

SEPTEMBER 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 Vesci

2100 Rock Spring Rd.
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: SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear Beloved in Christ,

A few crisp mornings hint at Autumn not being too far in the future as we begin the transition out of Summer's hottest days. Although Autumn is the time during which all things living on Earth begin their Winter's sleep, or ending this cycle of life, in Church life, it is almost like a New Spring – people and programs that have been “on vacation” reappear and start up again.

This year there is a new twist: All Hands on Deck! Sunday, September 7 we will welcome The Reverend Canon Dr. Kristofer Lindh-Payne, Canon to the Ordinary for Leadership, who will once again be our guest preacher. Following the service, we will all gather in the Parish Hall (with its brand-new doors!) where he will lead us in an exercise to identify our parish assets with an eye toward how the gifts we have will lead us to grow, or re-birth, Rock Spring Parish. We are fortunate to have the leadership of Cannon Kristofer, and the exercise will be successful relative to how many of us can be on hand to participate.

Then on Sunday, September 21, we will celebrate our annual Homecoming Sunday with yet another after-church gathering in the Parish Hall with one of our famous Pot Luck Luncheons, and an opportunity to tour the Rain Garden, the Monarch Waystation, and hear about the ongoing work of the Rock Spring Keepers as they continue to work on ways in which we can protect the waters of the Rock Spring, and in doing so, add to the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. We can now proudly call ourselves a Green Parish, thanks to the work of The Keepers and volunteers from throughout the parish as we steadily eliminate non-native invasive plants, and create a safe watershed for the Mid-Atlantic's most treasured asset, the Chesapeake Bay.

Like the Monarch Waystation, Christ Church Rock Spring Parish is alive! For we are all Alive in Christ! We are his Body in the world, caring for creation and one another on a daily basis. The Lord has richly blessed us as we continue to grow in our stewardship of the Earth and our stewardship of our historic 1805 Parish Church. There are always new ways to be stewards of all good gifts which the Lord has entrusted to our care!

Yours in Christ

Fr. Kirk Alan Kubicek, Priest in Charge

Father Kirk's Poetry Corner

As we continue to discover the wealth of spiritual poetry in the life of the Church Universal, here is an offering from Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179). Born to a noble German family, at the age of 14 she chose the life of an anchorite (Christian hermit). At the age of 43 she became the abbess of a community near Bingen, Saint Rupert's Monastery. She was known for her book of visions; for her prodigious correspondence with others; for the music and chants she composed; and for her two books of natural history. Hildegard was a Renaissance woman some 400 years before the Renaissance! Her voice will last forever. In this poem, it falls like a stream from one image to the next and showers upon us the benediction of the Holy Spirit, who dissolves our mistakes and washes us clean; who wakens us from the sleep of the Ages!

Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit,
giving life to all life,
moving all creatures,
root of all things,
washing them clean,
wiping out their mistakes,
healing their wounds,
you are our true life,
luminous, wonderful,
awakening the heart
from its ancient sleep.

CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY MINUTES



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

Meeting opened at 7:05 with prayer. Minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer: For the period ending June 30, 2025, we are operating with a \$700 deficit. Member contributions are at 97% of budget, Operating income is at 85% of budget. Year-to-date expenses are at 98% of budget. Increased expenses correlate with increased electric bills. We need to look at how we will close the gap between income and expense. A prudent withdrawal of \$3,200 has been made from Cemetery Funds, Cash is needed to pay for custom doors purchased for the Parish Hall.

Jane reports she and Bonnie Klein, Assistant Treasurer, are working well together. Duties of depositing funds and paying expenses have been divided, with Bonnie making deposits, and Jane paying bills and entering transactions in Quickbooks. In efforts to cut expenses, Bonnie is looking at Payroll services which might be less costly than our present service, ADP.

Finance Committee: Peggy and Kate met in July and reviewed progress on completing preliminary audit tasks. Kate is getting questions answered in-house and will report to Vestry in August. Canon Kristofer agreed to return to CC on September 7th, when he will preach (but not preside), and meet with congregation during fellowship time. Canon Kristofer has experience with helping parishes meet needs of income while serving the community. Finance Committee will meet again in early August.

Cemetery: Leslie reports that interment for Rittenhouse family went well. Christine Lane has requested that two “volunteer” trees be removed from cemetery due to concern about upending effects on nearby grave markers. The trees have been trimmed, but will be removed along with several others. Mowers have asked that low-hanging tree canopies be trimmed to allow for mowing under the trees. In-house volunteer trimming would be preferable to hiring a tree service. Molly and Casey trimmed this past Sunday.

Rector: Fr. Kirk was on vacation and performing during the past month He and several musicians have donated their fees to CC (much appreciated, thank you!). During two August absences of Music Director Robert Hitz, Fr. Kirk, Rick Baker, and the Choir will lead a “Guitar Mass.” P. A. Renee has asked that music groups (i.e., Robert) submit all music by the Monday morning before the service.

Senior Warden: Molly reports the receipt of an unrestricted bequest of \$46,000 from the estate of Patricia Rorhman, to be deposited in the Operations Fund Investment. We are most thankful for Ms. Pat’s generosity and love for Christ Church.

From July 28 to August 1, Molly and Renee will be participating in the Harford County Reading Camp at St. Mary’s Church, Emmorton.

Junior Warden: The Parish Hall door delay is due to incorrect framing, which required doors be returned for correction. Tony expects doors to arrive in the next two weeks, with installation in early August. Recent rains have filled the rain barrels and overrun the downspouts, causing disturbance of mulch and beds from run-off.

Molly asks everyone to be aware of and report any storm related damage.

Rock Spring Keepers: Lyn notes the Robert Hitz concert July 20th to benefit the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Information at **roberthitz.com**. A monarch caterpillar has been spotted on the milkweed in the pollinator garden! The rain barrels are working well, and the courtyard conservation planting looks lovely.

Meeting closed at 7:40 with a prayer for glory and peace on Earth.

Next Vestry meeting will be Wednesday, August 20th, at 7 PM via Zoom.

Submitted by,
Lyn Edmunds, Registrar



Episcopal Church Women



On August 13, the ECW gathered for its year end dinner at Fisherman's Catch in Forest Hill. We enjoyed each other's company as we recapped some of the work/events we did this past year and a good time was had by all! If you missed it, you'll want to be sure to be there next year!

Agenda

BACK TO BUSINESS! After taking a summer break, ECW will resume meeting on the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of the month in the Annex Music Room. Please join us to share your ideas and energy!

SEPTEMBER 10 AT 7 PM

OCTOBER 8 AT 7 PM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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! Bring your elbow grease and any favorite cleaning tools.

SEPTEMBER 20— 11 AM SET-UP FOR HOMECOMING SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 21— HOMECOMING SUNDAY

What would Homecoming Sunday at Christ Church be without a Potluck Luncheon? We have no idea—ours are always EPIC!!! Look for signup sheets in the parish hall and church vestibule to let us know what you plan to bring.

OCTOBER 21— JARRETTSVILLE CREAMERY FUNDRAISER



ECW made our annual 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! If you are looking for ways that you too can support this cause, Stuff the Bus collection sites are located throughout the county to accept donations of supplies until

September 14. The Foundation also appreciates monetary donations so that they can purchase what is most needed. Donate online at:

<https://www.harfordeducation.org/o/edfoundation/page/school-supplies-resources>

**All women of
Christ Church
are automatically
members of ECW!
YOUR IDEAS ARE
WELCOME!**



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



*On August 13, the ECW gathered for its year end dinner at Fisherman's Catch in Forest Hill. We enjoyed each other's company as we recapped some of the work/events we did this past year and a good time was had by all! If you missed it, you'll want to be sure to be there next year! (**apologies for the grainy photo**)*



Back to School! Harford County Public Schools begin on Tuesday, September 2nd. Adele Vesci, daughter of Parish Administrator Renee Vesci, has been a "helper" this summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She has scrubbed some of the playground equipment, delivered bulletin copies, and been the weigher-of-stretch-plastic (406 pounds collected so far)!

May all of our students have a blessed and safe school year.



CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION
CHRIST CHURCH, ROCK SPRING PARISH
FOREST HILL, MD

KEEPERS' CORNER SEPTEMBER 2025

MONARCH MADNESS

Between the conservation planting in the courtyard and the Monarch Way Station pollinator garden, Christ Church is host to huge numbers of monarch caterpillars. Melinda counted 28 future monarch butterflies devouring the milkweed in the conservation bed (the one with the rain barrels). She also reports a number of chrysalides (plural of chrysalis) on the blue flag iris. More caterpillars were found in our Monarch Way Station, where the huge plants are providing good cover for the chrysalis. Numerous moths and bees are enjoying the nectar on the colorful zinnias that Joy planted earlier this summer. We are thrilled with the success of these two gardens in their first year!

Monarchs typically only live three to four weeks. Those who will migrate, however, eat voraciously in late summer, and live up to nine months, enabling the long journey. Soon these Super-Monarchs, which scientists have termed the “Methuselah Generation,” will find their way to their winter home 3000 miles away in the mountainous area of Central Mexico, west of Mexico City. Migrating butterflies make this journey in colonies of about 20 million insects. Monarchs travel between 80-120 nautical miles per day, depending on wind and other weather conditions. The butterflies travel only by day, roosting overnight on trees.

The monarchs begin arriving in Mexico around mid-November, remaining in protected fir tree forests throughout the winter. By March, Monarch mating rituals are in full swing. The Methuselah butterflies and their shorter-lived offspring will begin the return to the United States and Canada in a staged relay which includes many generations of Monarchs. Though the Monarch great-great-grand-butterflies have never made the journey, they will return south next year using what is believed to be a genetically passed sense of direction.

Fun Fact: The word “mariposa” is Spanish for butterfly.



Laboring on Labor Day



Lyn and I adopted a plot in the cemetery a few years ago and took advantage of the holiday and the excellent gardening weather today to do some tidying up. What adult doesn't "labor" on Labor Day? It was a labor of love and a great way for us to multitask, catching up with each other's lives as we hauled dead wood and weeds down to the compost pile.

Joy Mayfield

CALL for VOLUNTEERS



Saturday - September 13, 2025 at 11am

Christ Church - Parish Hall - Kitchen Clean Up!

We'll be making a clean sweep of the kitchen!

Bring your elbow grease and any favorite cleaning tools.

Can you help?
RSVP to Molly Neal
410-652-4502
rosie4us2@yahoo.com



Get ready for the return of the

“CLOSE THE BUDGET GAP”



Ticket sales to begin Sunday, Sept. 28th.
Winning ticket to be drawn Sunday, November 2nd.
** More to follow in the October Chimes**



\$500 Cash Prize



Christ Church Parish Hall Improvements

Hello Friends of Christ Church,

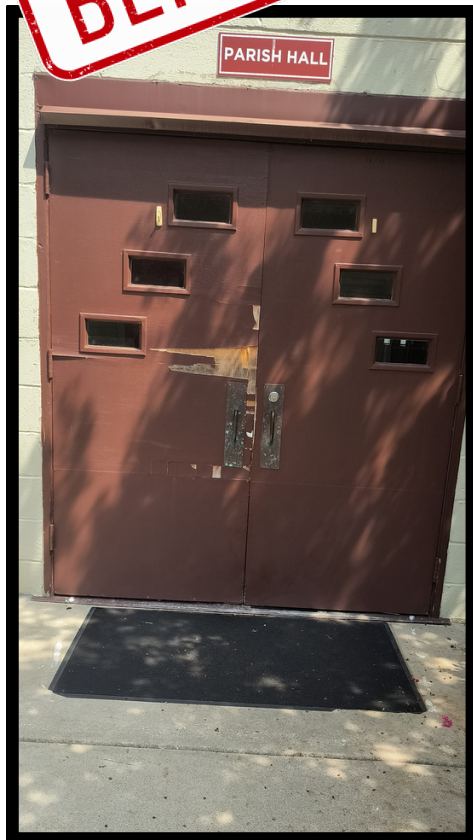
As you've all seen this past week we have several improvements around the Parish Hall. We were able to upgrade our ceiling fans to operate with remote control. This will save us from the headaches and expense of broken pull chains.

In addition, we were finally able to install the much needed new doors on the Parish Hall. In the weeks to come we will be painting the doors.

A few words about the two recent improvements. If you haven't used them yet, the remote controllers for the ceiling fans are in a marked box near the coffee station. Each fan has it's individually numbered controller. They are easy to operate. If you do use the fans, please be certain to turn them off before you leave and return the controllers to the box. Let me know if the batteries die in any one controller.

As for the doors, we no longer need to use the magnet to prop the door. If you need to have the door remain unlocked as your guests arrive, you'll need to set the door(s) to unlocked. As a reminder, when the AC is running, we prefer that you not prop the doors wide open. This is a big waste of energy.

BEFORE



AFTER



To unlock the latch on the new doors:

- From inside the hall, look at the door frame to the LEFT of the new doors. A small hex-wrench is hanging there. Remove the wrench.
- On the metal exit bar of each door you will see a small hole in the metal bar.
- Push in the exit bar.
- Insert the long end of the wrench into the hole as far as it will go.
- Turn the wrench to hold the bar in the unlocked position.
- If you've done this correctly, the latch will not operate and the door(s) will remain unlocked. People can come and go.
- Return the wrench to it's place on the door frame.
- When you are locking up after your session, always remember to relock the door. Do this by pushing in the exit bar, insert the wrench and turn the opposite way to release the latch. The door will now remain locked from the outside when closed.
- Return the wrench to it's storage location.

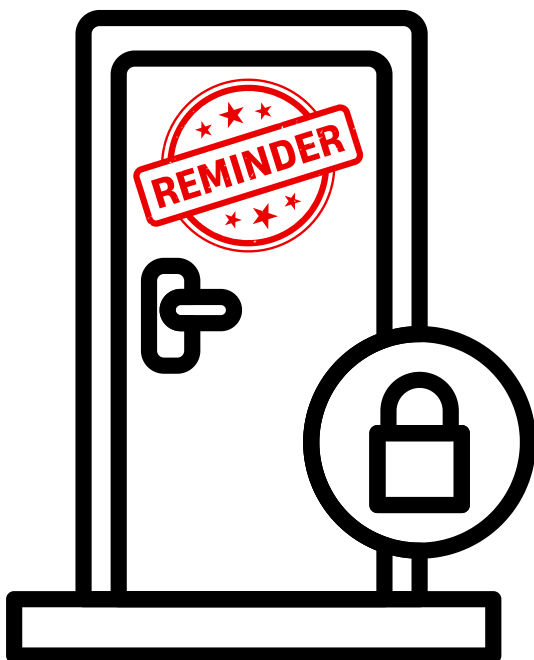
If we all do our part to follow these simple steps, we will all benefit. And, I won't be bothering you to ask about missing controllers or wrenches (not my favorite thing to do :-)

If you have any questions or difficulties, please let Tony or I know.

We are grateful to all our generous partners who are able to support this and all other improvements around our shared space. Please continue to donate when you can so our hall can continue to be used for our meeting space.

Blessing to you all,

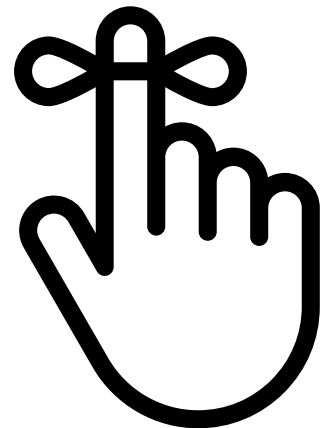
Molly Neal, Sr. Warden
Christ Church, Rock Spring Parish



Speaking of doors....

To keep the people, contents, and buildings of Christ Church safe, we all must be mindful of locking the door(s) behind us. It can be easy to forget, especially when we have tasks that take us in between the three buildings.

If you unlock it...it is your responsibility to lock it!



SAVE THE DATE

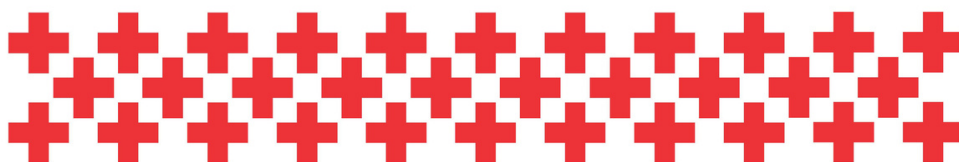
Monday - October 13, 2025

1:00pm - 6:00pm

*Appointments will be available for whole blood donations
as well as double red*

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive

**Christ Church Rock Spring
Parish Hall
2100 Rock Spring Rd
Forest Hill, MD 21050**



**On Tuesday, October 21st, join us for our
annual fundraiser at
Jarrettsville Creamery & Deli!**

Ten percent of the sales during 5 - 9pm will be
donated to Christ Church, so encourage your friends,
family, neighbors, and colleagues to come on out and
enjoy some great food and fellowship.

(Deli closes 30 minutes before closing time)

<https://www.jarrettsvillecreamery.com/>



1747 West Jarrettsville Rd.
Jarrettsville, MD 21084



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

Canned meats: Chicken, Ham, Spam, Corned Beef (pop-top cans)

Fish (canned/packed): Tuna, salmon, sardines (pop-top cans)

Nut/Seed Butter: peanut, almond, sunflower. Assorted Nut Mixes.

Shelf-stable Cheeses: parmesan, cheese spreads (might not be great for summer)

Jerky: mushroom, beef, turkey

Beans: canned (pop-top cans)

Protein Bars & Drinks

GRAINS & CARBS

Rice: instant or pre-cooked

Ramen Soup Packs

Trail Mixes

Cereal & Granola: individual packages/boxes

Pretzels

Cereal Bars & Granola Bars

Crackers

OTHER

Apple Sauce Cups

Dried Fruit or Fruit Cups

Chips (single serve)

Cookies (small/individual packs)

Canned Chili

Ready meals (Campbell's, Spaghetti O's)

Jelly/Preserves

NON-FOOD ITEMS

Baby Wipes

Shampoo & Conditioner

Feminine Hygiene Products

Dental Care Products

Hand Sanitizer, Body Wash, or Soap

Sunblock

Deodorant

The Audit Committee completed the annual audit and presented their report to Vestry on August 20. The audit found no concerning discrepancies or problems in the financial records or processes. With Vestry approval, the report will be filed with the Diocese before the September 1st deadline.

We urge everyone to attend worship on Sunday, September 7th, since 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.

After the success of our first "Close the Budget Gap Raffle" last year, we expect to launch ticket sales for the raffle again this fall, with the drawing of the winning ticket to be held on Sunday, November 3. We look forward to broad participation!

As we prepare to draft the budget for 2026, we will begin to look at how to avoid a deficit in the coming year by, e.g., eliminating operational expense line items/programs or recommending the use of additional funds from the Operations Reserve.



AUGUST DONATIONS:
\$8330.00

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



September Birthdays

- 9 Kincaid Lane
- 11 Tyler Chase
- 12 Casey Calder
- 20 Bonnie Klein
- 26 Robert Hitz
- 29 Cassandra Reagan

September Anniversaries

- 11 Beth & Kevin Chmielewski



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., Casey, and Howdy K..

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 PAYABLE 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.

December 20th - Greening of the Church (Saturday)

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
		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 Fall Session: Tues/Thurs: 9/15 - 12/18		AA- Fri Night Group 6:30-8:00p	