

# Christ Church *Bell*

Volume XXXVII, Issue 12

December 2023



Advent & Christmas 2023

It's easy to get caught up in the busyness of December: I pray that you will take time this month to sit and savor the miracle that is about to take place: God coming into the world to be with us.

This year our Christmas celebrations promise to be especially beautiful. Thanks to the Mackall Scholarship Trust, we will have some of the county's best high school musicians with us on Christmas Eve at both 3 p.m. & 11 p.m. (carol sing at 10:30 p.m.): a brass quartet, a string quartet, and high school singers to augment our choir. Plan to be with us for these special services. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy the amazing gift that is Christ Church.

Christmas Eve falls on the Fourth Sunday of Advent this year. So on the 24<sup>th</sup>, we'll have a **consolidated Advent IV worship service at 9:15 a.m.**, before our special music **Christmas Eve worship at 3 p.m. and 11 p.m.** (carol sing at 10:30 p.m.). **Christmas Day Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.**

On Saturday, 16 December, we'll gather at 10 a.m. on the church steps to remember the seventy veterans buried in our church yard. As part of Wreaths Across America (<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>), we'll place a wreath on every veteran's grave. Please join us for this special observance (bad weather, gather at the Parish Hall). Watch Sunday bulletins and *This Week at Christ Church* for how you can sponsor one or more wreaths.

Join us on the Tuesdays in Advent (5, 12, and 19 December) at 4 p.m. between the Parish Hall and the One-Room School House, for Advent Walks. We'll meditate on a short piece of Scripture as we walk the Seven Bridges Trail together, then gather around a fire to share a chat and a hot drink, as we journey together towards Christmas. (Not a walker? Come anyway and enjoy the fire.) *And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us* (Lk 2:15). Love is coming: get ready!

*Christy +*

## CHRIST CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following parishioners and items in your prayers:

### Joys / Thanksgivings

- Historic witness and mission of the parish in Calvert County, in Maryland and worldwide
- Buildings and 47 acres of grounds entrusted to the parish

### Military

- Aaron Boudreau, Thomas Garcia, Michael Harris, Robert Harris, Clay Liles, Evan Metz, Brian Riva, Peeter Pleake-Tamm, Caidyn Nolan, Kamryn Nolan

### Homebound and Long-term Care

- Ruth Green, Jessica Lewis, Vera Lind, Elaine Williams, Anne Yoe

### Sick / Hospitalized / Recovering

- Aurelio Azpiazu, Johnny Brodigan, Jane Estabrook, Fred Gott, Cindy Horsmon, Gil Masters, Shannon Masters, Sheila Pitcher, Kirk Taylor, Hank Wegner, Mary Linda Wegner, Franklin Wood, Joan Wood

### Special Needs / Concerns of our Parish

- Discernment and labor for strengthening faithful parish witness & mission
- Ukraine
- Turkey
- Syria
- Israel

### Friends of Parish

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| - Molly                      | -Kay Hoile             |
| -Ben Norfolk                 | -Viola Carroll         |
| -Dorothy Franklin            | -William Johnson       |
| -Ann Garner                  | -Josh Nudge            |
| -Tommy Rosnage               | -Daniel Carter         |
| -Ronnie Bowen                | - Carrie               |
| -Bonnie Kelly                | -Preston Taylor, Sr.   |
| -Lori McCarty                | -Jackie                |
| -Beverly                     | -Linda                 |
| -Amy Marburger               | -Billy Bonolis         |
| -Joan Matteson               | -Karen Bauersfeld      |
| -Little Woody Lee            | -Jaylyn Almond         |
| -Marshall (Hoot) Gibson, Jr. | -Roland (Sonny) Hayman |
| -Charlotte Hayman            | -Jamie Gurney          |

***We will pray for members of the parish who are sick, hospitalized, or recovering for three Sundays in church, and then remove their names from the prayer list, unless specifically renewed. We will list Friends of the Parish for one month and then remove their names from the Bell, unless specifically renewed.***

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland  
2023 Convention Report

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland held its 239 annual convention on November 10th and 11th at the Claggett Center in Buckeystown. The convention was attended by 224 clergy and lay delegates; Christ Church Port Republic attendees were Father Christopher Garcia, Norman Prince, and William Wright.

The primary business of the convention was to hear reports, confirm appointments, elect officers, and debate and vote on resolutions. Detailed results of the confirmations and elections should be available soon on the Diocesan website. There were four resolutions, all of which were passed. In brief, the resolutions consist of the following (please see the Diocesan website for specific details):

**Resolution 2023-01** *Clergy and Lay Employee Compensation*

The Resolution strongly encourages all congregations to bring clergy and lay compensation decisions into line with the prevailing methods used by comparable organizations in Maryland, and it included other compensation-related initiatives as well.

**Resolution 2023-02** *Regarding the Creation of the Diocesan Food Security Network*

The Resolution calls on the Convention to instruct the Bishop to appoint a Food Security Commission and to call on all congregations to deepen their commitment to addressing food insecurity, food-related health issues, and food-related environmental effects on our communities.

**Resolution 2023-03** *Regarding the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education*

The Resolution calls on the Maryland General Assembly to pass the Commission on History, Culture, Civics Act, and it instructs the secretary of the convention to communicate the Resolution to Maryland Senate and House leaders. The Resolution further invites all clergy and lay members of the Diocese to become advocates for the development of complete and inclusive curricula at the State and local level and to contact their state and local representatives to voice their support of the Act.

**Resolution 2023-04** *Regarding the Repair Act (The Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act)*

The Resolution calls on the Maryland General Assembly to pass the Repair Act to establish a commission to develop and administer reparation programs to provide benefits to the descendants of enslaved persons and those victimized by racism, and it instructs the secretary of the convention to communicate the Resolution to Maryland Senate and House leaders. The Resolution further invites all clergy and lay members of the Diocese and their partners to become advocates for the passage of the Act.

(Continued on next page)

In addition to conducting business matters, the convention included worship, fellowship, and a brief open forum on the recent Hamas incursion into Israel and the Israeli response to it. Both Bishop Sutton and newly consecrated Bishop Coadjutor Schofield-Broadbent addressed the topic, each advising that we exercise restraint in discussing the matter, that we listen to both sides and that we “be there” for those affected by the crisis.

In her final address to the conference, Bishop Coadjutor Schofield-Broadbent described her experiences during her first months in the Diocese of Maryland and the listening sessions she had engaged in. In addition, she addressed the matter of the declining and aging membership of the church. She stated that she does not see this as a major problem, that she would rather the church be smaller and more devoted to its work, and that “The Church is fine.”

Now nearing the end of his tenure, Bishop Sutton presented his final address to the convention as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. In it, he reflected on the balanced nature of the Episcopal understanding of the Holy Trinity, and he charged the convention to continue its work in combating what he termed the “Unholy Trinity” of hatred, poverty, and violence in our communities.

**The Art of Advent-Reflecting on the Meaning of Christmas.** You are invited on a visual journey to rediscover the beauty and power of the Christmas story. Join art historian and UMC pastor the Rev Daniel Cochran PhD, on **Wed., 6 Dec, 6:00 p.m.**, to explore how Christians from around the world, past and present, have expressed and shared the Christmas story through visual art. By Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87650153626>. Offered by Middleham & St Peter's Parish.

**Events at Claggett.** The Claggett Center, our diocesan camp and conference center near Buckeystown, offers a variety of programs for adults. Early registration is encouraged due to limited space. Blue Christmas Retreat, December 8-10, 2023. Women's Weekend, January 19-21, 2024. Men's Retreat, February 2-4, 2024. Camp Spirit Song, February 16-19, 2024. Writer's Retreat, February 26-29, 2024. Info and registration at <https://www.claggettcenter.org/adult-programs>



## CHRISTMAS FLORAL DECORATIONS

Contributions in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving, support the seasonal decorating of the Church and regular worship needs. Checks are to be received by the Assistant Treasurer c/o Christ Church by **Monday, 18 December**.

### PARISH E-MAILING

Persons who would like to receive parish e-mailings of notices, news, and updates beyond those printed in weekly worship bulletins and monthly newsletters, please give your e-mail address to Fr. Christopher or the Parish Office. 410-586-0565

## The Vestry of Christ Church Parish

### OFFICERS

Fr. Christopher Garcia, *Rector*

Nancy W. Zinn, *Senior Warden*

Bart Ewalt, *Junior Warden*

Helen Prince, *Registrar*

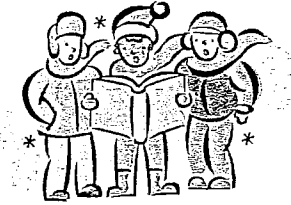
Jim Yoe, *Treasurer*

Pam Briscoe, *Assistant Treasurer*

Beverly Lusby, *Assistant Treasurer*

### VESTRY MEMBERS

2024	Kathy Clark	Donnie McCready
2025	Peter Cochran	Patti Wahl
2026	Ron Cole	Allyson Sigler
2027	Bob Graham	Phil Yeats



22<sup>nd</sup> Annual

## ST. LEONARD POLLING HOUSE

### Holiday Caroling

Sunday, December 3, at 4:30 pm

Enjoy cookies, cocoa, and song  
Santa will make a special appearance at 5:00 pm

*Sponsored by St. Leonard Vision Group*  
Information: Nancy Zinn, 410-586-0682


**Hiking at American Chestnut Landtrust.** Every Sunday from 2:30-4:00 (rain or shine) we meet at American Chestnut Landtrust located at 1985 Scientists Cliffs Road in Port Republic for a nice through the trails. For complete details contact [charityahumm@gmail.com](mailto:charityahumm@gmail.com).



"He's today's greeter."


# CHRIST CHURCH

# DECEMBER

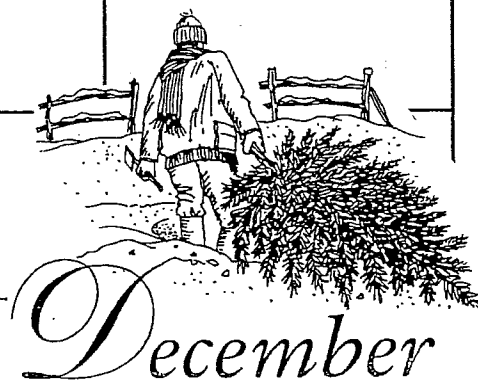
SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Christ Church Website – <a href="http://christchurchcalvert.org">christchurchcalvert.org</a> Fr. Christopher's e-mail <a href="mailto:christopher@christchurchcalvert.org">christopher@christchurchcalvert.org</a> Cell 540-471-7445			
3 8:30 Holy Eucharist Rite I 10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II ZOOM @ 10:00	4 6:30 pm Alcoholics Anon.	5 7:00 – 8:15 pm Evening Bill ZOOM	
10 8:30 Holy Eucharist Rite I 10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II ZOOM @ 10:00	11 6:30 pm Alcoholics Anon.	12 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	
8:30 Holy Eucharist Rite I 10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II ZOOM @ 10:00 11 am – 1 pm – Holiday Open House, One Room School	17 6:30 pm Alcoholics Anon. Deadline for Christmas Floral Memorial Contributions	18 19	
9:15 am Holy Eucharist (One Consolidated Service) 3:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist 10:30 pm Carol Sing 11:00 pm Festival Holy Eucharist	 24 A Child Is Born! 10:00 am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist	25 26	
31 8:30 Holy Eucharist Rite I 10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II ZOOM @ 10:00			Bell D

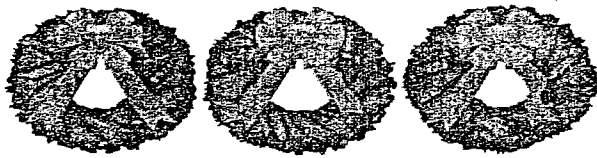
Holidays and Observances: 24: Christmas Eve, 25: Christmas Day, 31: I

# ER 2023

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Deacon Beth Bellner's e-mail – <a href="mailto:ebellner@gmail.com">ebellner@gmail.com</a> Cell 407-256-3298		
6 Wednesday Bible Study via	7 10:00 am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 10:45 am– 12:00 noon Bible Study (in person only) 7:30 pm Choir Practice	8	9 8:00 am Fall Clean-Up
13	14 10:00 am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	15	16 10:00 am Wreaths Across America Placement
20	 W I N T E R 21 10:00 am Holy Eucharist & Healing Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	22 9:00 am Greening the Church	23
27		28	29
Deadline			

New Year's Eve





# WREATHS *across* AMERICA

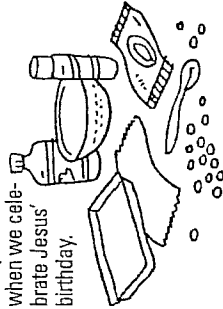


Christ Church will be participating in the Wreaths Across America program. Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine wreath maker Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission - Remember the fallen, Honor those that serve, Teach the next generation the value of freedom- is carried out, in part, each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at thousands of participating locations in all 50 states.

Christ Church has 70 identified veterans in our cemetery. On Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. we will be holding a Wreath Laying Ceremony. You can help support this event by sponsoring a wreath at a cost \$17 per wreath. You may purchase the wreath (or wreaths) with cash or a check made out to Christ Church with Wreaths Across America in the memo line. You can also help by attending the ceremony on December 16<sup>th</sup> and help lay the wreaths on the graves of our veterans. Everyone is welcome to join in this event to honor our service men and women.

## birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.



### What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

### What you do:

1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.



**DIOCESAN DELEGATE AND  
ALTERNATE**

Bill Wright is our Delegate to Diocesan Convention and Norman Prince is our Alternate Delegate as voted on by the Vestry in September.

**Community Bible Study offered by Christ Church Calvert:** The Christ Church Calvert Bible study most recently included members from Christ Church, Middleham and St. Peter's, St. Paul's, and Our Lady Star of the Sea, as well as members from outside the county. Come join us to study "**Judges**" which recounts Israel's struggle with faithfulness to the Lord. Israel experiences cycles of Rebellion – Repression – Repentance – Release & Rest in the Book of "**Judges**". Among others, we will hear the colorful stories of Deborah, the prophetess, Gideon, and Samson. The same material will be offered Wednesday nights 7:00 to 8:15 pm via zoom and Thursday mornings 10:45 – 12:00 in person. Classes begin January 7 & 8. No previous Bible Study experience is needed. There is weekly homework and class participation. Contact Cheryl Garcia about joining the class. [ccgarcia.va@gmail.com](mailto:ccgarcia.va@gmail.com)

Cheryl

**Cheryl C Garcia**

703-349-9319 (cell)

Advent reading material is available in both the church and parish hall. Please help yourself.

**Advent Walks.** Mark your calendars for **Tuesdays, Dec 5th, 12th, and 19th, at 4 p.m.** Join us for Regional Advent Walks facilitated by the Rev Charity Humm. Enjoy a brief Advent reflection, a walk on Christ Church's trails, and fellowship by the fire. Bundle up and bring a flashlight or headlamp since twilight comes early in December. (We're in deer season, so you might want to wear blaze orange or other bright clothing, as well.) We will meet at the back porch of the Christ Church Parish Hall. Don't want to walk the trail? Come and warm up by the fire (near the One-Room Schoolhouse) and join the reflection time. Let's get on the trail together as we prepare for Christmas! We will use **Living Compass Living Well through Advent 2023** for reflections, (<https://www.livingcompass.org/advent>; also available on the Advent resource tables). Contact Rev Charity for a printed copy or with any questions ([charityahumm@gmail.com](mailto:charityahumm@gmail.com)).

**Planning for the End of Life, Sun., 3 Dec., 11:15 a.m.** in the MSP Parish Hall. Margaret Phipps, Calvert County Registrar of Wills, will discuss the resources available in Calvert County, importance of wills, estate planning, probate and what her office can do to help you prepare for the end of life. Offered by Middleham & St Peter's Parish.



### **Celebrate the Season**

Come and Enjoy  
an Old-Fashioned Christmas  
at

**The One Room Schoolhouse**

Sunday, December 17

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at Eleven

Enjoy

Old-Fashioned Fun

Homemade Cookies and Hot Drinks

Christmas Music with Guest Flutist

String Popcorn and Cranberry

Make Origami Stars

Help Decorate Christmas Tree

Crafts for Children

**Patuxent Voices will perform a Holiday Concert** at Christ Church on Sunday, 10 December at 3:00 p.m. Come hear Southern Maryland's premier women's acapella choir.

*Christ Church Bell* is a parish newsletter  
published by:  
Christ Church  
3100 Broomes Island Road  
Port Republic, MD 20676  
410-586-0565  
Fr. Christopher Garcia, Rector

Production Staff:  
Dotty Greene, Mary Linda Wegner  
Nancy Zinn, Editor

Deadline for next issue: January 3, 2024

### **Celebrate the Season**

Come and Join Us at

Christ Church

Sunday, Dec. 24, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
9:15 am Holy Eucharist (One  
Consolidated Service)

Dec. 24 - Christman Eve - 3:00 pm  
Family Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

10:30 pm Carol Sing

11:00 pm Festival Holy Eucharist

Monday, Dec. 25 - 10:00 am  
Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 31 - The First  
Sunday after Christmas Day  
Regular 8:30 am and 10:00 am  
Services Resume

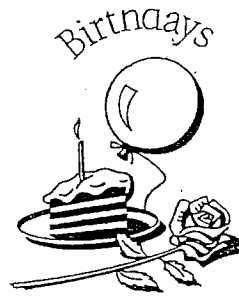


## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Prayer is offered for each person posted on the birthday list by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, The Daughters of the King, and other parish prayer ministries and intercessors.

Birthdays are posted from the most current records. Please provide updates.

- 1 Camryn Harrigan  
Annette Wegner
- 2 J. D. Garner  
Rylan Nolan
- 3 Brandon Bowen
- 4 Dru Branche  
Rita Yoe
- 5 Crofton Briscoe  
Thomas Cotner
- 6 Judy Coffren  
Chloe Ewalt
- 7 Jonathan Davis  
Kim Fridman  
Casie Reynolds  
Jacob Weems
- 8 Jan Huether  
Jack Sigler  
Matthew Spring
- 9 Benjamin J. McCready
- 11 Jack Rosnage
- 12 Donna Goucher  
Debbie Lobas
- 13 Alan Burke
- 14 Art Cochran  
Trinette Garner  
Walter Wolf



- 15 Logan Watson  
Hannah Wilt
- 17 Tate Reynolds  
Jason Sharpe
- 18 Kim Gott  
Emily Wahl
- 19 Elaine McQueeney
- 20 Jake Cornellier  
Cindy Horsmon  
Gil Masters
- 21 Jessie Curtis
- 23 D. O. Baker
- 25 Allan Barrett
- 26 Mattie Stott  
Jenni Richardson
- 28 Cindy Bladen  
Braden Dunlap  
Jacob Garner  
Lucy Schoemer  
John Seymour
- 30 Roberta Baker
- 31 Peggy Cochran  
Kori Hand  
Jamie Weems

### December Altar Guild

- Diane Azpiazu  
Francine Lamson



CHRIST CHURCH  
3100 Broomes Island Road  
Port Republic, MD 20676

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NEWSPAPER  
DATED



### GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Get in the holiday spirit and help us decorate the church for Christmas on **Friday, 22 December**. We gather in the Parish Hall at 9:00 am to prepare the arrangements for the church. If you are able to bring holly or other greens, please do so. Because of blight, no boxwood from any outside sources can be used. **All are welcome**. For complete details, call Helen Prince (410-586-8421).



The **J.U.L.I.E.T.s** are having their next lunch **Fri, 1 Dec.**, 11:30 a.m., at Dream Weavers. All women of the parish (and their friends) are welcome!

**Fall Clean Up, Sat, 9 Dec 8 a.m.** (Weather permitting) Please come out with your gardening equipment and help us clean up the grounds. We will also have some indoor work, inside the church. Many hands make light work: enjoy the fresh air, get some exercise, and see friends. A Vict Lunch will be provided at noon

### PLEDGE ENVELOPES

2024 pledge envelopes may be picked up at the Church entrance beginning **Sunday, December 10**. If you would like to have envelopes, and have not returned your pledge card, please place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the Assistant Treasurer c/o Christ Church.