

CHRIST CHURCH FOREST HILL
ROCK SPRING PARISH

FEBRUARY 2023

We love because
He first loved us.
1 John 4:19

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

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

Lyn Edmunds, 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,

Epiphany Season for the Church is often called the Season of Light. It was the Light of a Star that led a band of foreign gentiles from the East to visit the Christ Child in a house in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:9-12). The evangelist John says Christ is the Light of all people that shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1: 1-5). And on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany we always read of Christ transfigured on a mountain top with Elijah and Moses, his face shining like the Sun, and even his clothes are “dazzling white” (Matthew 17:11-8).

Most importantly, this Year A in our Sunday Lectionary readings, we hear in the Sermon on the Mount that disciples of Jesus, those who call themselves Christians, are themselves to be “the Light of the World”:
14 *“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5: 14-16)

This is a season meant for us to reflect on just how it is we, as a community of Christ, can be those people who bring light not only to those in our small but mighty congregation, but to the world around us – the world in which we live. Although winter is the darkest time of the year for those of us in the northern hemisphere, gradually sunlight is already arriving earlier and earlier every day! Those who arranged the seasons of the Christian year wanted us to use this season of growing light to grow our light throughout the community we serve and the world itself. There are as many ways to grow our light as there are hours in the day. It may be as simple as inviting someone to join us in our Sunday worship.

As the days continue to lengthen, we will soon enter the Season of Lent (which means lengthening) on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd . The Ash Wednesday Liturgy is quite possibly the most powerful of all the liturgies in our Book of Common Prayer (1979). We begin the Forty Days of Lent reflecting on the ways in which we have not always been light for the world – the ways in which we have strayed from the Commitments made in our Baptismal Covenant. Have we sought and served Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourself? Do we strive for Justice and Peace for all people? Does everything we say and do proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ?

It is the Ash Wednesday Liturgy that inspires us to accept spiritual disciplines for the Forty Days leading up to Holy Week and Easter: Bible Study, Prayer Time, Alms Giving, fasting, self-examination and repentance. These disciplines are far more likely to renew our commitments to be Light for the World than any thing we might “give up” for Lent. Adopting a positive spiritual discipline is meant to strengthen and brighten our light, which leads us to grow in our discipleship to Jesus Christ – to walk in the world as he did, bringing his light and his life to everyone who crossed his path.

This year we will return to a full-scale Ash Wednesday liturgy, coming in from our drive-thru ashes back into the Church as the Body of Christ at prayer and devotion. I intend to offer the Ash Wednesday Service at Noon and 6:00pm. Traditionally, Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting, usually beginning at sundown on Tuesday and ending on Wednesday evening. I urge us all to come together at one of these services so we may enter the Season of Lent together!

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

We are those people who observe a Holy Lent ...

In this Year A Lectionary Cycle, we have had readings from what most people call the Sermon on the Mount, which is the first and fundamental teaching of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, which is our gospel for Year A. Amy Jill Levine, University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University and Hartford Seminary, has suggested chapters 5-7 in Matthew are not so-much a sermon as a Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven (which is Matthew's preference for the more familiar "Kingdom of God"). Jesus specifically gathers those who already are his disciples and lays out patterns and disciplines of living that constitute living in the Kingdom of Heaven here and now.

Jesus had little or no concern for what happens after life in this world. All that matters to him is how we live with one another, and with the Earth itself, here and now. There is an urgency to everything he says and does. His teachings and his actions are all deliberate; intentional in making a Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth. This is not surprising. Jesus was a Jew. And the focus of Jewish life is how to live a life of faith here and now. And the Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven, which begins with the Beatitudes, and concludes with the words, "Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock...and it did not fall....those who do not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand...and it fell – and great was its fall. Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." (Matthew 7:24-29)

Lent means to be a time to build our house of faith on solid rock. Therefore, Lent would seem to be a perfect time to focus our attention on these teachings that can lead us to become a community of light and those who live in the Kingdom of Heaven here and now. Amy Jill Levine has two books that can help us to move deeper into these teachings our Lord urges us "to act on them." One consists of 40 Daily Readings on the Sermon on the Mount called Toward the Kingdom of Heaven. You can follow the link or look it up yourself to find the book at Amazon.com. One short reading for each day on how we might live into chapter 5-7 in Matthew's gospel.

The second is her book, Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven. In this volume Levine shows us how nearly every word in this foundational teaching in Matthew refers back to essential readings in the Old Testament. That is, Jesus is retelling the story of Israel and what it means to act in this world as a child of God. As she writes in the introduction: "Jesus sets the model. And now that the model has been set, he says to his disciples, 'OK, let me show you how to do it. Here's your beginner's guide to walking as if you live in the Kingdom of Heaven. Here's your beginner's guide to seeing that if you just open your eyes and use your hearts, you will find that you are already there.'"

Whether you choose to read the shorter daily readings, or the longer commentary on the Sermon on the Mount, I assure you, you will be entertained and enlightened by Levine's scholarship and good humor! For those of us baptized to become The Light of the World, let's all use the coming forty days of Lent to learn more about who Jesus calls us to become!

These readings will prepare us for Holy Week, which Begins Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday. Then Maundy Thursday is April 6, Good Friday April 7, and Easter April 9.

Remember to bring Last Year's Palms in to church on Sundays February 5, 12 and 19. They will be used to prepare the Ashes for Ash Wednesday, February 22nd .

Compline: Wednesday Evenings at 9:00pm

Compline is a daily offering in our Book of Common Prayer, meant to be said just before bedtime. It consists of confession, the reading of a psalm or psalms, a passage of scripture, a song suitable for evening may be sung, concluding with a series of prayers, beginning with the Lord's Prayer. It is one way in which the Word of God can lead us into a good night's rest.

I will be leading Compline on Facebook Live Wednesday evenings throughout Lent, beginning on March 1st. There will be scriptural focus on the Sermon on the Mount. Compline typically is about a 20-30 minute daily office. Please plan to join us on Wednesday evenings, and perhaps you will be inspired to say Compline at home other nights of the week! The Live Stream may be accessed at [Christ Church Forest Hill on Facebook](#) (you do not need a Facebook account), or on christchurchforesthill.org, our parish website.

Our Wednesday Evening Compline will be Live Streamed at 9:00pm: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5.



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!



Dear Friends in Christ,

Each Sunday morning, we are blessed to have fresh flowers on the altar at Christ Church. By a contribution of **\$30 per dedication date**, you may have a loved one remembered, honored, or give thanks on a special date of your choosing.

To dedicate flowers, please fill out the form attached. All Sundays are available, and your dedication will be placed in the bulletin on your chosen Sunday. The form for dedications is attached and copies will be on the back table of the Church.

If you have not made dedications in the past, please consider making one this coming year. Any dedication is welcome including memorials, birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and special occasions. Please note, special holiday dedications will be collected separately just before those holidays. Additional flower dedications can be made throughout the year by sending an email to Christchrsp@gmail.com or calling the office at 410-838-6606.

Thank you for bringing beauty to Christ Church,

Anna

Anna Risdorfer

Parish Administrator

Christ Church Altar Flowers Dedications 2023

Please indicate whether you would like to pick up the flowers after the dedication date or leave for church use.

I would like to **add** the following dedications in 2023:

Date	Preferred Sunday	Dedication (as will appear in bulletin ex: In memory of, In honor of, In thanksgiving for)	Pick Up ☐	Church Use ☐

NAME: _____ (PLEASE PRINT) Envelope #: _____

Method of Payment (**\$30 contribution per Sunday**)

Payment Included _____ Will send _____

☐ **Cash**

☐ **Check** (made payable to Christ Church Rock Spring Parish)



Please mail this form to the office or place in the offertory plate.

Christ Church Vestry Minutes

December 21, 2022

[Virtual Meeting Via Zoom]

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

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

Vestry minutes from the last meeting were approved with one update – the movie hosted by the Rock Spring Keepers will be a “matinee.”

Treasurer’s Report: the cash value of the total accounts is down mainly due to market fluctuations. Pledges are on target. So far, there are 20 pledges received for 2023 and there is a slight increase from last year. As of 11/30, our net income vs. expenses is at a deficit of about \$7,000 year-to-date. We’ve done well not relying on investments this year (only had to withdraw a total of \$3,000) to help cover expenses.

A motion was made and approved to increase Anna Risdorfer’s salary. Starting in 2023, Christ Church will be doing payroll by direct deposit. We reviewed the proposed 2023 budget and will finalize changes over email prior to the Annual Meeting.

Cemetery Report: a recent visitor who came to church to visit the grave sites of family members noted that the grave sites had fallen over. This has become an issue due to weathering and lawn mowing, which needs to be addressed at some point.

Rector’s Report: since the Annual Meeting is coming up on January 11th , we will need to move up our next Vestry meeting by one week, to review final preparations.

Senior Warden Report: as a reminder, any reports to be included in the Annual Meeting should be submitted to Anna Risdorfer beforehand. Since we don’t have a formal property team, Molly Neal would like to propose having a sign-up at the Annual Meeting for people to commit to maintaining a section of the church grounds year-round. Lyn Edmunds will see if the Rock Spring Keepers can assess the area near the cemetery that has overgrown grass to determine if that can be cleared, so then Fitzpatrick’s can mow there.

The ECW has presented the idea to switch to having a full coffee hour after church once a month (e.g., on the first Sunday of every month), while the in-between Sundays could be a lighter coffee hour with coffee and pre- packaged cookies.

The ECW will be sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on February 4th, and we will need participation from members to help prepare and run the event.

We’ve been getting very positive feedback from outside groups about the new Parish Hall heating system.

Rock Spring Keeper's Report: the first Adopt-a-Road report has been submitted (it can be conveniently texted in). There will be a movie matinee on January 21st at 2:00 PM of the documentary "Hometown Habitat," and there will be door prizes.

Upcoming events:

- ☐ The Annual Meeting will be on January 15, 2023.
- ☐ Rock Spring Keepers will host a movie matinee on January 21st from 2-4pm.
- ☐ The pancake breakfast will be resuming after 3 years, on February 19 h after church (Lyn Edmunds has agreed to help host).

The next meeting will be on January 11th at 7:00 PM.

The meeting ended at 8:45 PM with a closing prayer by Jane O'Leary.

Blessings,
Kate Davis

MONTHLY
Vestry
MEETING



Episcopal Church Women



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

FEBRUARY 8 — ECW MEETING 7 PM in the Annex

MARCH 8 — ECW MEETING 7 PM in the Annex

SPAGHETTI DINNER!

We can't wait to see YOU there!

FEBRUARY 4

4-7 PM in the Parish Hall



RAFFLE BASKETS—We have two great raffle baskets on display in the Parish Hall, plus see our flyer with details. Tickets may be purchased at the display; if you'd prefer to purchase without being in-person, please call Molly or Melinda and we can arrange that! Drawing will be held February 4 at the Spaghetti Dinner.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Ladies Tea is scheduled for April 30

More details to come along with invitations to share with your guests.

RUMMAGE SALE ECW has **TENTATIVE** plans for another Rummage Sale this summer; but we need a Chairperson for the event! If you would like to head up the team of willing workers, please let us know! In the meantime, if you have gently used household and outdoor items to donate, please set them aside until we announce a time to bring them to church. No clothing please.



Household Goods - Books - Craft Supplies - Tools - Sports Equipment

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

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



ECW Officers 2022-2023

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

On January 21st, the Rock Spring Keepers hosted a matinee screening of the film, "Hometown Habitat: Bringing Nature Home." This beautiful documentary Features popular University of Delaware entomologist, Dr. Doug Tallamy, as well as "hometown heroes" across the country (including Baltimore) who have landscaped to support pollinators needed to nourish humans and wildlife. The free movie event, featuring refreshments and eco-themed door prizes, was followed by a lively discussion, and an eco-quiz (Molly and Ed Neal were high scorers).

Rock Spring volunteer opportunities abound:

- * Sign up on the Keeper's table in the Parish Hall to help maintain our road.**
- * Adopt and maintain a specific area around the church property. See Molly for details.**
- * Help with early spring removal of invasive plant growth around the church.**

Coming up:

- * Look for County Adopt-a-Road signs on Rock Spring Church Road.**
- * Spring Raffle Basket tickets will be sold starting March 12. Basket features specially curated items to lift the landscape and the spirit.**

Winner's name to be drawn April 23 (Earth Day Observance)

Fun Facts: Insects pollinate 87.5% of all plants. Without insects, we would have no blueberries, no birds. The most common avian pollinator is the hummingbird. Bee populations provide nearly one-third of our food supply.



Lyn Edmunds

ANNUAL MEETING



Lois presented Molly with an angel quilt to show appreciate for all of her hard work.

Emory Parrish joined Grandmother Mary Jane in cleaning up
Rock Spring Road for the RSK's January Adopt-A-Road project.



Well
done!



**It's with pride, love and congratulations to
our granddaughter Megan Tidey, who
received her doctorate in physical therapy
from Wingate University in North Carolina.**

Richard & Lois Tidey



Many thanks to Leonard and Mary Jane Parrish
for their generous gift of signage.





BECOME A PART OF HISTORY

From March 2023 to March 2024, The Historical Society of Harford County will lead Harford 250, a countywide celebration of Harford County's sesquicentennial. Along with dozens of local destinations, sponsors and volunteers, we will honor Harford's unique people and places. Join us now as we plan Harford County's 250th anniversary with a year's worth of fun, education and nostalgia.

GET INVOLVED

Join us as we pay tribute to the first 250 years of Harford County's history and build our legacy for the years to come. We need volunteers to plan and staff events, programs and exhibits. We welcome donations to support expenses for marketing, exhibits costs and event support. This is a unique chance for community organizations, businesses and the county's nonprofits to organize events that highlight their own place in Harford's past, present and future.

The Harford 250 Celebration is supported by The Historical Society of Harford County, the Harford County Government, and the generous contributions of Harford County residents, businesses, and organizations. Please subscribe to our Harford 250 e-mail lists for updates about events, opportunities, fundraising, and more.

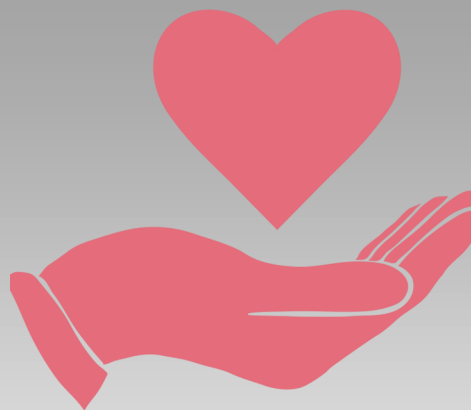
For more information or to find out how to get involved, please contact us @ 410-838-7691 or email @ harford250@harfordhistory.org.

WEEKLY ENVELOPES

BLESSINGS REPORT

January's total: \$7,445

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.

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

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.**

*Hello
February!*





February 2—The Presentation of our Lord in Temple

Psalm: 84
 1st Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4
 2nd Lesson: Hebrews 2:14-18
 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

February 22—Ash Wednesday

Psalm: 103
 1st Lesson: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
 2nd Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
 Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 24—St. Matthias the Apostle

Psalm: 15
 1st Lesson: Acts 1:15-26
 2nd Lesson: Philippians 3:13b-21
 Gospel: John 15:1, 6-16

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February

4—Julie Fender
 7—Wendy Thomas
 8—Susie Necker
 11—Emory Parrish
 14—Alexandra Copes
 14—Hazel Borkowski
 18—Grant Parrish
 19—Adam Eaton
 21—Jane O’Leary
 27—Jack Gude



ANNIVERSARIES

February

7—Glassell & Betty Parker

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

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



FEBRUARY 2023

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	2 The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple 	3	4 Spaghetti Dinner & Raffle Drawing 
5 9:45— The 5th Sunday after the Epiphany A.G.— Kate	6	7	8 ECW Meeting	9	10	11
12 9:45—The 6th Sunday after the Epiphany A.G.— Molly *	13	14	15 Vestry Meeting 	16	17	18
19  Pancake Breakfast 9:45—The Last Sunday after the Epiphany A.G.— M.J.	20	21	22  Ash Wednesday	23	24 St. Matthias the Apostle 	25
26 9:45— The 1st Sunday of Lent A.G.—Debbie *	27	28				