

AUGUST 2025

THE CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST CHURCH ROCK SPRING PARISH



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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P.O. Box 215
Forest Hill, MD 21050

410-838-6606

christchrsp@gmail.com

www.christchurchforesthill.org

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



PRIEST IN CHARGE: AUGUST 2025

Dear Beloved in Christ,

As Summer 2025 continues to be one of the hottest in modern record, let's not forget our summer-time motto: **Warm Hearts/Cool Worship!** Enjoy a morning of air-conditioned Cool Worship to get away from the heat. We sing, we pray, we shared in Christ's Holy Communion, and most of all we enjoy being with one another in the Cool Beauty of our history 1805 worship space! But that's not all! The now fully air-conditioned Parish Hall is where we gather after our Cool Worship for delicious snacks and fellowship with one another. Let all your friends and family know about the coolest place in Forest Hill on Sunday mornings.

And if they are not attracted by the coolness, they may be interested in seeing our **Monarch Butterfly Waystation and Pollinator Garden** which is already in bloom and attracting traveling visitors. It is a protected sanctuary for migrating and local pollinators to have a safe space from predators and relax in beautiful Harford County. Those friends and family may also be interested to see our **Rain Garden**, recently planted with native species, and designed to filter rain run-off before it travels down the hill to the Rock Spring. The run-off is also slowed down by entering three rain barrels, and the water collected in the rain barrels is used to water the Rain Garden on sunny, warm, and dry days.

A Date to Remember: Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 7th when The Reverend Canon Dr. Kristofer Lindh-Payne, Canon to the Ordinary for Leadership, will once again visit Christ Church as our Guest Preacher. *After church, Canon Kristofer will meet with all of us, the whole congregation, to lead us in an exercise of Asset Mapping as a first-step in imagining how under-utilized property and building assets might be used to generate income for the parish while at the same time serving needs of the greater community in an outward-facing mission.* We are asking everyone to make Sunday, September 7th a priority day for us all to join with Canon Kristofer in this first-step we hope will be one part of an overall strategy to secure the future of our historic 1805 parish so that we might continue to bring the Love of Christ to the greater Forest Hill and Harford County community!

Yours in Christ

Fr. Kirk Alan Kubicek, Priest in Charge

Fr. Kirk's Poetry Corner

During the nearly two years of Noonday Prayer live streamed while we were sheltered due to Covid, we listened to poetry nearly five days a week. This month I want to share a couple of poems by the Anglican Priest and Poet, George Herbert (1593-1633). Born to a politically-active family during the tempestuous reigns of James I and Charles I, Herbert rejected a promising career as a member of Parliament to be a simple country parson. Here are two of the many poems he wrote amidst his busy pastoral and worship duties.

Love (III)

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back
 Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
 If I lack'd anything.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:
 Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah dear,
 I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
 Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame
 Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
 My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat
 So I did sit and eat.

The Call

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
And such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, a joys in Love.

CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY MINUTES
June 18 2025, 7 PM Virtual Meeting Via Zoom



Attendance: Fr. Kirk, Molly Neal, Jane O’Leary, Leslie Amtmann, Janet Clifton, Lyn Edmunds, Peggy Reel, Lois Tidey

Meeting opened at 7:05 with prayer for restoration. Minutes were accepted with one correction.

Treasurer: For the period ending 5/31/2025, we are reaching the point where assets do not meet expenses. After remaining expenses are paid, cash will be depleted. Member contributions are at 94.3% of budget. Net operating expenses are at 97% of budget. Net operating income is at 83.6% of budget. We will have to find additional cash as we enter the second half of the year. Prudent withdrawal from Cemetery Fund will help. May also expect some help from Rummage Sale Proceeds.

Finance Committee: Peggy reports that CC continues to operate on a deficit, resulting in need to reduce expenses and increase income. It may be necessary to remove items from the budget.

Following the June 8th service, committee met with the Rev. Canon Kristofer Lindh-Paine to discuss options for generating revenue for CC. Suggestions resulting from this “useful and rewarding” meeting were (1) Using underused space to serve community needs; and (2) Engaging in an “asset mapping” experience to see where community needs might be. Committee plans to invite Canon Kristofer to further explore asset mapping following a service in early September prior to the Annual Meeting.

Annual Audit: Kate Davis and Peggy Reel have begun the audit process by meeting and dividing tasks. Committee will meet again after July 4th.

Senior Warden: Molly commended the lovely Memorial Day Service, with 20-25 attendees, a solemn, respectful and moving service. The church bell tolled as the names of Veterans buried in the cemetery were read. Fr. Kirk finds reading aloud Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address amplifies the eloquence and continuing relevance of that speech from year to year. “The words reverberate within you,” he says.

Rummage sale (6/14/2025) was very successful. More than 500 visitors (possibly 800), proceeds over \$3000 so far. Leftover items to be sold online and at auction. AMVETS to pick up unsold items. Many comments re how well sale was organized and managed.

The dance group seeking to use the parish hall did not respond after initially expressing interest.

Rector: Fr. Kirk has been visiting Alice Richardson, Debbie Senes' sister, at both hospital and rehab settings as her treatment progresses. Fr. Kirk is working closely with Renee (Parish Administrator) to revamp the bulletin as the church calendar transitions from Easter to "The Long Green Season" of Pentecost.

Fr. Kirk will be away June 28-July 5th. Fr. Larrie will cover June 29th. For the three Sundays that Robert Hitz (Music Dir.) will be away, Fr. Kirk and Leslie will lead music.

People appreciate seeing the music scores in the service bulletin. Another music source for our use, is Wonder, Love and Praise, A Supplement to the Hymnal 1982, published by The Episcopal Church, 1997, John L. Hooker, Ed.

Junior Warden: Molly (reporting in Tony's absence) notes that Tony removed the back door "awning" on the Parish Hall, in preparation for installation of new doors. Tony is still awaiting notice that the custom doors are ready to be installed.

Rock Spring Keepers: Melinda Chase and her team have laid stepping stones and planted perennial native plants in the courtyard conservation bed. Rain barrels are doing a great job storing and diverting run-off water (watering cans between barrels can be used to water plantings around the property). Pollinator garden is getting insect, avian, and human visitors. Dead plants have been replaced.

Cemetery: There will be an interment in the Urn Garden on June 25th.

Vestry extends condolences to Rick Baker and family on the recent death of Rick's wife, Gwendolyn (Wendy) Baker.

The meeting closed at 7:50 pm with a prayer for rest, renewal, and truth. The next Vestry meeting will be July 16, 2025, at 7 PM via Zoom.

Submitted by,
Lyn Edmunds, Registrar



Episcopal Church Women



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

COME HANG WITH US! AUGUST 9 —11 AM

ECW purchased new valances for the Parish Hall windows and will meet today to install them. Whether you enjoy climbing a ladder or not, we have a task for you!

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!



ECW Meetings are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month. After our summer break, we will resume business meetings on SEPTEMBER 10—7 PM in the Annex Our meetings are open to all women of Christ Church and we'd be happy to have you join us to share your ideas and energy!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

EVEN WITH A SUMMER BREAK FROM REGULAR MEETINGS, WE ARE STILL KEEPING A FINGER ON THE PULSE OF UPCOMING EVENTS AT CHRIST CHURCH!

SEPTEMBER 7— CANON KRISTOFER LINDH-PAYNE VISIT

We will extend our hospitality with a FESTIVE COFFEE HOUR

SEPTEMBER 13 — 11AM KITCHEN CLEAN UP

We'll be making a clean sweep of the kitchen and all elbow grease is welcome—the more the merrier!

SEPTEMBER 20— 11 AM SET-UP FOR HOMECOMING SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 21— HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Potluck Luncheon organized by ECW

ECW will once again be making a monetary donation to **The Harford County Education Foundation** in support of their **Tools for Schools** initiative to help county students get off to their best start as they begin the new school year! Learn about the impact our support makes at:

<https://harfordeducation.org/about/what-we-do/>

Your monetary contribution can be made at <https://harfordeducation.org/donations/> or you may take school supplies to one of their collection spots around the county, including all branches of the Harford County Public Library.



READING CAMP HARFORD - A BISHOP'S APPEAL PROJECT



St John's Episcopal Church

Posted by Renee Vesce

6h • 🌐

We are excited to partner with sister parishes this week in volunteering for the Harford Reading Camp! [St John's Episcopal Church](#) has two teachers, a teen counselor, and two students at the camp.

[St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Abingdon](#) is our wonderful host. We are grateful for their months of planning and preparation. There are volunteers from [Christ Church Forest Hill](#), [Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Churchville](#), and [Emmanuel Episcopal Church](#) all working to make this special week of fun and interactive reading instruction happen!



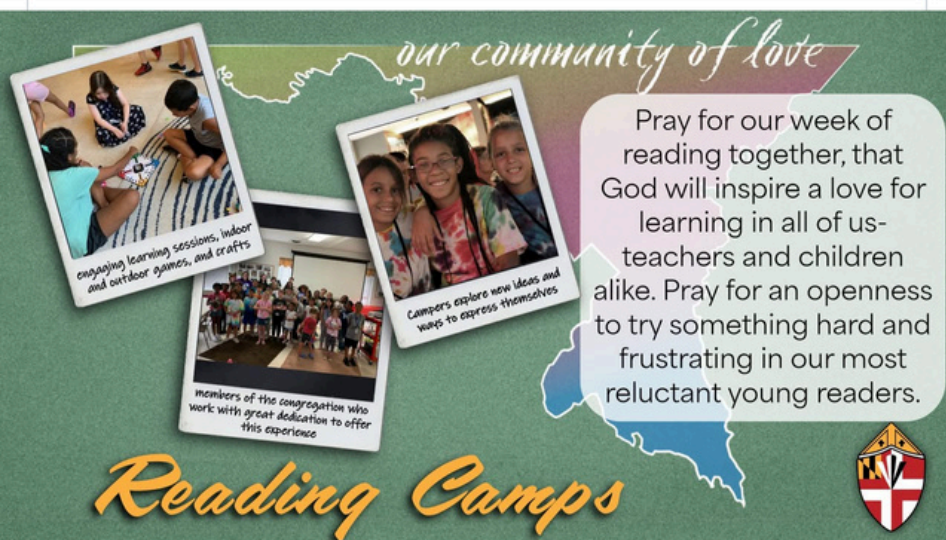
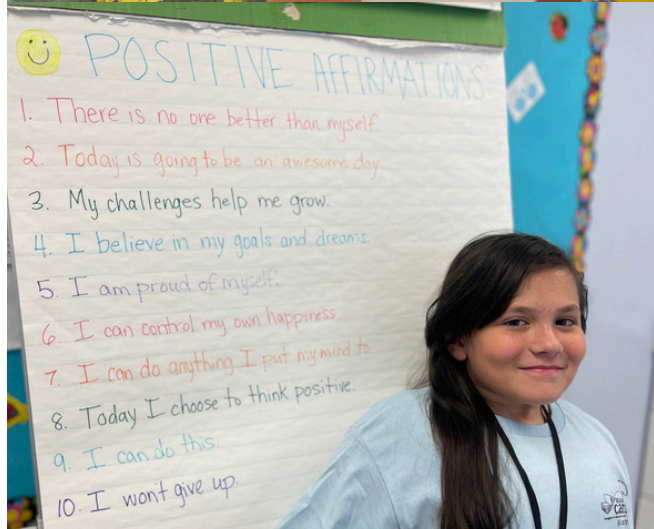
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

1d • 🌐

The 6th year of Reading Camp Harford 2025 begins today! We are ready to welcome 26 young readers and 15 teen reading counselors today!

Pray for our week of reading together, that God will inspire a love for learning in all of us- teachers and children alike. Pray for an openness to try something hard and frustrating in our most reluctant young readers.

Harford County organizing congregations include Bel Air, Abingdon, Holy Trinity, and St. John's. Bishop's Appeal contributors offer financial support for this worthy week of learning.





KEEPERS' CORNER

AUGUST 2025

Distinguished Visitors to Pollinator Garden!

In July, we welcomed two distinguished visitors to the Christ Church pollinator garden. Mary Jane Shanks, sister of Janet Clifton and member of Immanuel Episcopal Church's (Glencoe) Green Team, Monarchs of the Glen, stopped in to check out our garden. She spotted a monarch caterpillar on a milkweed plant! Such a joy to behold!

Larva Low-down

Striped in bands of yellow, black and white, Monarch caterpillars eat voraciously, growing several inches in a few weeks. As larva, caterpillars grow through five stages or *instars*. After the 5th instar, the larva becomes a chrysalis. While growing, the Monarch larva sheds its outer *exoskeleton*, a process called molting. The caterpillar breathes through tiny holes, or *spiracles*, on the sides of their bodies. Oxygen is carried through the body by a series of tubes called *trachea*. Like all insects, caterpillars have six "true" legs, but the caterpillar also has sets of "false" legs with sticky hooks called *crochets*. Crochets help the caterpillar to crawl and eat while hanging upside down.

In the final stage, the Monarch caterpillar will spin a silk button, which becomes the green pupa, or chrysalis, to which the larva attaches and hangs. After a period of "hanging around," the larva wiggles to shed the silk skin, and the adult Monarch emerges. The entire life cycle, from egg, to caterpillar, to chrysalis, to butterfly, takes about two weeks.

Thanks to Mary Jane Shanks for her sharp eyes! Monarchs have arrived!

Fun Facts:

Winston Churchill and writer, Vladimir Nabokov were amateur lepidopterists (they studied and raised butterflies). Nabokov is credited with studying the migration of the rare *Karner Blue*, and in 1944, of documenting the first sighting of this rare butterfly which lives in the northeastern US.

By Lyn Edmunds, July 2025



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

A recent stroll around the Christ Church campus reveals a well loved and cared for campus. The wet Spring growing season has the various gardens, shrubs, trees and grass growing at a rate that's hard to keep up with.

Our many small adopted gardens are still blooming and look beautiful. This is in large part because of your care this past Spring and the wet weather. Looking forward, now is a good time to visit your garden and think about what it needs. Weeding? Which plants need summer pruning, which don't? What plants will need split in the fall? Every little bit we do to keep our gardens beautified contributes to the lovely appearance at Christ Church, and, it saves us from having to spend money on landscaping.

A few reminders as we attend to our gardens;

- If you trim and prune, all the cuttings should be taken to the marked compost area behind the parish hall. The RSK green team asks that you no longer throw debris over the banks.
- If your garden needs water, the water in any of the 4 rain barrels is available for your use. Please return the watering cans if you use them.
- If you find you cannot tend to your designated garden, please ask for some help rather than let it get overgrown.

Many thanks for your care of the Rock Spring Parish property.

Molly

From the Cemetery Warden

Many thanks to Christine Lane for helping to beautify the Cremains Garden prior to inurnment for the Rittenhouse family in June, and to Molly Neal, Casey Calder, Ed Neal, and Rob Lane for trimming low branches from trees to facilitate mowing in those areas. Your help in keeping the Cemetery clean and attractive is greatly appreciated.

Leslie Amtmann



RSK JULY ROAD CLEANUP



Janet and Fr. Larry were the Rock Spring Church Road Cleanup crew.
They commented at how little trash was found.
Wonderful news!



“Thank you to all my church friends who sent prayers and ‘well wishes’ for my recent surgery. Thank you for all the cards and food also. See you all soon.”

Mary Jane Parrish



Summer Family Adventures

The Davis family (Kate, Tony, Justin, and Tyler) traveled to Mt. Rainier and Olympic National Parks in June.

It was a very scenic and adventurous trip!





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



In spite of efforts to increase income and cut expenses over the past several years, Christ Church continues to operate on a deficit budget. The Finance Committee will soon begin to look at how to avoid a deficit budget in the coming year by, e.g., eliminating operational expense line items/programs or recommending the use of additional funds from the Operations Endowment.

The Audit Committee, which includes Kate Davis, Peggy Reel, and Rick Baker, is in the process of wrapping up their work and expect to present the annual audit results at the August meeting of the Vestry.

We invite the entire congregation to mark **Sunday, September 7th** on their calendars. Canon Kristofer Lindh-Payne, the Canon for Leadership on the Bishop's staff who visited Christ Church on June 8, will be back to deliver the sermon and meet with us after worship. He will engage us in considering Christ Church's reach in the community, unmet community needs, and possible relational partners. This is a first step in identifying a way to generate income for Christ Church while also serving the needs of the greater community.

JULY DONATIONS:

\$5,745.00

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



August Birthdays

3 Taylor Clayton
6 Janet Clifton
16 Justin Davis
17 Christopher Hoover
20 Autumn Neal
21 Colleen Murphy
22 Marley Copes
23 Kirsten Lane
24 Viviana Kidd
26 Tammy Borkowski
27 Melinda Chase
31 Molly Neal

August Anniversaries

31 Kate & Tony Davis



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, and John S..

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.

Sept. 20th - 11am Set up for Homecoming Sunday
Sept. 21st - Homecoming Sunday Potluck Luncheon
October 18th - Next Red Cross blood drive

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