who we are today, we are all poised, under God, to truly be a blessing to one another!

Yours in Christ, Peter +



William “MAC” McGarity

August 3, 1941 ~ March 5, 2025

A previous parishioner and Senior Warden, Mac McGarity went into the hand of our lord on March 5th. He was once a large part of our Chris Church Community.

Brenda Monshower

May 27, 1953 ~ April 5, 2025

Our fellow parishioner and current Vestry Member went into the hands of God on April 5th. Brenda was a kind soul and will be missed by many. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Senior Warden ~ Greg Penk

Maybe it's just me, but it seems like the year has flown past. It seems as if we just enjoyed the annual St. Patrick's dinner, celebrated a wonderful Easter Service – and now the Strawberry Festival has just ended.

Speaking for myself, I thought the Strawberry Festival was the best ever! I spend most of my day strapped to a guitar, but from what I could see the crowds were good (even with competition from the SoMD Heritage Festival and the annual Car Show in Leonardtown). Many thanks to all those who participated, and especially to our Strawberry Queen, Shelby, for a great day!

This coming weekend is Memorial Day – the "unofficial beginning of Summer. Maybe it's a good time for us all to take a deep breath, sit down and meditate on all that is good in our church and the world around us. And, maybe even slow down a bit…

Have a beautiful, blessed Summer!

Administrator's Angel

Julie Burch has been our Office Angel for quite a while. Over the past few years, many parishes, including ours, have had to forgo publishing a newsletter for reasons including having less staff and less hours for their remaining staff. Even before our Tending Our Soil team determined a need for a newsletter, Julie began looking into it. The process began as a question that helps focus each issue: "What if we had a quarterly newsletter to let parishioners who can no longer attend in person know what the church is up to?"

Julie decided to take on gathering articles as a personal ministry. She now reaches out every quarter seeking reports from those in our parish connected to various ministries. She lays out the draft and checks it over with the parish office, ultimately giving us a newsletter that all current parishioners can enjoy, including those who attend and those who no longer attend in person.

Julie Burch's willingness to think outside the box, discern a core purpose and lead the mission not only has many enjoying a quarterly newsletter but lifts her up with much appreciation as our final Office Angel!

Thank you Julie!

Let's get to know:

Ronald "Smitty" Smith

What Parishoner's say… "He always has a smile on his face", "An all around nice guy", "He's very active in his community and Optimist Club", "He makes me smile"

What Smitty says:

Smitty is a regular attendee at our 10:00 service. He has been coming to Christ Church for about 5 years. The initial draw to our church for him was our location is convenient, and he also knew some of our church members. He describes his faith journey as beginning as a "Cradle Episcopalian". He was raised in the Episcopal faith and continued to attend through his adulthood. He has attended various churches in the area. He was married at Old Fields Chapel on Benedict Road. He has visited multiple other church's such as Fort Lincoln at the DC line down to Trinity at St Mary's City, where he was a member.

One of Smitty's favorite verses in the bible, that resonates with him is "I am the way, the truth and the life" He says that this is what it is all about!

Smitty tagged *Dave Hudson* for our next newsletter. Let's get to know Dave next time!

TENDING OUR SOIL

Happy Summer Friends!
Wow, Christ Church! Just.... WOW!!! In recent meetings and conversations, our team has been doing a little more observing, noticing and brainstorming for how some of the agreed-upon initiatives are going so far and what else can be implemented. We are noticing often, that you, the members of Christ Church, are regularly far-exceeding the initial expectations of how well we are doing, working as a unit to BE THE CHURCH in ways that are authentically expressing our individual strengths, talents, skills and interests as we come together as a community.

As we continue to work on our first short-term goal of increasing personal connections, we've also launched into working on our second goal of helping to establish clear pathways of discipleship. Our first step in establishing clear pathways of discipleship is to determine what they are; to define what ministries and opportunities for connection currently exist in our church. In order to help accomplish this, we're compiling a list of ministries that are sponsored by or organized through Christ Church, Chaptico. In the coming days and weeks, we'll be reaching out to chairs and co-chairs of the existing ministries and events held by our church. **If you are a lead or co-lead of any initiative, ministry, or event at Christ Church, expect an email and a phone call in June from one of our team members.** We'll be asking for three things:

1. Who is the chair/organizer/contact person for this ministry/event?
2. What is the contact information for the chair/organizer?
3. Please provide 2-3 sentences on what the ministry is and how the work of that ministry aligns with the mission and vision statement.

Our team and Vestry will work together to compile this information into a brochure to share with you at the Ministry Fair on **Homecoming Sunday, September 7, 2025 (mark your calendars!)**. Additionally, we'll be adding these brochures/lists to the welcome bags that are given to newcomers and visitors to Christ Church.
In the coming weeks, we'll be initiating steps to reiterate and shift focus to our Mission and Vision Statements as a way to help us stay focused on what we're doing as a church community, why we're doing the things we're doing and how we can better live into the mission by taking regular steps implied by the vision.

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.

Our next 5th Sunday JOINT COFFEE HOUR is on SUNDAY, JUNE 29 TH ! The last one was a HUGE success so we're doing it again! 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

Wandering of an Aimless Mind

By Shelby Opperman

St. Mary's County Times

May 22, 2025

"Wow, another Strawberry Festival year in the books"

We had such beautiful weather this past Sunday for this year's Strawberry Festival at Christ Church Parish Hall. It is always so nice to greet everyone, and it makes me smile when they say, "Are you the Queen?" And I normally respond, "Yes, I am, I am the Strawberry Queen." I mean how many times, if ever, do you get to say that in life? So much fun. And one of the best things is meeting readers of this column and seeing dear friends I don't see as often. Sorry if I get teary eyed sometimes, especially when the day of the festival has finally arrived – I may be a little over tired and flustered by then, but I am also happy when I see you all. I so want everyone to have a good time and feel welcome and listen to the music of Folk Sa lad and The Bushmill Band and be entertained by the Southern Maryland Bootscooters. Thank you to Greg Penk for arranging for the bands each year, and to the bands.

We naturally hope you got your fill of Mike's Bar-B-Que and Catering's food truck who have been with us about 31 years – thank you Katherine, PJ, and crew. And we hope you loved our church's many strawberry themed desserts. This year we had lots of food artisans/vendors come to make you even more tempted – thank you to all our crafters and vendors. I overheard one of our charity representatives say how hard it was to have their table be amongst all those local bakers. You know who you are :) Who can resist Calvert Kettle Corn too. We had wonderful crafters, vendors, and artisans this year inside and out. I thank you all.

Our hard-working church volunteers, our parish administrator, and our priest, Father Peter Ackerman all pull together to make each year fun and successful – love you all and thank you so much for all of your support and help. But the main purpose of the Strawberry Festival is to honor our late church matriarch, LaRue Redmond's vision and mission of helping local charities that mean a lot to our county or have helped parishioners in times of need. You already know how much the Clements Cuties Foundation, which raises funds to help local children with childhood cancers, means to my husband and me. ACTS: A Community That Cares has a warehouse full of medical equipment if you or a family member is in need. I've had to use it before, as did my late mother-in-law, and members of our church. Hospice is a wonderful caring organization that may be needed by us or a family member someday. I witnessed their compassion and care when I was with a friend at Hospice when her husband passed. Even though the Strawberry festival is over for this year, all these charities can use your support all year long.

This year I had two of our grandsons, Liam and Carson, my youngest son Ryan's two young boys to help me from Friday night through Sunday afternoon. They will know what hard manual labor is like for a long time, but I think it's good for them. They did so much carting and lifting and selling chocolate-covered strawberries that I bet they appreciated going back to school Monday. Thank you also to The County Times, Wayne's Signs, Food Lion in Leonardtown for help with the large dairy order, and John Curtis with Public Works County Recycling. And for the actual strawberries necessary for a Strawberry Festival, thanks to Mike Stauffer for Strawberry help. And also, to the Joel Stauffer family, Yoder's Produce at The Barns at New Market, Lyon Family Farm, and Southern Maryland Produce. Each of you helped me patchwork together the amount of strawberries needed for the festival. As always, thanks to my husband Robert who has to hear the word strawberry at least one million times from January through May, while in the midst of busy pool season.

To each new day' adventure, Shelby.

Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook

PARISH LIFE

Zach Pettigrew affirmed his faith and was confirmed into The Episcopal Church at the National Cathedral - May 9th.

2025 FUN Walk 5 K for Hospice - April 5th

St. Patrick's Dinner - March 15

Easter Egg Hunt- April 20

Strawberry Festival - May 17

LOOKING AT OUR FUTURE

Logan Wright

Logan attended Iowa State University and graduated with a BS in Finance with a minor in Military Studies. After Graduation, Logan enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

John Tierney

John graduated from Allegany College of Maryland with a degree in Applied Science Engineering

James Owens

James graduated from Army basic training at Fort Leonard Wood Missouri on Friday May 23rd. He is headed directly to Fort Eustis for further training to become a helicopter mechanic.

Andrew Ciabattoni

Andrew graduated from Chopticon High School and plans to attend College of Southern Maryland

Karley Rocheleau

Karley graduated from Chopticon High School and has been accepted in the Radiography program at College of Southern Maryland

Tyler Staples

Tyler graduated from Chopticon High School and plans to attend Towson University.

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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