

CHRIST CHURCH FOREST HILL
ROCK SPRING PARISH

December 2022



Christ Church Rock Spring Parish

2100 Rock Spring Road

P.O. Box 215

Forest Hill, MD 21050

Phone: 410-838-6606

Email: ChristChrsp@gmail.com

Website: www.ChristChurchForestHill.org

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 10 – 2 (new hours) *

Please call prior to coming...Other hours by appointment.

Priest-In-Charge: Fr. Kirk Kubicek

Parish Administrator: Anna Risdorfer

Sexton: John Tipton

Vestry Officers: Molly Neal, Senior Warden

Jane O'Leary, Interim Treasurer

Tony Davis, Junior Warden

Kate Davis, Registrar

Cemetery Administrator: Leslie Amtmann

Music Team Leaders:

Robert Hitz—Choir Director

Lyn Edmunds—Song Leader

The Chimes





Priest in Charge

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The First Sunday of Advent signals the beginning of the Christian New Year. We change Gospel readings from Year C's Luke to Year A's Matthew. And similar to Daylight Savings, we reset the clock for the major Feasts of Christ. Advent's primary focus is on the Day of the Lord when the Christ promises to return to be with us in the Kingdom of God. This is often misunderstood as his coming to take us away. Rather, having anointed us as his disciples, his expectation is that we have finally become the Kingdom of God's Love, Justice and Mercy for all people and all creatures. The delay in his coming reflects our delay in our getting on with His work of Reconciliation he has prepared us to do.

The secondary focus of Advent, of course, is reflecting on his First Arrival as the Prince of Peace: The Feast of the Incarnation, or Christmas. Under the occupation of Caesar's Empire, we read that "all the people" were awaiting an intervention to free them from the brutality of being a subject people. In Matthew, he is visited by Magi, not the shepherds we hear about in Luke. These three Magus come from a learned and priestly class of Persians, very possibly Zoroastrians, suggesting that all the world was seeking a New Beginning, a new Way, a new Path toward a world of Love, Justice and Mercy. And an anointed one to lead us into such a new vision of the world. How surprising, and no doubt confusing, for everyone that God's answer was a baby in a rude manger, not the warrior king some were expecting.

Advent and Christmas give us time in mid-winter to welcome the Babe in the Manger into our hearts; to make a home for him; to make him our true Home! Like the cultural New Year, it is a time to look back at our faithfulness to Christ's vision of a reconciled world, and to adopt new disciplines of Faith to become more faithful in our walking in His Way.

- ♦ **Christmas Eve**, Saturday, December 24 we will begin with a **Community Hymn Sing at 4:30pm, followed by a 5:00pm Holy Eucharist Rite II.**
- ♦ **Christmas Day** is on a Sunday this year, and we will Celebrate our Lord's Incarnation with **Holy Eucharist Rite I at 9:00am, December 25th .**

After two winters of months with no church attendance and attendance with little or no heat, we have returned to a fully heated church, hymn singing, and Holy Communion of Bread and Wine at the Communion Rail once again. If you have not been to church for a while, please consider making this Advent and Christmas season a time of your Return to Christ in community with those of us who call ourselves, Rock Spring Parish. Masking is always optional, not required. Your presence will enrich our experience of the Risen Lord in our midst. Together we will be reminded that we are all God's Beloved! God is well pleased with us!

The greatest gift of all is being able once again to join with all who strive to make Christ the center of our community life. Christ Church Forest Hill, Rock Spring Parish, is a blessed community of faithful people. How good it is to join one another in song, prayer and sacrament!

Yours in Christ, Fr. Kirk Kubicek, Priest in Charge

We Are Those People Who Wait Upon The Lord!

“...those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” -Isaiah 40:31

Advent has long been a time of waiting for the Church. Adventus Rex – Literally, The Coming of the King. We are waiting for our king. Who we readily admit is not like any earthly king. He wields no power, commands no military, wrote no books, and had nowhere to lay his head – that is, no place to call home. Advent for the church has long been a time of waiting – waiting upon the return of the Christ. Which makes Advent a period of four weeks to reflect upon just what sort of Christ we are waiting for?

Some say this is what we typically are waiting for, contrasted with what God sends our way:

We want the throne of Power.

God arrives in a manger.

We want generals.

Angels call shepherds.

We want religious uniformity.

Zoroastrian Magi come.

We want political uniformity.

Foreign kings gather.

We want a warrior prince.

Jesus comes as the prince of Peace.

That is, the One whom God promises to send is one who desires a reconciled world; a united humanity; a network of peaceable kingdoms. Not a world of competition, but a world of cooperation. The type of world Jesus spent the last years of his life inviting people, inviting us, to work with him to build a true kingdom of God. A world such as Isaiah envisioned some 500 years before the time of Christ where those who wait upon the Lord shall run and not be weary; shall walk and not faint! Who shall be energized to live the life of the Good News!

To wait upon the Lord does not mean to sit around and wait. Advent is meant to remind us that the Bible's notions of “waiting” means we are to be doing the things that make the world the kind of place to which the Christ would be delighted to return. A world that has embraced His vision of what it means to love God and love neighbor – neighbor being broadly defined as all others. A world in which we all strive for, as we promise in our Baptism, justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being.

As we await His return, then, we are to be busy with the gift we are given in Baptism: the ministry of reconciliation. To make this world His home. As Christmas approaches, then, Advent means for us to imagine what our gift of the ministry of reconciliation really looks like. What should we be thinking, doing and saying that unites people rather than divides them? That heals people rather than hurt them? That brings justice to all people – not some people, not most people, but all people? For this is what love is. Those who wait upon the Lord shall rise up with wings like eagles; run without being weary; walk and not faint. For then all people will know that the Christ is with us. Here. Now. Today.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 P.M. COMMUNITY HYMN SING

5:00 P.M. HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST



LET US KEEP CHRISTMAS

**Whatever else be lost among the years,
Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing:
Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,
Let us hold close one day, remembering
It's poignant meaning for the hearts of men,
Let us get back our childlike faith again.**



Grace Noll Crowell

Stewardship Pledge Form

2023

In prayerful consideration of my/our stewardship of God's resources, responsibility to Christ Church, and the desire to take the next step in my/our journey of faith, I/we pledge the following financial support to Christ Church for the 2023 church year:

Weekly \$ _____

Quarterly \$ _____

Monthly \$ _____

For a total of \$ _____ per year



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

- I would like to receive envelopes (circle one): YES NO
- Envelope # _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return to Christ Church by mail.

Christ Church, Rock Spring Parish
P.O. Box 215
Forest Hill, MD 21050



Thank you and God Bless!

Christ Church Vestry Minutes

October 19, 2022

[Virtual Meeting Via Zoom]

Attendance: Fr. Kirk, Molly Neal, Lyn Edmunds, Leslie Amtmann, Jane O'Leary, Lois Tidey, Kate Davis, and Tony Davis.

Meeting began at 7:05 PM with an opening prayer.

Vestry minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The cash balance in our main checking account is doing well, in large part due to the recent gift which is designated toward the Parish Hall project. Our net income vs. expenses is still at a deficit of about \$9,000 year-to-date. We've received our Diocesan allocation for 2023 = \$10,341, which is an increase of about 8%.

Rector's Report: A motion was made and approved to increase payments to Robert Hitz to \$175/Sunday, as of November 1st, as there are additional responsibilities as music director. We'll need to revisit the amount to be paid to his backup/fill-in when he needs to miss occasional Sundays. Fr. Kirk reminded us of the need to recruit new Vestry members and a Senior Warden, by the time of the next annual meeting, as outgoing members' terms are coming to an end. The Diocesan convention is coming up on November 11-12.

Senior Warden Report: The two dance groups who rent the Parish Hall were appreciative of the compromise on their rate increase, due to the rising cost of utilities. The new rate will be up \$15/session, beginning January 1, 2023, and new agreements were signed.

The ECW has decided to adopt 2 families from the Harford Family house for the holidays. Holiday cheer boxes will be prepared for those who cannot attend services. The Spaghetti Dinner is back on the agenda for February 4th (with a snow date of Feb. 11th). Molly Neal is currently working with Anna Risdorfer on the holiday mailings.

Junior Warden Report: The installation of a new HVAC system for the Parish Hall will begin on 10/20 and should be done by 10/27. The electrician will then begin the installation of additional receptacles in the kitchen and the outlet for the HVAC, the following week. The contractors will work around the schedule of the groups that use the Parish Hall, to keep disruptions to a minimum. The new system (heating/cooling) will be more efficient, as it is multi-zone, and the fuel is all electric. We'll ask Comfort Air about the best way to program the new units to coordinate with the existing furnace, so there may be less dependency on oil.

As a future endeavor, it was mentioned that we may want to look into getting window coverings on the windows in the back of the Parish Hall main floor, where it gets extra warm in Summer and cold in Winter.

Rock Spring Keeper's Report: After meeting the Trex recycling challenge, we were rewarded with a new Trex bench, which has been installed in front of the Parish Hall main entrance. There is currently a photo challenge – please send any pictures using the new bench to Anna Risdorfer.

The group will be doing a “critter count” (counting of small critters using an app) in the Spring. Over the Winter, they will be supporting Melinda on her capstone project, and they are considering hosting a movie night to show a documentary about environmental issues. They will also have an Easter raffle basket to help raise funds for some efforts.

They're considering rejoining the Adopt-a-Road program for Rock Spring Church Road. It is a county-run program, which provides supplies (signs, bags, vests, etc.) to help with cleanup efforts. It would be a visible sign that somebody's watching that road. It would require submitting reports to the county 4 times per year.

Jane O'Leary let us know that the search for a new bishop is moving along nicely. The diocese appreciates our prayers and positive thoughts to allow the Holy Spirit to continue to guide the process and the future of the diocese during the transition. It was suggested to add this to our weekly prayers. The next meeting will be on November 16th at 7:00 PM.

The meeting ended at 8:16 PM with a closing prayer by Fr. Kirk.

Blessings,
Kate Davis



Episcopal
Church
Women



DECEMBER 4 is the deadline to turn in gifts and/or financial contributions so that the ECW Elves can shop for the families we have adopted from **HARFORD FAMILY HOUSE!**

THANK YOU to those who have already turned in your items—your generosity is a blessing to these families in need.



A QUILTED CHRISTMAS Raffle!

Be sure to stop by the Parish Hall to see the beautiful quilted items made by Lois. Tickets are \$2 each, three for \$5, or ten for \$15. The lucky winner's name will be drawn on **December 18!**

Our December meeting we will be devoted to assembling **Cheer Baskets** and arranging for their delivery. Please bring cookies and/or other contributions you have indicated.



ECW MEETINGS: are held on the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of the month.

DECEMBER 14 — ECW MEETING 7 PM in the Annex— **Members assemble Cheer baskets**

JANUARY 11— ECW MEETING 7 PM in the Annex



SAVE THE DATE — FEBRUARY 4!

We're excited to bring back the ever popular
SPAGHETTI DINNER!

This community event is always a fun way to get together, share good food, listen to music, and take a chance on great raffle baskets and a 50/50 drawing.

We can't wait to see **YOU** there! More details to come.

**ALL WOMEN OF CHRIST CHURCH
ARE MEMBERS OF ECW!**



**YOUR INPUT, SUPPORT, ENERGY, AND INVOLVEMENT
ARE APPRECIATED**

**AS THIS YEAR DRAWS TO AN END, WE THANK EACH
AND EVERY ONE FOR YOUR CONTINUED DEDICATION
AND HARD WORK!**

**Current Roster
ECW Officers**

President

Colleen Murphy 410-925-5875

Corresponding Secretary

Janet Clifton 410-838-5072

Recording Secretary

MaryJane Parrish 410-456-7931

Treasurer

Melinda Chase 443-866-1134

KEEPER'S CORNER

Well into fall, the Rock Spring Keepers continue the mission to support our Christ Church Habitat with native plantings (Black Eyed Susans), road clean up, composting, and planning for winter and spring activities.

A movie matinee is planned for Saturday, January 21 at 2 pm (snow date in February) featuring a showing of the acclaimed movie, "Hometown Habitat" with refreshments, door prizes, and games.

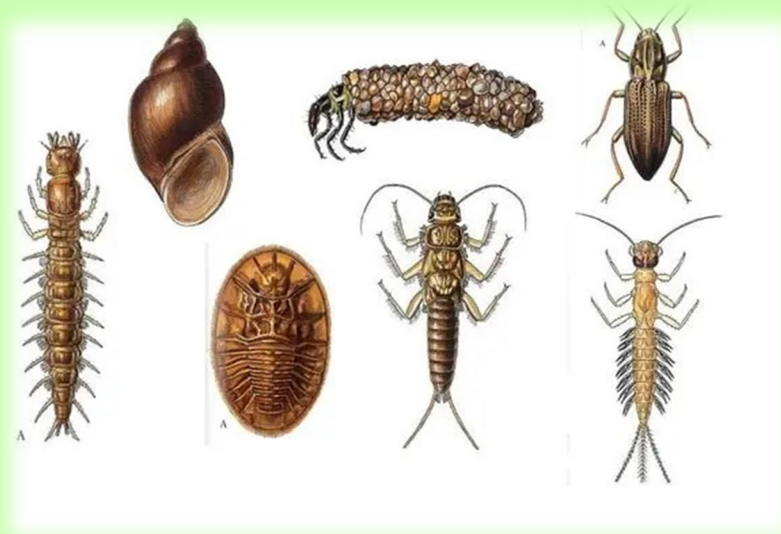
Christ Church has applied to Harford County to Re-Adopt Rock Spring Church Road, so look for the Adopt-A-Road signs to go up. Know that local law enforcement has been made aware of the blue gloves that regularly litter this road. If you can help with clean up a few hours once a month or more, that would be terrific! On-the-job training and bags provided. See Lyn for details.

There will be a critter count to determine the extent and type of macro-invertebrates found in the waters around our spring. Once we have a baseline, we hope to determine any effects of "anti-icing" road treatment run off on these populations over the winter.

Fun Fact: Aquatic macro-invertebrates are small animals that live for all, or part, of their lives in water. These animals lack a spine and are large enough to be seen with the naked eye. Macro-invertebrates help clean the water, and are useful indicators of water quality. Stoneflies and mayflies can indicate excellent water quality; while leeches, midges and blackflies (which better tolerate pollution) indicate poorer water quality. Other examples are dragonfly larvae, mosquito larvae, water fleas, beetles, snails, flatworms, clams, and crayfish.

Macro-invertebrate photo from "The Watershed Learning Network:"

by Lyn Edmunds



Lynn Klein and Pat Rohrman enjoying each other's company during a tree-planting program on the Klein family farm. The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy planted over 300 trees in an important Chesapeake watershed thanks to the hard work of many volunteers and GVC leaders.

Thanks for your environmental stewardship Lynn and Phil.





**ALL ARE WELCOME
AND ENCOURAGED TO
ATTEND. SEE FOR
YOURSELF WHAT
MAKES US THE SMALL
BUT MIGHTY PARISH
OF CHRIST CHURCH.**

The annual meeting for Christ Church Rock Spring Parish is **Sunday, January 15, 2023** following the 10:00 service. Please join us for a celebration of our parish and a recap of this year's projects and activities. Here's hoping for another round of games hosted by the effervescent Mary Jane Parrish. All this while you enjoy lunch, refreshments and socializing with your fellow parishioners.



Richard & Lois Tidey celebrating 59 years of love!



LOVE IS NOT AS SIMPLE
AS CANDLELIGHT AND ROSES...
...LOVE IS DAY-TO-DAY LIVING,
TAKING TIME, MAKING TIME TO BE THERE,
WITH OPEN ARMS AND A GIVING HEART...
LOVE IS THE SPECIAL LIFE WE SHARE.



Hollis and Isabelle Eaton say Merry Christmas!





We would like to wish everyone a wonderful Advent and Holiday season. I hope that it is a very blessed time for each of you and a renewal of your love for the Christ, and each other. We wish that we could be there with you. Visits to here would be welcomed except in January while we hope to attend a family wedding and a few days mid March. The rest of the time we will be here.

God bless all of you. Sue and Jacob Sampson



Greetings from the Kidd Family

Praying for a peaceful Advent and Christmas Blessings for my Christ Church Family! The kids are growing quick and the adventures continue - from flying WWII planes to hooking the biggest fish - pray we can catch Vivi as she's beginning to run! Miss you all!



Is there anything better than a homemade Christmas cookie?

Do you have a favorite recipe? If you would like to share it, please email the receipt or mail it to the church. Everyone who participates will receive a Christ Church Christmas Cookies recipe book. Deadline for entries is: Thursday, December 15th. Baking is good for the soul.



The background of the entire page is a decorative border of holly leaves and red berries. The leaves are green with serrated edges, and the berries are bright red. They are arranged in a way that frames the central text.

***2022 Christmas
Poinsettia Contribution***

Name : _____

Phone _____ **Envelope #** _____

**Please accept this contribution of \$_____ toward the
cost of decorating Christ Church at Christmas.**

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

Please mail to the office or place in the offertory plate:

Christ Church, Rock Spring Parish

P.O. Box 215

Forest Hill, MD 21050

WEEKLY ENVELOPES

BLESSINGS REPORT

November's total is: \$4,537

We need \$2,000 **each week**
to meet our expenses.



**Please remember to
mail your offering to:**

**Christ Church
P.O. Box 215
Forest Hill, MD 21050**

PLEASE REMEMBER

INCLUDE YOUR PARISHIONER NUMBER ON
THE ENVELOPE. IT HELPS ENSURE ACCURACY
OF OUR RECORDS.

HAND ME DOWN HUB

Marianne Kidd
410-937-0865

HMDHub@gmail.com
www.Facebook.com/HMDHub



**Infant to Teen sizes available.
Send a request for yourself
or another.**



If you need envelopes or have questions regarding your giving statement, please contact the office.



December 21—St. Thomas the Apostle

Psalm: 126
 1st Lesson: Habakkuk 2:1-4
 2nd Lesson: Hebrews 10:35—11:1
 Gospel: John 20:24-29

December 26—St. Stephen the Deacon & Martyr

Psalm: 31 or 31:1-5
 1st Lesson: Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15
 2nd Lesson: Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51c-60
 Gospel: Matthew 23:34-39

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December

1—Gabrielle Hotham
 2—Tyler Davis
 4—Father Kirk Kubicek
 11—Marianne Kidd
 12—Anna Risdorfer
 15—Debbie Senes
 15—Beth Chmielewski
 31—Pam Copes-Purce

December 28—The Holy Innocents

Psalm: 124
 1st Lesson: Jeremiah 31:15-17
 2nd Lesson: Revelation 21:1-7
 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-18

ANNIVERSARIES

December

29—Becky Borkowski & Doug Johnson



PRAY for those who are sick, in any kind of need or difficulty, especially: For the residents of Harford Family House; For peace and understanding in Baltimore; For all the victims of recent terror attacks throughout the world; For the refugees leaving Syria and Central America in desperation; For those who suffer because of the extreme humanitarian crises; For all the people in the Middle East, that they can experience peace and stability in their lands; For the victims of natural disasters; For the communities that have experienced Mass Shootings & Riots.

For those on our prayer list: For Sue Tressler, Kevin & Linda, Betty Parker, Beverly Gomez, Dan Moss, Robin, Keith Hamilton, Sharon Selke, Sharon Slaughenou, Caroline, Donald Heddy, Karen Fulcomer, Art Smith, Eliot, Rebecca, Louise, Carole, Becky, Don, Peter, Lael, Jacqueline, Hollis, Mike Yates, Sue Sampson, Catherine Horchner, Ken, Libby Ohl, Judith Herseth, Mary Tucci, Sherry Cole, Silvia Meranski, Sam Robertello, Blake Gude, Wayne Hall, Amanda Tidey, Bill D., Hazel Borkowski, John

For our Missionary: Jean M. Baumbach

For these parishioners who are unable to be with us every Sunday:

Glassell & Betty Parker; Beth Hauser; Pat Rohrman, Lynn Klein, Libby Ohl

Christ Church Rock Spring Parish
In the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
2100 Rock Spring Road
P.O. Box 215
Forest Hill, MD 21050



DECEMBER, 2022

Sunday 9:45 am Live/In Person Morning Prayer (4 th Sunday) Comm Service (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 5 th Sundays)	Monday 9:00-11:00a Jazzercise 5:30-6:45p Jazzercise 7:00-9:00p AA—Mon Night Raw	Tuesday 9:00-11:00a Jazzercise 10 am Quilters 6:50-7:50p Aerobics 8:30-9:30p AA—Primary Purpose	Wednesday 9:00-11:00a Jazzercise 5:45-7:45p Jazzercise	Thursday 9:00-11:00a Jazzercise 6:50-7:50p Aerobics 8:30-9:30p AA—Primary Purpose	Friday 9:00-11:00a Jazzercise 7:00-8:00p AA—Fri Night Group	Saturday 8:30-10:30 a AA—New Beginnings
				1 Green Team Zoom	2	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:45 a.m. Ag: M.J.*	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:45 a.m. Ag: Kate	12	13	14 ECW Meeting 7 pm 	15	16	17 
18 4th Sunday of Advent  9:45 a.m. Ag: Kate	19	20	21 St. Thomas the Apostle 	22 Vestry mtg—12/21 	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m. Community Hymn Sing 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
25 Christmas Day  9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Ag: Melinda & Janet	26 St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr 	27	28 The Holy Innocents 	29	30	31 New Years Eve 

Christ Church Rock Spring Parish Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 15th

MeETING

Office Phone: 410-838-6606

Email: christchrsp@gmail.com

Office Hours: By appointment only