Christ Church Parish Profile

Port Republic, Maryland

March 2016



"Our parish mission is to be a community of Jesus Christ's followers, worshipping in the Anglican tradition, proclaiming by our words and lives His Good News to all people." This page intentionally left blank.

Christ Church

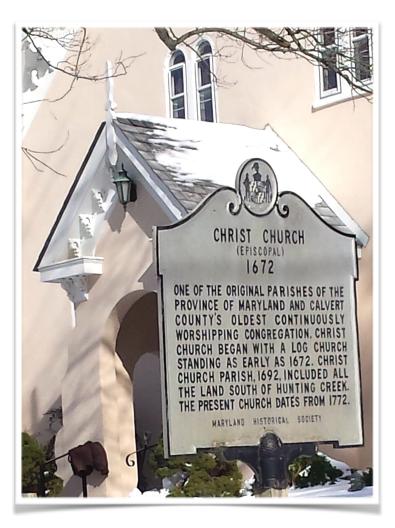
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Overview	6
Search Process	7
The Call	8
Who We Are	8
Who We Are Seeking	9
A Closer Look at Christ Church	10
Worship and Music	10
Ministries and Missions	13
Parish Facts	18
Buildings and Grounds	20
Our Rich History	22
Inquiry	24



Overview

Christ Church is a quiet and gracious historic parish, yet there is a vibrant excitement about it. There is evidence that Christ Church was in existence by at least 1672, and is Calvert County's oldest continuously worshipping congregation.

According to the Parish Survey, 82% of those who responded have been attending Christ Church for more than ten years or for their entire lives. The Christ Church campus is unique in that there is a restored one-room schoolhouse used as an educational site for County youth; the Seven Bridges Trail, which partially follows an abandoned railroad bed; and a Jousting field where the annual Calvert



County Jousting Tournament at Christ Church is held. The lovely Parish House is used not only for church functions, but is available for community activities for a donation.

We see ourselves as a welcoming, friendly, and family oriented community. Parishioners value a traditional Christ-centered worship. Our congregation views the Church not only as a place of worship, and, as a vital part of the church mission, there is great involvement in various outreach and in-house ministries. Through a multitude of activities, parish fellowship is a priority. Newcomers immediately sense the enjoyment of friendship among fellow parishioners (frequently multigenerational) in a wide-range of activities and ministries. The majority of the members of the Church and friends of the parish are involved in the annual Jousting Tournament, Bazaar, and Church Supper, which takes place the last Saturday in August. We are excited to be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Tournament in 2016.

We cherish the sense of family and intimacy, and yet we recognize the reality that our membership and programs must grow. We realize there are some areas where growth is essential: 1) Church School and Youth Programs; 2) membership size and involvement of existing parishioners; 3) stewardship of resources and financial stability; and 4) communication within the parish community.

In creating this Call, we recognize that all the skills and traits identified in the Profile will probably not be embodied in one person. The ideal candidate is not expected to be all things to all people. It is our desire to call someone who is Christ-centered and can understand and support our dreams and goals, and is willing to share leadership with the parish membership in our efforts to achieve these dreams.

Search Process

Christ Church has been enormously blessed through the centuries and it has been over 30 years since we have needed to search for a new rector. Our search process is using a two-pronged approach of a Profile Committee and a Rector Search Committee. The Profile Committee was charged to gather data to help discern the future direction of Christ Church and the desired qualities of our future rector.

The Profile Committee began working diligently to create a comprehensive profile document and Parish Profile Survey in June of 2015. Many hours of discussion, distillation, reflection, and prayer were put into this survey and the first parish-wide planning meeting occurred in November of 2015.

The first planning meeting not only yielded an excellent turnout of parishioners, but a great deal of useful information for the Profile Committee and Vestry. Ten focus groups provided information to the committee on who Christ Church is, where we would like to go in the future, parish strengths and challenges, and qualities we would like to see in our new rector.



The parish profile survey was distributed after the first Parish Profile Planning meeting in hard copy and online. After studying and analyzing the results of the survey, the Profile Committee was able to incorporate the information into the Call that reflects the desires of the parish and where we believe God is calling us. Parish Survey results are available on the Christ Church website.

One of the greatest assets that Christ Church has is its long lasting, traditional, and Scripture based history. There is a considerable agreement among parishioners about the direction in which we would like to see Christ Church proceed. The challenge will be finding the ideal rector to bring us there. There is great enthusiasm about our future and the opportunities for our parish to continue spreading God's glory throughout Calvert County and beyond.

The Call

Who We Are

We are a historically traditional, scripture-based parish rooted in the ancient Anglican tradition. We hold to the classical creeds of the Church and are committed to Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. We understand the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be

authoritative and a cornerstone of Christian belief and practice. We are a praying congregation relying on the Holy Spirit to guide us into following the way of Jesus and to glorify God the Father.

We believe in the centrality of worship and aligning our worship with that which is prescribed in Scripture. We desire to keep social or political activism out of the "pulpit."

Christ Church parishioners are devoted to daily prayer and reading of the Scriptures,



and are committed to maintaining our rich Anglican traditions and worship style. We are a family oriented, friendly church who wish to continue to minister to one another in times of need and reach out both locally and internationally. We wish to increase participation in our many and varied ministries. We desire to increase our ministry to the sick, bereaved, and those unable to attend church on a regular basis. We are committed to the growth of not only our youth program and education, but also to the growth of our adult education programs. In addition, we desire to reach out to more families in Calvert County to bring them into our congregation to share the Good News of the Gospel.

We are a church of discipleship, mission, and stewardship. Discipleship for us means applying the power of the Gospel to our daily lives. From this approach of discipleship flows our sense of mission and service through our everyday lives. Our congregation regularly supports and actively participates in over 35 in-house and outreach ministries.

We worship in a parish dating to 1672 and in a church constructed in 1772. Our church provides a reverent environment filled with historical significance. Christ Church is not just a building, but a spirit-filled congregation devoted to faithfully following Jesus Christ.

An illustration of the tremendous influence and profound effect Christ Church has had on many members of the congregation is that parishioners who have relocated and no longer attend Christ Church still contribute to its support and very much desire to be buried in the graveyard.

Who We Are Seeking

We are seeking a rector who is committed to Jesus Christ as their Savior and lives as a faithful disciple desiring to glorify God through their ministry and life. We desire a rector who is an effective preacher and teacher, and who is able to deliver inspirational sermons that are reverent, Biblically based, relatable, and appropriate in length.

We need a rector who is willing and able to build a sense of fellowship, is compassionate, engaging and relates well to all ages, including youth. We are striving for a rector who is able to help build our youth programs. We are seeking a rector who is able to guide and lead all members of Christ Church into deepening

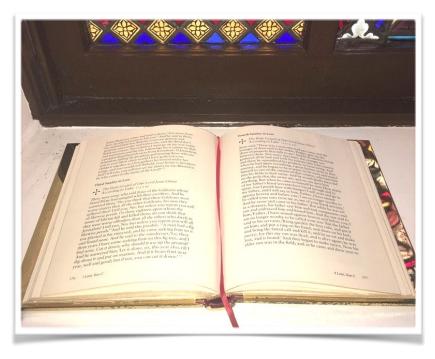
their personal and spiritual relationship with God. In addition, we are blessed to have a large and conveniently located rectory in which many parishioners would like our new rector to live.

"A believing Christian dedicated to the spread of the Gospel of Salvation through Christ."-survey respondent

The congregation of Christ Church also needs a leader who is able to improve communication between church leadership

and members, encourage members and leadership to develop and implement novel ideas for ministry, and provide new opportunities in which the congregation can participate. Finally, we would like a rector who is a sound steward and is able to maintain both our fiscal security and increase pledging.

We know that as we faithfully pray for guidance and wisdom regarding the search for Christ Church's new rector, the Lord will direct the Search Committee to the individual God has chosen to lead us into the future.



A Closer Look at Christ Church

Worship and Music

Christ Church welcomes all to attend worship services on Sunday. Our worship is with Biblical preaching and liturgy as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. During Christmas and Easter, additional services are provided with special selections of music provided by the Christ Church Choir and organist.

Sunday Worship

8:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 am Monthly Fellowship in

Parish Hall

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with

choral music

10:00 am Children's Sunday School

11:15 am Fellowship in Parish Hall

10:00 am Children's Service, 1st

Sunday of Each Month

Thursday Worship

10:00 am Holy Eucharist and Prayer

Ministry

10:30 am Bible Fellowship



Easter Season

Ash Wednesday

7:30 am Liturgy for Ash Wednesday

7:00 pm and Holy Communion

Lenten Fellowship Evenings

Friday evening within Lent at Christ Church to "continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers."

Fridays during Lent

6:00-6:30 pm The Way of the Cross

6:30-7:30 pm Soup & Bread



Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

8:30 am Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

10:00 am (Palm branches will be distributed at both services.)

Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Liturgy for Maundy Thursday (Foot washing and Stripping of the Altar)

Good Friday

2:00 pm Liturgy for Good Friday

Easter Day

8:30 am Festival Holy Eucharist

9:30 am Egg Hunt

10:00 am Festival Holy Eucharist



Christmas Season

Sunday before Christmas

10:00 am Nativity Pageant (Festivities following)

Christmas Eve

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist (Liturgy for those with

young children)

10:30 pm Carol Singing by Choir and

Congregation

11:00 pm Festival Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day

9:15 am Holy Eucharist and Carols

First Sunday after Christmas Day

8:30 am Holy Eucharist and Carols

10:00 am Baptismal Eucharist and Carols

The Epiphany

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist



By tradition, Christmas decorations and crèches are put away on Epiphany.



Ministries and Missions

Outside our walls, Christ Church has a strong reputation within the community because of our numerous and strong outreach efforts. Listed below are the ministries and missions with which Christ Church actively participates and is affiliated:

- WORSHIP
- Acolyte Guild
- Altar Guild
- Bread & Wine Bearers
- Christmas Pageant
- Flower Ministry
- Greeters
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMS)
- Lectors
- Music
- Special Events & Projects Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals.
- Ushers
- Welcoming Literature

TEACHING



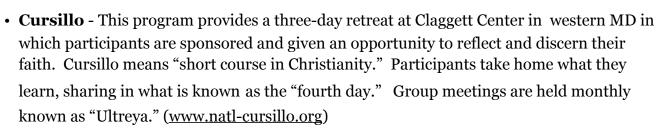


- Adult Inquirers Formation
- Bible Fellowship (Weekly)
- Children's Service (Monthly)
- Children's Sunday School
- Conferences and Retreats
- Lent Programs Stations of the Cross, Weekly Lenten Soup and Bread Suppers.
- Sacramental Instruction -Education and special instruction for those preparing to receive their first Communion/Confirmation.

- Special Events One Room Schoolhouse
- Special Worship Events All Saints, Christmas, Easter, etc.
- Vacation Bible School A week-long program for the youth is presented each year after school has recessed for the summer.

FELLOWSHIP

- The Bell Monthly newsletter, published by a volunteer group.
- Biblical Garden Established in 1969 and founded as a memorial for friends and former parishioners.
- Brotherhood of St. Andrew The mission of the group is to disciple men and youth into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through life-long disciplines of daily prayer, regular study, and committed service. (www.brothersandrew.net)
- **Churchyard and Grounds** Regularly and mostly maintained by members of the parish.





- The Order of the Daughters of the King The mission of the group is to disciple women into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through life-long disciplines of daily prayer, regular study, and committed service.

 (www.doknational.org)
- **Fellowship** Regularly scheduled time of fellowship after Sunday worship service.
- Flower Ministry Several times during the year, including Christmas, Easter, and Tournament, parishioners gather to create decorations for the Church and/or the Parish Dining Hall. During the year, flowers for the Church can be donated either "In Memory Of" or "In Thanksgiving For" loved ones.
- **Prayer Ministry** The Prayer Chain are those who commit to receiving names for prayer through times of illness, crisis, or any other adversity.





- Thursday Morning Prayer and Healing Service - This Eucharistic Service is held every Thursday morning at 10 AM. Prayers for healing are offered by the Rector and congregants for persons whose names have been placed on the communal list.
- **Suppers and Socials** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Annual Fall and Spring Dinners, etc.

OUTREACH

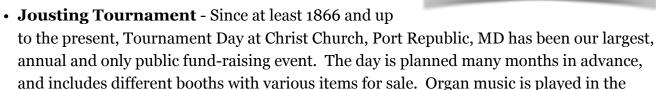
- Alms Outreach Alms offerings for the year are:
 - **♦** Birthright Pregnancy Center
 - ◆ HeartF.E.L.T. Backpack Ministry
 - ◆ Food Pantry (SMILE and St. John Vianney)
 - **♦** Lenten Mission Offering
 - **♦** Operation Christmas Child
 - ◆ Patuxent Habitat for Humanity
 - ◆ Project Echo
 - **♦** Safe Harbor Shelter
 - **♦** Trinity School for Ministry
 - **♦**VBS
- **Birthright Pregnancy Center** An organization that assists women who plan to either parent their newborn child or make an adoption plan. Donations of clothing, maternity, or baby clothes and items, as well as monetary gifts, are accepted. (www.birthrightofprincefrederick.com)
- Caps for the Cold Members knit and crochet hats for children and adults. These caps



- have been distributed not only locally, but globally as they have been included, as an example, in 'Samaritan's Purse' Christmas Shoeboxes.
- **Comfort Givers** Comfort a bereaved family by assisting with the preparations, hosting, and the serving of a reception in the Parish House after a funeral.
- •Christmas in April (www.christmasinaprilcalvertcounty.org)



- Church's Ministry Among Jewish People (CMJ) CMJ USA's mission is to equip local congregations to share the transforming love of Messiah Jesus with their Jewish friends and neighbors. (www.cmj-israel.org)
- Discretionary Fund Fund is designated to the Rector for need or emergencies within the community.
- **Food Pantry** SMILE and St. John Vianney.
- Greeting Card Ministry Individuals make birthday, get well, thank you, and holiday greeting cards, and send or present them to the person in mind.
- HeartF.E.L.T. Backpack Program "Filling Empty Little Tummies" is a ministry shared with many other local churches to help End Hunger in all the elementary schools in the county. Christ Church volunteers fill backpacks with food and deliver them weekly to St. Leonard Elementary School. (heartfeltcalvert.org)





Maryland State Sport, has become a civilized game of keen horsemanship, skill, and sportsmanship with the development of "The Ring Tournament." Tournament Day is held on the last Saturday of August each year, a joyful and faithful time that brings our Parish together to share, help, and serve others. The Christ Church Field is the alternate field for the National Joust in the event that the joust cannot be held on the

• Mackall Scholarships - A gift to Christ

Church in 1968 by Mr. Luther Mackall, a native of Calvert County, but then living in New York, stipulating that the income from donated stock was to be used for scholarships given to the top two academic students of the graduating classes of the public high schools in the county. These scholarships are distributed on an earned basis to as many as 32 students in any given year.

• Madagascar - A mission partnership with Bishop Remi supporting a school in that island nation. (www.mission.net/madagascar/antananarivo/)

- **Operation Christmas Child** Sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through simple gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. (www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/)
- Patuxent Habitat for Humanity This is an incorporated, nonprofit affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Since its inception in April 2003, it has been bringing people from all walks of life together to build and repair affordable homes for working families in Calvert and St. Mary's counties. (www.patuxenthabitat.org)
- **Safe Harbor Shelter** A Calvert County shelter for abused women and children serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. (www.calverthealth.org/ personalhealth/crisisintervention/shelter.htm)
- Seven Bridges Trail Rogation Sunday and the several days which follow through Ascension Day, offer the opportunity to walk the boundaries of the 47 acres of Parish grounds of Christ Church.
- Southern MD Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc. Nonprofit, HUD approved, organization serving Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties with a mission of providing services for eligible citizens that alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty, promote upward mobility, and enrich the quality of life. (www.smtccac.org)
- The Southern Maryland Applied Research and Technology Consortium, Inc (SMARTCO) A 501c3 certified organization that seeks to solve problems identified in Southern Maryland, through bringing together community leaders in all fields to identify, solve, and implement solutions. The ultimate objective is the creation of employment for local citizens. (smartco.us)



- **Trinity School for Ministry** Located in Ambridge, PA, for those desiring to continue their education in service or mission work. (https://www.tsm.edu)
- Trunk or Treat A church sponsored, Halloween event where parishioners gather, park their cars in the church parking lot, decorate the backs of their vehicles or trunks, and distribute candy to children from the community.

Parish Facts

<u>Membership</u>

The 2014 Parochial Report for Christ Church Parish lists:

- 234 baptized members for the previous year, including children and nonactive members
- 11 Sunday School students
- 57 signed pledges

Based on the 2015 Christ Church Parish Profile Survey *respondents*:

- ~7% between ages 18 and 45
- ~10% between ages 46 and 55
- ~79% are age 56 or older
- ~36% are male
- ~61% are female
- ~70% are married
- ~12% are widowed
- ~7% are divorced
- ~4% are single





- \sim 55% have an undergraduate degree or higher
- •~63% worship on a weekly basis
- •~43% prefer the 8:30 service
- •~49% prefer the 10:00 service
- \sim 53% have been attending Christ Church more than 10 years
- •~29% have attended all of their lives

Vestry

The governing body of our parish, the Vestry of Christ Church is composed of the Rector, four officers, elected by the Vestry – the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Registrar, and Treasurer, and eight parishioners nominated and elected by the congregation. The Vestry meets on the second Tuesday of each month to address parish business and to make decisions about programs that will enhance the mission and ministry.

Staff

The staff of Christ Church consists of the following positions (*paid):

- Full-time Interim Rector*
- · Senior Warden
- Junior Warden
- Registrar
- Treasurer
- Two Assistant Treasurers

- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- One part-time Secretary
- Sunday School Director
- Sunday School Teachers
- Organist/Choir Director*
- · Vacation Bible School Director







Buildings and Grounds

Church

Christ Church is one of the original parishes of the province of Maryland and Calvert County's oldest continuously worshipping congregation. Christ Church began with a log-built church standing as early as 1672. The wooden church was destroyed by fire in 1731 and was rebuilt of brick in 1735. By 1769, the brick church was in such bad shape that the Vestry decided not to repair the building, but seek support from the Maryland General Assembly to construct a new building of brick, completed in 1772. The church has been modified several times since, the last in 1906, when the brick walls



were covered in stucco and buttresses were added to the corners.

Parish House

The current Parish House, built in 1957 and located near the front of the property, is where the Sunday School classes meet each Sunday. For a week during the summer months, the Parish House becomes the home of the Vacation Bible School. Church ministries such as



Bible Study, Brotherhood of St.
Andrew, Daughters of the King,
Caps for the Cold, and other local
organizations meet at the Parish
House. The Parish House is used
for fellowship gatherings after
Sunday services, congregational
meetings, the Jousting
Tournament Supper, and other
gatherings that may arise

throughout the year. Our facility is open for use by local organizations for a donation.

Biblical Garden

The Biblical Garden at the Parish House was established in 1969 as a memorial for friends and former parishioners. Nearly all of the plantings in the garden are mentioned in the Bible and grew in the Holy Land during biblical times. The cross-shaped design of the quiet garden with its three-tiered fountain invites visitors to enjoy a quiet place for meditation and reflection. The garden is maintained by a small group of faithful Spiritual Gardeners who selflessly give their time and energy to keep it true to the original design.



Seven Bridges Trail

The Seven Bridges Trail consists of a 1.5 mile path around the boundary of the 47 acre Christ Church parish grounds. About one mile of the trail takes you through the wooded area of the Church grounds where you can enjoy the beauty of God's creation. The wooded part of the trail was established in 1989 and improved in a series of Eagle Scout and Girl Scout projects. There are bridges and steps built along the trail to help navigate the streams and hills. In addition, there are remnants of a historic railroad bed as part of the trail. Walking the trail is a wonderful way to unwind and reflect on the many gifts with which we are blessed.

Jousting Field

The Jousting Tournament field comes alive each year on the last Saturday in August with competitive jousting, Maryland's official state sport. This will be the 150th year Christ

Church has hosted the Jousting Tournament, which also includes a bazaar and country dinner.



Hugh Jones Grove

Hugh Jones was the third

Rector of Christ Church (1696-1702), and was Maryland's first naturalist. Native trees are planted here, such as long needle pine, holly and cedar which were recorded in his description of the New World. The large screening evergreen trees along the south boundary of the 1985 expansion of the churchyard are in his memory.

One-Room Schoolhouse

The historic One-Room Schoolhouse, known as Port Republic School #7, stands on the grounds of Christ Church. The current school building dates to circa 1876, and was in continuous use until 1932. As their bicentennial project in 1976, the Calvert Retired



Teachers Association took the lead and worked

with other local groups to restore the building and make the one-room schoolhouse come to life once again. Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse currently maintain the structure.

<u>Rectory</u>

The Rectory, which was built in 1959, is located on the Christ Church campus.

Our Rich History

Old Christ Church

Christ Church is the oldest continuously worshipping congregation in Calvert County and one of the original thirty parishes of colonial Maryland. Although early records are scarce, it is known that Christ Church was in existence by at least 1672. Calvert County at the time held few comforts familiar to the English settlers, and was sparsely populated and heavily wooded.



The earliest church on the site was made of wood and destroyed by fire in 1731. This was followed in 1735 by the first brick church, built on the same spot. Unfortunately, this building only lasted until 1772, when the current church was constructed. Since then, Christ Church has undergone a number of modifications over the years, reflecting ongoing changes in liturgy and taste.

Christ Church Parish originally encompassed the lower part of what is now Calvert County, from Hunting Creek to the north to present-day Solomons in the south. To serve the southern end of the parish a "chapel of ease" — Middleham Chapel — was established in 1684. It only became a separate diocesan mission in 1900, and now forms Middleham-St. Peter's Parish. In 1842, the Diocesan Convention reduced the northern boundary of Christ Church Parish to Parker's Creek, leading to the formation of St. Paul's Church in Prince Frederick, the county seat. Up until 1959, both churches shared the same rector.

In the 1950's a new rectory and parish house were built, the latter undergoing several improvements and additions, finishing up in 2006. Currently, the property consists of 47 acres and includes the former Port Republic One-Room Schoolhouse, cared for by a separate nonprofit organization. Christ Church formed part of Port Republic, a crossroads village established in 1841, consisting of a post office, several stores, the one-room schoolhouse, and surrounding tobacco farms. Since then the region has changed dramatically, with the decline in the traditional occupations of farming and fishing, and the growth in population and pressure for development. But for over three centuries, Christ Church has endured, a reassuring presence in peace and in war and in times of change and transition.

The Diocese of Maryland

Christ Church Parish is part of the Diocese of Maryland, comprising 112 congregations and 44,200 members in the western, northern, central, and parts of southern Maryland counties and the City of Baltimore. The Diocese of Maryland is one of the nine original dioceses of the Episcopal Church and is headquartered in Baltimore. The rector of Christ Church and representatives faithfully attend the regional gatherings and the diocesan convention. The work of the diocese is supported by Christ Church's annual diocesan assessment. The

church, in turn, calls upon the diocesan staff for expert advice and guidance when needed. For more information on the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland please visit: http://www.episcopalmaryland.org

Our Location

Christ Church Parish is situated in Calvert County, on Maryland's Western Shore. Calvert is Maryland's smallest county, containing just 213 square miles on a narrow peninsula of land



between the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River. Originally founded in 1654 as Patuxent County, the name was changed to Calvert County in 1658 by the founding family, the second Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert. It is governed by an elected fivemember Board of County Commissioners.

Christ Church is situated on one of the highest points of land in Calvert County, near the old north/south road, now known as

Route 2/4, which bisects the peninsula. The church lies two miles west of the Chesapeake Bay, with its renowned Calvert Cliffs formations, and six miles east of the beautiful Patuxent River. To the north are the cities of Washington D.C. (fifty miles), Annapolis (forty-two miles), and Baltimore (seventy miles).

Calvert's People

Until relatively recently, Calvert County was sparsely populated. In 1790, there were only 8,652 residents and, even as late as 1950, the population was still only 12,100. During this period, most residents made their living growing tobacco or working on the water. By contrast, by 2010, there were 88,737 residents, a seven-fold increase over sixty years. This rapid growth was coupled with a move away from the traditional occupations



and working patterns. Currently, the largest employers in the region are the Calvert County Board of Education, the Calvert County Government, Calvert Memorial Hospital, the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, and the Dominion Cove Point Natural Gas Plant. The numerous U.S. Navy and supporting activities in nearby St. Mary's County are large employers of Calvert citizens. Many residents, however, commute to Washington, D.C. to work.

As of 2010, the median age of county residents was 40.1 years with 23,732 families. Of the county population, 81.4% were white, 14.8% African-American, and 2.7% Hispanic. It is interesting to note that in 1860, just prior to the Civil War, the county's "free" population numbered 5,877 and slave population 4,610. In other words, the white population and the African-American population were almost equally divided. This is reflected in the history of Christ Church where annual parochial reports of the period tell of large numbers of African-Americans among the congregation.

Inquiry

Nominations for Christ Church's new rector should be directed via e-mail to swright@episcopalmaryland.org

Applications should include a resume, a cover letter addressed to the Christ Church Search Committee, and the OTM Portfolio.

Candidates should direct their inquiries and/or applications to:

The Rev. Canon Stuart Wayne Wright
Canon for Transitions
Diocese of Maryland
4 East University Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21218
swright@episcopalmaryland.org
410/467-1399
fax 410/554-6387

