

JULY 2025

THE CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST CHURCH ROCK SPRING PARISH



*“Return to your home, and declare
how much God has done for you.”*

CHRIST CHURCH ROCK SPRING PARISH

Priest-In-Charge:

Fr. Kirk Kubicek

Vestry Officers:

Molly Neal, Senior Warden

Jane O’Leary, Interim Treasurer

Tony Davis, Junior Warden

Lyn Edmunds, Registrar

Music Team Leaders:

Robert Hitz - Music Director

Lyn Edmunds - Song Leader

Cemetery Administrator: Leslie Amtmann

Parish Administrator: Renee Vesce



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Forest Hill, MD 21050

410-838-6606

christchrsp@gmail.com

www.christchurchforesthill.org

Office Hours:
Tuesday 10am-2pm
Thursday 10am-2pm

PRIEST IN CHARGE: JULY 2025

Dearly Beloved Community of Love,

I write to you from Bethany Beach where we are enjoying time with our whole family, children and grand-children. We are blessed to be able to do this once a year. Our children get a bit of a break as the grandparents spoil three very active youngsters who seem to be constantly on the move! And at nap times all the adults get a break, however short, to reconnect and find out how we all are doing.

Vacation time can be restoring and exhausting all at the same time. Even God took time off after setting all of creation into its ever expanding, ever changing and evolving wonder: all things seen and unseen. Shabbat, or Sabbath time, is at the heart of the Ten Commandments. Depending on which rendering one reads, it occupies up to one-third of the written commandments. It's that important. Taking regular time-off is meant to restore us, but more importantly, restore our awareness that the God of all creation is present at all times in all places. With distractions arising every day all around us, it is easy to forget this: the God of Love shall be with you, and is with us in Christ, every day, everywhere, whatever we may be doing or not-doing.

With all the various interpretations of The Bible, it is easy to forget that Sabbath time is meant to be God's holiest gift to people everywhere. It's not meant to be a luxury, but a necessity! It is the very foundation of our being made imago Dei, in the image of God. This is also at the heart of what it means to be a Community of God's Love. The Holy Trinity is meant to help us remember that Love can only exist among communities of people – for Love, as the Bible describes it, consists of what we do for others, meeting the various needs of all people.

Each morning, I go running and walking on the boardwalk. When I finish, I take time to sit and look at the water, the waves coming in and going out. It's a time of doing nothing but attending to the wonder of the Sea. It is a kind of meditation. At some point I find myself writing. Sometimes it is just notes. Other times it is narrative. And still others it is a kind of poetry.

Today it was the latter, which I will offer on the next page. This form of meditation can be done wherever we find ourselves. The key is taking time-out from all else that is going on around us. Doing so will remind us of the Primacy of Love and how important it is to remember that Jesus calls us to be a Community of Love, reaching out beyond our selves to a world that seeks to be loved!

Yours in Christ

Fr. Kirk Alan Kubicek, Priest in Charge

Bethany Boardwalk 1 - 06/25

SILENCE

when that space
between waves opens up
a silence
a state of mind
an environment
that does not grasp
or reject anything
stillness
a sense of emptiness
not filling the space allows
the possibility
to connect with
unconditional openness
the very home of Love
of God
of All
and Nothing at all
until the next wave crashes
then another
as you wait
for that space
that silence
to open the stillness
once more

CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY MINUTES
May 21 2025, 7 PM Virtual Meeting Via Zoom



Attendance: Fr. Kirk, Molly Neal, Tony Davis, Leslie Amtmann, Lyn Edmunds, Rick Baker, Kate Davis, Peggy Reel

Meeting began at 7:05 PM, with a prayer from J. P. Newell.

Fr. Kirk announced that Justin Davis, son of Tony and Kate Davis, was awarded the Joan Hickey Kelly Memorial Scholarship by Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Rev. Kelly (d. 2019) served as Deacon at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Congratulations to Justin!

April minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report given by Peggy Reel, in Jane O'Leary's absence. Member contributions are at 96% of budget, while operating income is at 80% of budget, and expenses are at 104% of budget. Treasurer made the first budgeted prudent withdrawal of \$3352 from operations funds to meet expenses; this is all we will take from operating funds. The budgeted amount permitted for withdrawal from the Cemetery Funds will be withdrawn only as needed. Current cash balance continues to reflect the insurance claim funds which will pay for the Parish Hall doors.

Peggy shared that member Bonnie Klein has been serving in an assistant treasurer's role working under Jane's supervision, making weekly deposits, preparing checks for approved payment, and exploring use of on-line bill payment. It is hoped that Bonnie may be able to eventually assume the role of parish Treasurer and become a signer on the Harford Bank Account. **A motion was made and passed to approve the role of Bonnie as Assistant Treasurer.**

Finance Committee: Meetings focus on ideas for generating income. Committee will meet with Canon K. Lindh-Paine on June 8th, when he is celebrant at Sunday service, to discuss how to use property assets to generate income and engage community. The audit team (Kate, Rick, Peggy) will begin meeting this Sunday in order to have audit completed by 9/1/2025 deadline.

Cemetery: Leslie reports memorial plaques were placed at most recent interments. There will be an interment in the cremains garden on June 25th. Leslie has "fine tuned" the list of Veterans' graves, adding Section, Row, and Grave # to be used for flag placement on Memorial Day. She plans to add the name at beginning of each row as a further guide, and provide a copy for each section. The Memorial Day service begins at 9 am on May 26th.

Rector: Fr. Kirk is winding up a recent series of meetings with clergy and a conference with Bishop Carrie where issues re: regional structure of diocese were discussed. We are in the Harford Region, which could be expanded to include nearby parishes, e.g., Kingsville, Monkton, Glyndon. The Bishop mentioned that Claggett Center running at a significant deficit, reflecting its history of management as a separate entity vs. part of the Diocese of Maryland.

Fr. Kirk notes the importance of bringing this situation to light, and the need for restructuring. Turmoil in the Diocese of Easton was also addressed (e.g., resignation of Bishop; history of splitting off from Diocese of MD during Civil War). Also discussed was a more recent history of “bullying” in some congregations, one particularly litigious person who creates turmoil over time. Based on discussion with Bishop, Fr. Kirk recommends that if that person were to appear at CC, we would first try to resolve any resulting conflict on our own, knowing the Diocese stands ready to assist if needed. There is also concern about rising “Christian Nationalism.”

That said, we are encouraged to read and reflect on the **Diocese’s Vision: A Community of Love, a collective vision of fluid Assumptions, Values and Behaviors**. Three ways to look at community behavior, a foundation to fully incorporate people into parish life.

Also discussed was maintaining integrity of our Live-Streamed Services given the expanding use of Artificial Intelligence (e.g., to compose sermons) and seemingly limitless boundaries of streaming. As Fr. Kirk states, “This is not your grandfather’s Episcopal Church.”

Senior Warden: Holy week services were well attended, with 15 people at Good Friday, and 34 on Easter. Earth Day, Ladies Tea also very well attended. CC hosted a private wedding, with MJ Parrish assisting the couple. A ballet dance group is interested in leasing the Parish Hall. Molly is completing “Safe Church Training” to be a volunteer at “Harford Reading Camp,” a literacy program for children held at St. Mary’s Church, Emmorton.

ECW sponsors the **Little Food Pantry**, which is getting much use. To be more purposeful and share responsibility, the first Sunday of the month will be designated “**Blessing Box Sunday**,” to collect high protein, ready-to-eat foods from the congregation (during offering) to stock the pantry. Steward Christine Lane will provide a list of possible donations (e.g. soft packed tuna).

Donations to collect for Rummage Sale (June 14) has begun, using two Annex rooms. Molly will be away 6/5-6/10, asking Vestry to hold down the fort in her absence.

Junior Warden: Tony reports new Parish Hall doors will be ready in a week or so. He will remove the awning above the old door. Commemorative Plaque is installed above the Carillon.

Rock Spring Keepers: Earth Day (April 27th) very successful with meaningful service, festive coffee hour, Rainwater Recovery education, debut of three new rain barrels in the courtyard, a seed starting activity, and launch of the Watershed Stewards Capstone Project. Look for photos and article in the Chimes. The Raffle Basket and Lawn Mower raffle netted \$791. In the Pollinator Garden; those that didn’t survive winter will be replaced. Rogation Sunday is May 25, with blessing of the pollinator plants and plant giveaways.

Meeting ended at 8:10 with a prayer for inspiration and creativity, bless us in the night.
Next Vestry Meeting will be **Wednesday, June 18th, 2025**, at 7 pm via Zoom.

Submitted by Lyn Edmunds, Registrar



Visit from Rev. Cannon Father Kristofer Lindh-Payne



Kristofer Lindh-Payne

3d • 🌐

How wonderful it was to gather wjth the saints at Christ Church, Rock Spring in Harford County to celebrate the feast of Pentecost this morning! What a joy to serve alongside my sister, Deacon Jane O'Leary, in worship and then get to meet with some of their leaders to talk about finance, property, and mission as they ponder what the Holy Spirit might be calling them to do and be together. In gratitude to Fr. Kirk Kubicek for the invitation to come preach and preside, and from the bottom of my heart, I thank the faithful lay leaders of Christ Church for their hospitality and generosity. Tours of their polinator and rain barrel gardens and cemetery were beautiful examples of their care-filled stewardship. The quilt they gave me is a powerful visible reminder of how our lives are stitched together in this community of love in the [Episcopal Diocese of Maryland](#).



Visit from Rev. Cannon Father Kristofer Lindh-Payne (cont.)



Thanks for the Tea

On May 4th, 41 ladies (plus one fellow) enjoyed another Christ Church annual tea. This year's theme "Cherry Blossom Tea" was especially beautiful with all of the blossoms, accessories, and authentic items that parishioners brought in from their travels or deployments to Japan. We enjoyed the trivia questions, door prizes, 50-50, and just a chance to enjoy each other's company with a cup of hot tea. Thanks to Jack and Joe for keeping the water hot! Thanks to the ECW for organizing. P.S. The raffle basket was won by Renee Vesce - Congratulations!

Mary Jane Parrish



2025 ECW
Cherry Blossom Tea





Episcopal Church Women

The Christ Church Rummage Sale Was A Hit (Again)!

The Christ Church Rummage Sale was held on June 14th and it was another excellent sale! We lucked out with the weather despite some dire predictions and **over 500** people came through the hall over the course of the day. John's Backyard Beefstro (a good friend to Christ Church) was set up and ready to feed the masses...and they did, because they sold out by the end of the day! The early birds lined up for a 7:30 am entry before our 8:00 am start time. The lines stretched halfway down the parish hall as shoppers perused the bargains to be had. We again had a generous assortment of items from kitchen to linens, from tools to toys! Our color coded "dots" made shopping easy and we were able to tally the totals quickly while people were in line. It was fun to recognize faces from prior years and we were told by several people that, "we wouldn't miss it!" Our advertising and getting the word out on Facebook clearly worked...

The totals were in line with last year's sales, people had a good time, and we put Christ Church's name out in the community with many saying they'd be back next year!

A huge thank you to the Lane family for organizing and hauling things up from the basement. That is a lot of work and they help us so cheerfully! Molly and Ed tirelessly arranged the hall and made everything look appealing (which led to more sales)! Steve & Melinda did an amazing job of advertising the sale with signs and eye-catching flags which clearly made a big impact in attracting customers.

Thank you to **EVERY SINGLE PERSON** – everyone in the church did a piece and we couldn't have pulled it off without each and every one of you! Cleanup was easier this year too.... 😊 (maybe we're getting smarter, not sure)!



A generous donation to **World Central Kitchen** was made with funds from the Tip Jars.

Our small but mighty church showed off to the whole community and we couldn't be prouder! Until next year.... **Colleen**

Our Summer Lineup:

It's been a busy Rummage Season, so the ECW is taking a break from meeting in July for some well-deserved Rest & Relaxation!

JULY—no meeting planned



AUGUST 13—6:30 PM ECW DINNER MEETING AT FISHERMAN'S CATCH (FOREST HILL LANES)

Join us as we relax and review all we've accomplished this year!

Please RSVP to Colleen 410-925-5875 so we can save a spot for you!

ALL WOMEN OF CHRIST CHURCH ARE MEMBERS OF ECW!

YOUR INPUT, SUPPORT, ENERGY, AND INVOLVEMENT ARE APPRECIATED
WE THANK EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED DEDICATION AND HARD WORK!

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

2025 RUMMAGE SALE



KEEPERS' CORNER JULY 2025

The Rock Springs Keepers are enjoying a well-deserved summer break!

The members are still attending to the grounds, but there are no meetings.

Please enjoy the view of the developing Pollinator Garden!



Happy Birthday

Happy 80th birthday to Lynn Klein!



Congratulations

Congratulations to Justin Davis, son of Tony and Kate Davis, on his recent graduation from Bel Air High School. He was one of two valedictorians this year (a first for the school)! He was also a recipient of the Joan Hickey Kelly scholarship that was recently presented at Holy Trinity in Churchville by Father Joe Zollickoffer.

Justin is planning to pursue a degree in neuroscience at Columbia University.



2025



Casey Calder is the newest member of
Christ Episcopal Church!

Please be sure to introduce yourself to her
and make her feel welcome.

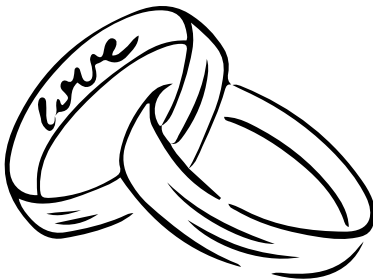


Congratulations

Melinda and Stephen Chase share
the happy news that their son
Connor recently married!

Connor and Heather celebrated
their vows in a civil ceremony.

Love rules!





Blessing Box Sundays

First Sunday of each month



Please bring
non-perishable,
high protein,
ready-to-eat food items
to be blessed
during the service
for the Little Food Pantry

*Christ Church ECW volunteers will refresh
the blessing box three times per week*

Christ Episcopal Church 2100 Rock Spring Road Forest Hill, MD 21050

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

ALL PANTRY ITEMS MUST BE: SHELF STABLE (NON-PERISHABLE), SEALED, ABLE TO WITHSTAND

HIGH TEMPERATURES, CANNOT CONTAIN ALCOHOL

Recommended Foods

Individual Serving Sizes Recommended

PROTEINS	GRAINS & CARBS
Canned meats: Chicken, Ham, Spam, Corned Beef (pop-top cans)	Rice: instant or pre-cooked
Fish (canned/packed): Tuna, salmon, sardines (pop-top cans)	Ramen Soup Packs
Nut/Seed Butter: peanut, almond sunflower. Assorted Nut Mixes.	Trail Mixes
Shelf-stable Cheeses: parmesan, cheese spreads (might not be great for summer)	Cereal & Granola: individual packages/boxes
Jerky: mushroom, beef, turkey	Pretzels
Beans: canned (pop-top cans)	Cereal Bars & Granola Bars
Protein Bars & Drinks	Crackers
OTHER	NON-FOOD ITEMS
Apple Sauce Cups	Baby Wipes
Dried Fruit or Fruit Cups	Shampoo & Conditioner
Chips (single serve)	Feminine Hygiene Products
Cookies (small/individual packs)	Dental Care Products
Canned Chili	Hand Sanitizer, Body Wash, or Soap
Ready meals (Campbell's, Spaghetti O's)	Sunblock
Jelly/Preserves	Deodorant



Christ Church continues to operate on a deficit. It is critical that we recognize this hardship and find ways to cut expenses and/or increase income. As difficult as it may be, eliminating certain items from our budget might be the only way to continue operations at some point in the future. This is just a reminder to everyone of the reality of our shared financial condition and to encourage everyone to consider solutions.

Following the June 8 service where he presided, Canon Kristofer Lindh-Payne, Canon for Leadership on the Bishop's staff, met with the Finance Committee. Since the Finance Committee first began exploring ideas for closing the ever-present parish budget gap, we have wondered how/if existing under-used space (e.g., the Annex, the kitchen) might generate income for the parish while at the same time serving needs of the greater community in an outward-facing mission. Canon Kristofer shared his experience and wisdom from his work with other churches in the Diocese where this approach has been successful. He recommended that as a first step, the parish would engage in an asset mapping activity to identify Christ Church's reach in the community, unmet community needs, and possible relational partners. With Vestry approval, we are identifying a date in September to invite Canon Kristofer to visit Christ Church after worship to begin this important first step.

JUNE DONATIONS:

\$7,194.00

WE NEED \$2,000 EACH WEEK
TO MEET OUR EXPENSES.



WAYS TO GIVE?
THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

Please include your parishioner number on your envelope and check.
This helps ensure the accuracy of our records.

IF YOU NEED ENVELOPES OR HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR GIVING STATEMENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.

- Place your envelope in the collection plate on Sunday
- Mail your offering to:
Christ Church
PO BOX 215
Forest Hill, MD 21050
- Make an online offering using PayPal



scan here

let us celebrate



July Birthdays

- 1 Leslie Amtmann
- 4 Phil Klein Sr.
- 5 Mary Jane Parrish
- 10 Blake Gude
- 11 David Fender
- 16 David Martell
- 21 Danette Moss
- 22 Angela Hoover

July Anniversaries

- 2 Angela & Christopher Hoover
- 2 Rose & Jeff Eatoni
- 22 Drew & Leah Lane



Let Us Pray



For those who are sick, in any kind of need or difficulty, especially:
For the residents of Harford Family House; For refugees worldwide
desperately seeking safety; For those who suffer because of any
humanitarian crises, especially those created by the war in Ukraine and the
escalating climate crisis; 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.

For those on the prayer list: Sue Sampson, Linda Michel, Dave Fender, Lyn
Edmunds, Ken, Bill Mundy, Alice Richardson, Chris Martin, Kathryn B., Jonathan
Miller, Will, Rick Baker, John S., and Todd.

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

Glassell & Betty Parker, Lynn Klein, Hazel Borkowski

Christ Church Prayer List

If there is a name that you would like added to the list for prayerful support, please contact the
parish office, or feel free to drop a note onto the collection plate on Sundays.
Names will remain on the Prayer List in our weekly bulletin and monthly Chimes
for 4 weeks unless otherwise requested.



Christ Church



ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THE FOLLOWING DEDICATIONS IN 2025:

PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU WOULD LIKE TO PICK UP THE FLOWERS AFTER DEDICATION DATE OR LEAVE FOR CHURCH USE.

ORDER DATE	DEDICATION 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)

☐ CASH ☐ CHECK MADE PAYBALE TO CHRIST CHURCH ROCK SPRING ☐ PAYMENT INCLUDED ☐ WILL SEND

SHOULD YOU WISH TO PICK UP THE FLOWERS, PLEASE DO SO AFTER SERVICES ON THE 2ND WEEK OF FLOWER DELIVERY.
(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR OR A MEMBER OF THE ALTAR GUILD.)

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE OFFICE OR PLACE IN THE OFFERTORY PLATE.

JULY 2025

Upcoming:

Aut. 13th - ECW Dinner at Fisherman's Catch

Sept. 1st - Audit Due to Diocese

Sept. 7th - Visit from Canon Kristofer

October 13th - Next Red Cross blood drive

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	No ECW Meeting No RSK Meeting	1	2	3	4 	5
6 9:45  Blessing Box Sundays <i>First Sunday of each month</i>	7	8	9	10	11	12
A.G. - MJ Read - MJ Chalice - Molly						
13 9:45 Fr. Larrie Smith	14	15	16	17	18	19
A.G. - Janet Read - Bonnie Chalice - Christine						
20 9:45	21	22	23  Vestry Meeting 7 PM (Zoom)	24	25	26
A.G. - Molly Read - Molly Chalice - Lois						
27 9:45	28	29	30	31		
A.G. - Melinda Read - Melinda Chalice - Kate						
			The Finance Committee meeting is NOT a firm date monthly The ECW meeting is routinely the 2nd Wednesday monthly The Vestry meeting is routinely the 3rd Wednesday monthly The Rock Spring Keepers is routinely the 4th Thursday monthly			

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	AA - Mon Night Raw 7:30-8:30	10am Quilters (annex) Jacki's Aerobics 6:50-8:00pm		Jacki's Aerobics 6:50-8:00pm	Unity thru Wellness 4:30-5:30pm AA- Fri Night Group 6:30-8:00p	AA- New Beginnings 9:00-11:00am
Jackie's Aerobics Summer Session: Tues/Thurs: 6/16 - 8/29						