

# Christ Church

## Parish Profile

Port Republic, Maryland

*October 2024*



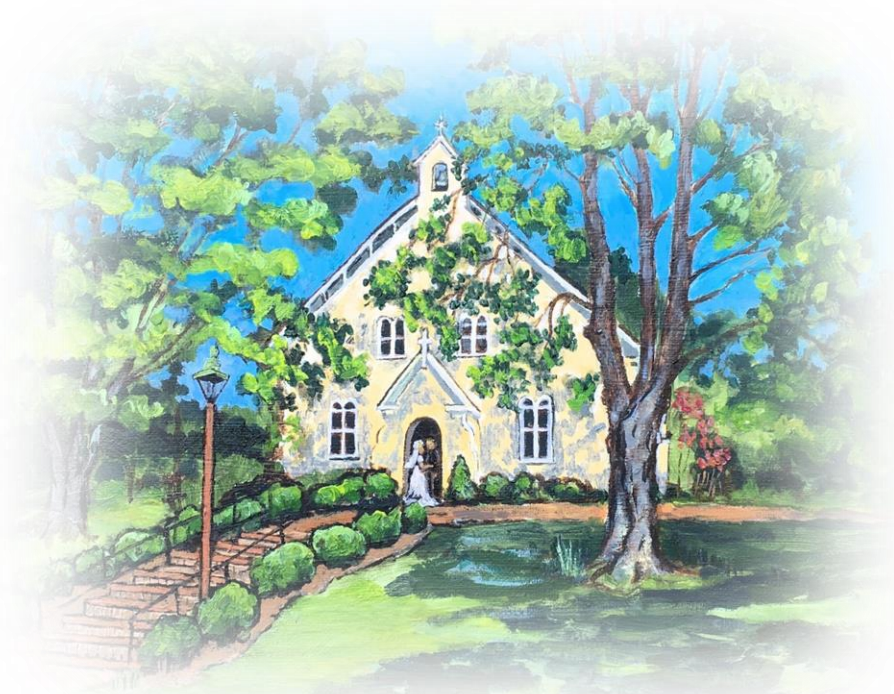


*“Our parish mission is to be a  
community of Jesus Christ's followers,  
worshipping in the Anglican tradition,  
proclaiming by our words and lives His  
Good News to all people.”*

# Christ Church

3100 Broomes Island Road  
Port Republic, Maryland 20676  
410-586-0565

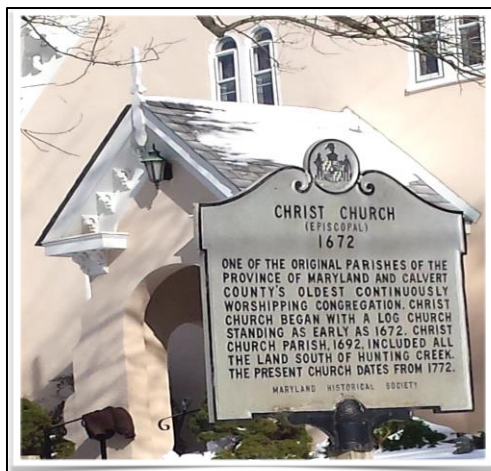
Website: [www.christchurchcalvert.org](http://www.christchurchcalvert.org)





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# Overview

Christ Church is a quiet and gracious historic parish that has been in existence since at least 1672 and is Calvert County's oldest continuously worshipping congregation. According to our Parish Survey, over 67% of those who responded have been attending Christ Church for more than twenty years or for their entire lives.

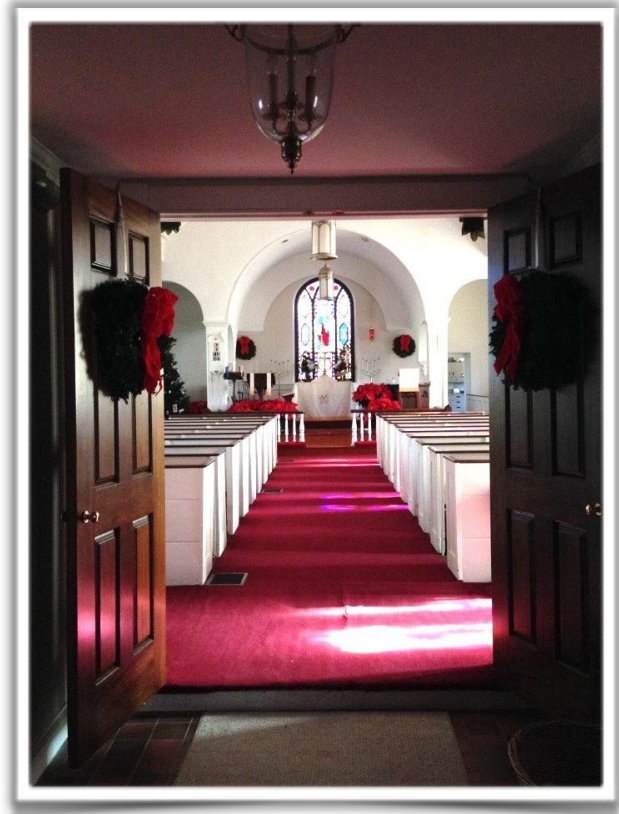
The Christ Church campus is unique in that there is a restored one-room schoolhouse used primarily as an educational site for County youth; the Seven Bridges Trail, which partially follows an abandoned railroad bed; and a jousting field where the annual Calvert

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

Fellowship is one of our main strengths, together with a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Parishioners value a traditional Christ-centered worship. Our congregation views the church not only as a place of worship, but also as a center for 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 (often 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 on the last Saturday in August. The 157<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tournament was celebrated in 2024.

We cherish the sense of family and intimacy, and yet we recognize the reality that the church must continue to change to reflect the society around us. A recent study found the median age within a 15-minute drive of the church is 41.1 years, while 63.8% of our church members were over the age of 66 with little diversity among the congregation. Members overwhelmingly want to reinvigorate the church school and youth programs, increase their community outreach, and make better use of the expansive grounds and facilities.

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, 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.



# 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. This building only lasted until 1772, when the current church was constructed, probably using enslaved labor. By 1860, just prior to the Civil War, the county's "free" population numbered 5,877 and enslaved population 4,610 – 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. Since then, Christ Church has undergone physical 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, most recently 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 became 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. Recent milestones in the church's history include the impact of the Coronavirus epidemic and its restrictions on worship, starting in March 2020, and leading to outdoor services on the tournament field and the start of Zoom

broadcasts. In 2022, Christ Church celebrated its 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a community birthday celebration, celebratory church service and dinner, oral history interviews and an anniversary video, an updated church history, a cookbook, and the restoration of our Harrand pump organ, amongst other activities. In 2023, a ceremony was held to mark the reinternment in the churchyard of the remains of colonial settlers excavated from the site of nearby Calverton, the first county seat of government.

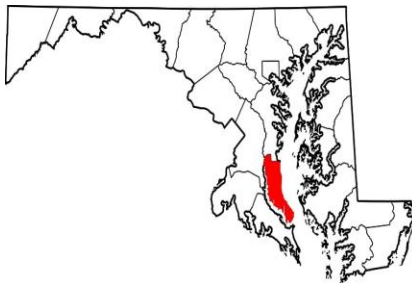
For over three centuries, Christ Church has endured, a reassuring presence in peace and in war and in times of change and transition.

## *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 lay representatives attend monthly meetings of the Southern Maryland Regional Council 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. Other than the diocese, there is an informal clericus, meeting weekly, and the Calvert Inter-Faith Council which coordinates ecumenical activities within the county.

## *Our Location*



Christ Church Parish is located in Calvert County, on the Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Calvert is Maryland's smallest county, containing just 213 square miles on a narrow peninsula of land between the 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 of Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore. It is governed by an elected five-member 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. (50 miles), Annapolis (42 miles), and Baltimore (70 miles). Possessing a modern hospital in Prince Frederick and boasting a public school system ranked among the top five in Maryland, Calvert County has become an increasingly attractive place to live and raise a family.





## *Calvert's People*

In 1790, there were only 8,652 residents in Calvert County and, even as late as 1950, the population was still only 12,100. During this time, most residents made their living growing tobacco or working on the water. By 2020, the population had grown to 92,783, more than an eight-fold increase over 74 years. This population increase brought with it a massive change in the traditional working patterns; no longer just farmers and watermen, other employment opportunities opened.

Currently, the largest employers in the region are the Calvert County Board of Education, the Calvert County Government, CalvertHealth Medical Center (affiliated with Duke University and other major metropolitan medical centers), Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, and the Dominion Cove Point Natural Gas Plant. Many Calvert citizens are employed at the U.S. Navy bases and supporting industries in neighboring St. Mary's County. Still other residents have careers with the Federal government and support contractors, the military, non-profit concerns, and private industry based in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. In recent years, many of these jobs have shifted dramatically to full or part-time telework arrangements, reducing the demands and expense of commuting. The dynamic economy of the region has driven an increase in retail activity, which brought with it yet more employment opportunities, especially to those seeking part-time work.

As of 2020, the median age of Calvert County residents was 40.1 and there were 33,577 families. Of this population, 76,481 (82%) were white, 12,100 (13%) were African American, and 4,202 (4.5%) were Hispanic. The median household income was \$120,097.



# Search Process

Christ Church has been enormously blessed through the centuries. During the last 75 years, three talented rectors have led the church through times of much change. We started our search for a new rector in 2024 by creating a Profile Committee and a 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 in the summer of 2024 together with a Parish Survey. Many hours of discussion, distillation, reflection, and prayer were put into this survey, and the survey was then distributed to members in August 2024, with a 78.5% response rate received. The survey questions were broken down into four categories: Parish Demographics; Rector Qualities; Regarding Sermons; and Going Forward.



The results of the survey were presented to the membership after a consolidated service and fellowship in August, one of three such sessions to keep members abreast of the work of the Profile and Search Committees. 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. Highlights are available on the Christ Church website.

There is considerable agreement that one of the greatest assets that Christ Church has is its long-lasting, traditional, and Scripture-based history. There is also a realization that we need to change, try new things and involve new people. The challenge will be to find a new rector to work with Christ Church to bring both together. 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 Lord and Savior. We recognize the three-fold sources of authority in Anglicanism—Scripture, Tradition, and Reason—as cornerstones of our 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. We are committed to maintaining our rich Anglican traditions and worship style, while at the same time recognizing that the church needs to adapt and change if it is to survive in the decades to come. We are a welcoming, friendly church who largely understand the challenges faced by many churches in the current world in attracting newer generations of members. 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 regrowing our youth program and education, which was in decline even before the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, we desire to reach out to more families in the 15 - minute driving range of the church where 60% of these residents are religiously unaffiliated, 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 25 in-house and outreach ministries.

We worship in a parish dating to 1672 and in a church constructed in 1772. However, Christ Church is not just a building, but a spirit-filled congregation devoted to faithfully following Jesus Christ.



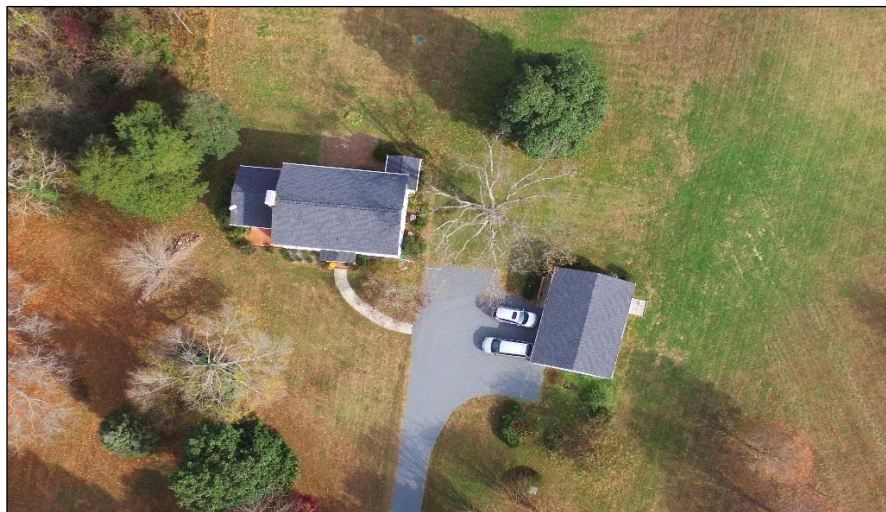
## *Who We Are Seeking*

We are seeking a rector who is committed to Jesus Christ as their Savior and who 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 can deliver inspirational sermons that are reverent, biblically based, relatable, and appropriate in length. In the 2024 Parish Survey, respondents were asked from a list of possibilities what they like in a sermon. Almost 89% favored spiritually moving and inspirational sermons, and over 86% sought sermons whose teachings could be applied to daily life.

The same survey favored a rector who had a warm and hospitable presence, was friendly and engaging, cared about people, taught and communicated well, and demonstrated good character. We are striving for a rector who can work with church leaders to follow through some excellent suggestions in the survey responses on new ways to help build Christ Church. As one respondent remarked, “Even though we have a long, rich history, we need less resistance to change and more willingness to try new things and involve new people.”

We are seeking a rector who can guide and lead all members of Christ Church into deepening their personal and spiritual relationship with God, encourage members and leadership to develop and implement novel ideas for ministry, and explore ways to increase cooperative programming with other Episcopal churches and organizations in the region.

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.



The church is blessed with a large and conveniently located rectory, that is well maintained, and where our new rector will reside.

# A Closer Look at Christ Church

## *Worship and Music*

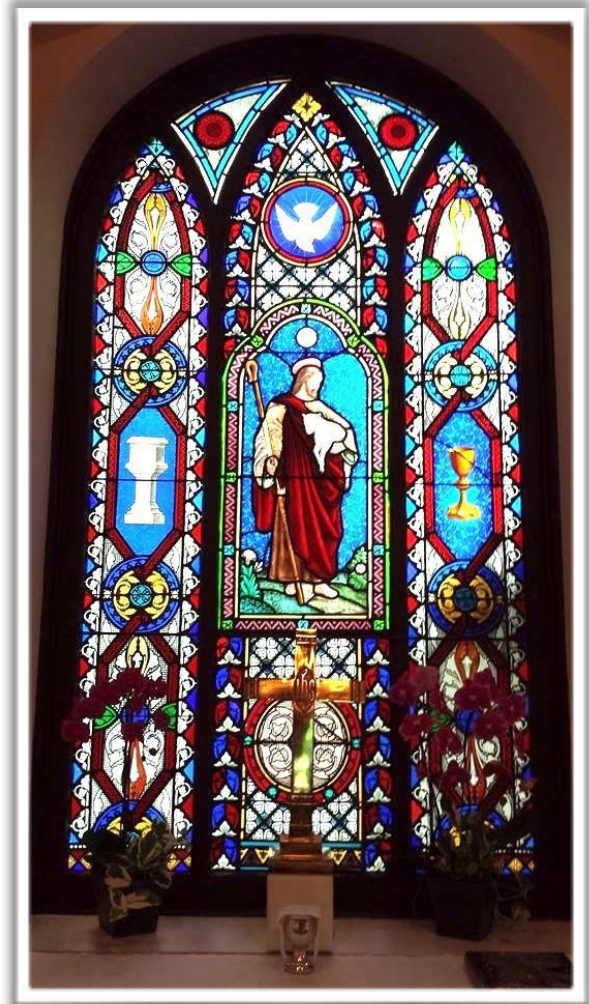
Christ Church welcomes all to attend worship services on Sunday. Our worship is with Biblical preaching and liturgy as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. During Christmas and Easter, additional services are provided with special selections of music provided by the Christ Church Choir and organist,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

### Sunday Worship

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m.  | Holy Eucharist, Rite I   |
| 9:30 a.m.  | Monthly Fellowship in Parish Hall                                  |
| 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist, Rite II with choral music (in person and via Zoom) |
| 11:15 a.m. | Weekly Fellowship in Parish Hall                                   |

### Thursday Worship

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist and Prayer Ministry   |
| 10:45 a.m. | Community Bible Study (with same class material offered via zoom one night a week) |



## Easter Season

*Shrove Tuesday* – Pancake Supper

*Ash Wednesday*

7:30 a.m., noon and Holy Eucharist and Imposition

7:00 p.m. of Ashes

4:00-5:00 p.m. Drive-through ashes at Parish Hall

*Lenten Fellowship Evenings*

Friday evenings 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 p.m. The Way of the Cross

6:30-7:30 p.m. Soup & Bread (followed by video and book study)

*Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday*

8:30 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. (Palm branches are distributed at both services.)

Tuesday

5:30 p.m. Seder Dinner (Christian adaptation of the Jewish seder meal)

*Maundy Thursday*

7:00 p.m. Liturgy for Maundy Thursday (foot washing and stripping of the altar)

*Good Friday*

7:00 p.m. Liturgy for Good Friday

Ecumenical service at St. Peter’s & Our Lady Star of the Sea, Solomons

*Easter Day*

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Vigil on tournament field

8:30 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist



## Christmas Season

*First Sunday in Advent*    Advent Wreath Making Workshop

*Tuesdays in December*

4:00 p.m.                Advent Walks (walk the Seven Bridges  
Trail with a fireside gathering afterwards)

“Wreaths Across America” (placing of wreaths on veteran’s  
graves)

*Greening of the Church* (prior to Christmas Eve)

*Christmas Eve*

9:15 a.m.                Consolidated Holy Eucharist

3:00 p.m.                Holy Eucharist (Liturgy for those with  
young children)

10:30 p.m.              Carol Singing by Choir and  
Congregation, Mackall  
Music Scholars

11:00 p.m.              Festival Holy Eucharist

*Christmas Day*

10:00 a.m.              Holy Eucharist

*First Sunday after Christmas Day*

8:30 a.m.                Holy Eucharist and Carols

10:00 a.m.              Baptismal Eucharist and  
Carols

*The Epiphany*

7:00 p.m.                Holy Eucharist

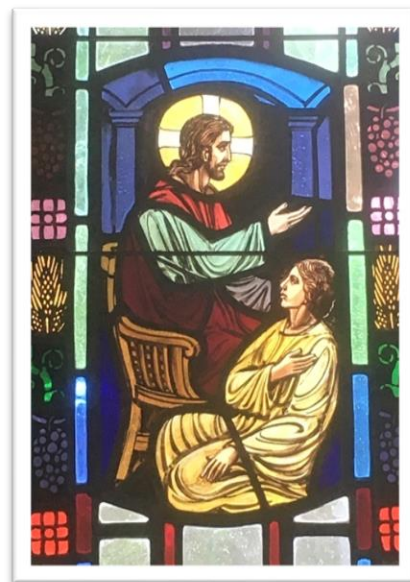


*By tradition, Christmas decorations and crèches are put away on Epiphany.*

# *Ministries and Missions*

## WORSHIP

- **Acolyte Guild**
- **Altar Guild**
- **Bread & Wine Bearers**
- **Flower Ministry**
- **Greeters**
- **Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMS)**
- **Lectors**
- **Music**
- **Special Events & Projects:** Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals.
- **Welcoming Literature**
- **Zoom broadcast at 10:00 a.m. service and for other events**



## TEACHING



- **Bible Fellowship** (Weekly)
- **Claggett Diocesan Center**
- **Lent Programs:** Stations of the Cross, Weekly Lenten Soup and Bread Suppers followed by book study with accompanying videos.
- **Sacramental Instruction:** Education and special instruction for those preparing to receive their first Communion/Confirmation.



- **Special Events:** One Room Schoolhouse (Ice Cream Social, Christmas Open House, Annual Church Picnic).
- **Special Worship Events:** All Saints, Thanksgiving Day service, Blessing of the Pets, Memorial Day service, etc.
- **Vacation Bible School:** A week-long program for the youth is rotated among the county parishes.

## FELLOWSHIP

- **The Bell:** Monthly newsletter, published by a volunteer group, mailed to members, and posted on the website.
- **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](http://www.brothersandrew.net)) The group supports church activities like the Pancake Supper.
- **Churchyard and Grounds:** Maintained during the growing season by contractors, with twice yearly work days by church volunteers.



- **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](http://www.doknational.org)) Christ Church maintains national membership but the chapter is not currently active.
- **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, floral decorations for the church can be donated either “In Memory Of” or “In Thanksgiving For” loved ones.
- **Prayer Ministry:** The Prayer Chain involves 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 10:00 a.m. 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 Meetings with potluck dinner, Thanksgiving Breakfast, Easter Breakfast, and Seder dinner. Breakfast or lunch social gatherings of the J.U.L.I.E.T.S (Just Us Ladies Informally Eating Together Sometimes) and R.O.M.E.O.S. (Retired Old Men Eating Out Sometimes).

## OUTREACH

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:

- **Recent alms offerings and volunteer support include:**
  - HeartF.E.L.T. Backpack Ministry
  - SMILE Food Pantry and Thrift Shop
  - Brown's Church (restoration fund)
  - Project Echo (homeless shelter)
  - VBS
  - Claggett Center
  - Lenten Mission Offering includes: Calvert Hospice, Hospice of the Chesapeake, United Thank Offering, and Episcopal Relief & Development
- **Comfort Givers:** This group comforts bereaved families by assisting with the preparations and by hosting and serving at a reception in the Parish House after a funeral.
- **Discretionary Fund:** This fund is used at the rector's discretion for need or emergencies within the community.

- **Food Pantry and Thrift Shop:** Christ Church is one twelve partner churches that make up SMILE Ecumenical Ministries in Lusby, which supports those in need in the southern part of Calvert County. SMILE also sponsors the annual Good Friday Procession of the Cross and Service in Solomons.

- **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.

([www.heartfeltsomd.com](http://www.heartfeltsomd.com))



- **Jousting Tournament:**

Since at least 1866 and up to the present, Tournament Day at Christ Church, Port Republic, MD has been our largest annual and only public fund-raising event. The day is planned many months in advance and includes different booths with various items for sale, children’s activities, and a traditional church supper. Organ music is played in the church in the afternoon. Jousting, the official 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.



- **Mackall Scholarships:** The Mackall Fund was 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 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 48 students in any given year. In 2023, after legal advice, the Mackall Scholarship fund was broadened to provide scholarships for eligible youth of the church who met certain criteria. It also provides funding support for Mackall Music Scholars (local high school performers) and permits related operative administrative costs to be charged to the Fund.

- **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. In recent years, a series of Advent walks have been conducted. All 4<sup>th</sup> graders in Calvert public schools have a field trip which includes programs at the One-Room Schoolhouse and a walk along the Seven Bridges Trail. The trail is maintained by volunteers.



- **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 church and the community.

# Parish Facts

## Membership

The 2023 Parochial Report for Christ Church Parish lists:

- 158 baptized members for the previous year, including children and nonactive members
- 90 total communicants in good standing
- 67 signed pledges

Demographic highlights from the 2024 Christ Church Parish Profile Survey show age of membership at:

- ~5% between ages 18 and 25
- ~9% between ages 26 and 35
- ~5% between ages 36 and 45
- ~14% between ages 46 and 55
- ~14% between ages 56 and 65
- ~64% are 66 and over

Length of attendance:

- ~68% have been attending Christ Church more than 20 years
- ~10% have attended 11 to 20 years



- ~15% have attended 1 to 10 years
- ~7% have attended less than one year

Other facts:

- ~60% prefer the 8:30 service
- ~43% prefer the 10:00 service
  
- ~9% have school age children
- ~77% attend more than 12 times a year

## 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. Officers are elected for two-year renewable terms and other members serve four-year nonrenewable terms.

## Staff

The staff of Christ Church consists of the following positions (\*paid, \*\* as needed):

- Full-time Rector\*
- Senior Warden
- Junior Warden
- Registrar
- Treasurer
- Two Assistant Treasurers
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- VBS Director\*\*
- Sunday School Director\*
- Sunday School Teachers\*\*
- Part-time Secretary\*
- Organist/Choir Director\*



## *Financial Profile*

The overall financial state of Christ Church is secure. We are free of debt. Per capita giving by our members is strong, with many donors increasing their pledges even during the pandemic. However, as an aging congregation we are challenged to replace members as we lose them, and we have used income from our endowment to cover an increasing portion of our operating expenses. Stopping—and reversing—this trend and being able to devote a greater fraction of our resources to outreach and growth are foremost among our financial goals.

Fortunately, our buildings and systems are in excellent condition to support and expand our activities on campus. Over the past five years, numerous projects to maintain and enhance our campus and facilities have been completed. These include: replacement of roofs, heating, and cooling systems in the Parish Hall and Rectory and installation of solar electric generation for the Rectory. Extensive work to keep our grounds safe, attractive, and functional has been accomplished, including replacement of the exterior steps leading into the church and the removal of a number of older, ailing trees that threatened to damage our buildings. These



improvements to the facilities make them ready to serve our parish and missions for years to come.

The Vestry ultimately is responsible for financial decisions and obligations of Christ Church. However, in recent years a Financial Committee (including non-vestry members) has been established to help the treasurer plan our capital and operating budgets, and

a sub-committee is being formed to review the management of our endowment. Finally, we have instituted an audit committee to oversee our finances annually, to ensure that we follow sound practices in compliance with the canons of the Diocese of Maryland.

## *Digital and Online Transition*

For a historic church, Christ Church maintains a strong presence technologically. Our first steps were to establish a WiFi grid covering the parish hall, church, and extending to the grounds where we hold the jousting tournament. The network is effectively two—a private and a public network—served by a fast ethernet connection from Comcast Business. Additionally, Christ Church maintains a digital footprint in the form of a web page ([christchurchcalvert.org](http://christchurchcalvert.org)) and via Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram (@christchurchcalvert).

The COVID-19 pandemic led to the start of streaming access to Sunday services for our congregation. A volunteer camera operator provides video and audio access during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service. We also livestream holiday services, church meetings, weddings, funerals and other events. During the pandemic, attendees could also listen to the service on the tournament field via low-power FM on their car radios.

Christ Church has also benefited from technology in other ways: Our weekly Bible Study on Thursday mornings added an online class during COVID-19, reaching out beyond the walls of the church. Today, Christ Church Bible study is a community study with members from other churches and other states, offering a weekly evening zoom class online, and in-person Thursday morning sessions.

We use a Constant Contact email list to provide a weekly email, “This Week at Christ Church,” with our Zoom link, scriptures for the week, announcements, service time reminders, and a weekly meditation. Furthermore, five years ago we started using Square for sales and donations at the Jousting Tournament, and now the church is using Square for online giving.





# *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 to 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 1906-08, when much of the brick walls were rebuilt, additional buttresses added to the corners and a central aisle created in the interior. During 2017-18 a capital campaign raised funds to conserve all the stained-glass windows in the church.



## Parish Hall

The current Parish Hall, located near the front of the property, was built in 1957 and has been renovated and updated through the years. It is available for Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School when offered, and for Church ministries. 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 also open for use by local organizations for a donation. Current organizations include AA, Calvert Retired Teachers' Association, Calvert Garden Club, Jarrett Music Studios, and Patuxent Voices.



## Biblical Garden

The Biblical Garden next to 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 an 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. In recent years, it has been used in our Advent walks.

## 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 was the 157<sup>th</sup> year Christ Church had hosted the Jousting Tournament, which also includes a bazaar and country dinner. The field also served as an impromptu venue for outdoor services during the height of the COVID-19 outbreak, and continues to be used for occasional outdoor services.



## 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, including long needle pine, holly and cedar, all three of 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 were planted 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 1912, replacing an earlier building on the site, 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. All 4th graders in Calvert County public schools visit the school on a field trip. The Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse organization currently maintain the structure.

## Rectory

The Rectory was built in 1959 to replace an earlier rectory in the same location on the Christ Church campus. It is a four bedroom, two-and-a-half- bathroom structure with a full basement and two car garage. In recent years, it has received new air conditioning, a new roof, and solar power that provides 105% of its electrical needs.



# *Inquiry*

Nominations for Christ Church's new rector should be directed via e-mail to [kkrantz@episcopalmaryland.org](mailto:kkrantz@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 Kristin Krantz  
Canon for Transitions  
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland  
4 East University Parkway  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
[kkrantz@episcopalmaryland.org](mailto:kkrantz@episcopalmaryland.org)

410-467-1399

Ext. 1355

