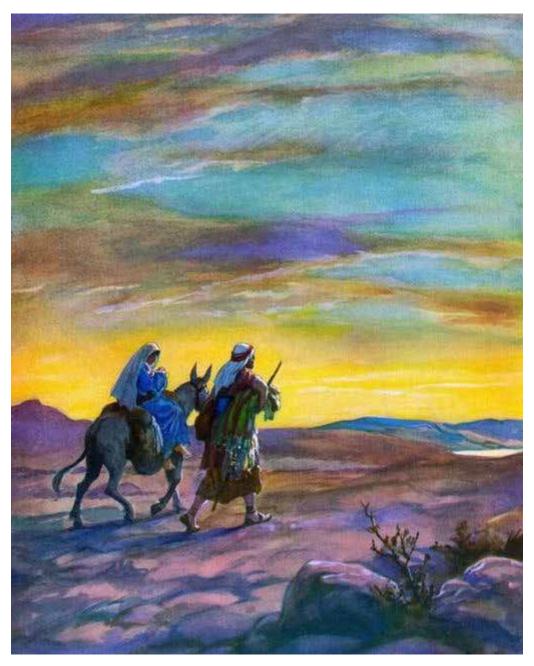
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN GARRETT COUNTY WORSHIPPING AT St. John's Episcopal Church the episcopal diocese of maryland 10 A.M. \$\phi\$ January 4, 2026

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Be thankful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the House of God.

Before the service, speak to the Lord.

During the service, let the Lord speak to you.

After the service, speak to one another.

Hymn 107 Good Christian friends rejoice Chris - tian friends, Good re - joice with heart and soul and voice; Chris - tian friends, with heart and soul and voice; Good re - joice Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice; ye heed what we Je - sus Christ born to - day; say: ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this! now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born save! to the and ass be - fore him bow, and in he is man - ger now. are blest He hath o-pened hea-ven's door, and for ev - er-more. we last - ing hall. Calls you one and calls you gain his er -Christ Christ is born day! born day! this! Christ this! Christ was born for was born for Christ Christ was born to save! was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

Celebrant I see you.

People We are here.

Celebrant Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets

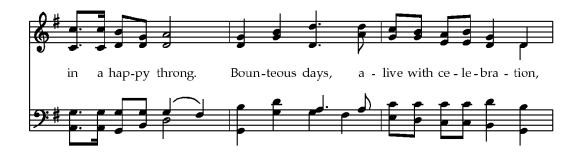
are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through

Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 114 (VOICES) Grateful Praise







Words: Mary Louise Bringle © 2002 Birnamwood Publishers, dist. for MorningStar Music Publishers.

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Music: Ferland, Willaim P. Rowan, alt. © 2001 MorningStar Music Publishers.

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Hely Spirit, and Cod for ever and ever

unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People Amen.

The people sit.

THE FIRST LESSON:

JEREMIAH 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 84 Quam dilecta!

How dear to me is your dwelling,
O Lord of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice
in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; * by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house! * they will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you! * whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, * for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height, * and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; * hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, * and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the Lord God is both sun and shield; * he will give grace and glory;

No good thing will the Lord withhold * from those who walk with integrity.

O Lord of hosts, *

happy are they who put their trust in you!

THE SECOND LESSON:

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

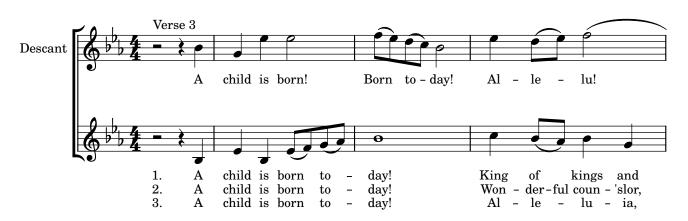
I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

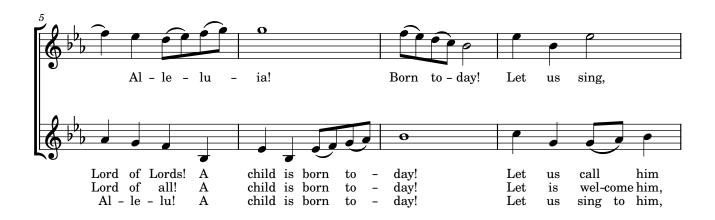
Reader The Word of the Lord.

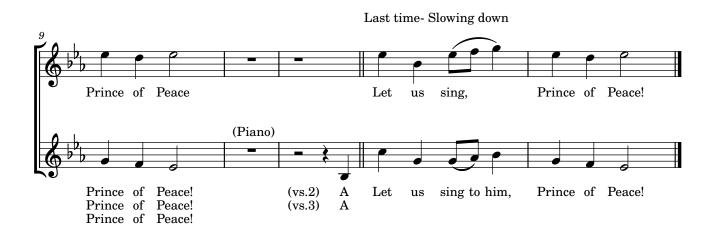
People Thanks be to God.

Christmas Gospel Acclamation

L.DeLauder







THE GOSPEL:

MATTHEW 2:13-15,19-23

Celebrant People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Celebrant

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

THE REV. DR. CHIP LEE

All stand for

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Leader For all people in their daily life and work;

People For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader For this community, the nation, and the world;

People For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader For the just and proper use of your creation;

People For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Leader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Leader In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for Holy Nativity, Baltimore; Immanuel, Glencoe;

St. Andrew's, Baltimore.

We also pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Carrie our Bishop, and for all bishops

and other ministers.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa.

People For all who serve God in his church.

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation especially for Chip Lee; Nancy

Ihloff; Madalyn Hoffeditz; Megan Morin; Marshall Stacy; Sharon Pyle; Butch Virts; Roberta Seward; the Hodge-Williams Family; Don Loomis; John & Brenda Rathgeb; Frances Sharpless; Laura Tasker; Walt Tasker; Ron Peterson; Michael Marine; Kathy &

Elon O'Connor; Mary Ely; Smith Lantz; Barb Riley; John Jorgensen; Hugh & Dolores Andrew; Jessie Harris; Dave Arnold; Jeff Arnold; Amy Harmon; Kim Lovett & Family;

Mary Ann Crawford; Michael Null; Bernie Ferguson; Regina Ray; Margaret Russ; Willie

Rissell; and for all whom we hold in our hearts this day.

This week's family prayers are for Elizabeth & Jamie Van Nostrand; Gregan, Donna,

Cameron, & Lindsay Crawford; and Laura & Walt Tasker.

Leader Hear us, Lord;

People For your mercy is great.

Leader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;

People And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Leader We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Leader Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People Who put their trust in you.

Leader We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Please warmly greet one another with the peace of Christ

Parish Life

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) N. as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

Please stand as the Offering is brought to the Altar Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing

CelebrantPeopleCelebrantThe Lord be with you.And also with you.Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven,

who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Hymn S-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord



The People stand or kneel

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and

People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_______ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Celebrant and

People AMEN.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God



Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright: Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

All here are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Our tradition is to receive both bread and wine, sharing the common cup. Please assist the chalice bearer by guiding the cup to your lips. You may receive the bread only, if you prefer. After consuming the bread, simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you do not wish to receive the wine. You may also "intinct" by dipping the bread into the chalice. If you desire only a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest when you come to the rail.

Post-Communion Hymn 820 (WLP)

The eyes of all wait upon you



THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING



Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: Regent Square, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

announcements

stephen's table

Our next meal will be served on **Thursday, January 22nd from 5-6:30 pm**. If you can help in any way, contact **Kip Senholzi** at **kwsenholzi@comcast.net,** or simply show up and have some fun with us! The **Nearly New** will be open during this time, also.

seekers

The Seekers are still collecting **non-perishable food** to replenish the food pantry at the Oakland Town Hall. They fill the pantry at least twice per month. If you are able to help, please bring your donations to the church.

women's retreat

The Diocese of Maryland is hosting a Women's Retreat from February 20th - 22nd. This retreat will be a sacred pause in the middle of winter—a time to gather with women of all ages for meaningful conversation, inspiring worship, creative workshops, and joyful community. Whether you're seeking spiritual refreshment, new friendships, or simply some quiet time away, this retreat offers space to breathe deeply and be fully yourself. If you are interested in joining, please contact **Kendall** or **Krysta** for more information. They hope to have a bigger group of women from ECGC than last year!

offering envelopes

The 2026 offering envelopes are in the back of both churches. If you want offering envelopes for the first time, please sign your name by an open number and take those envelopes. Otherwise, please take the same number that you had last year.

nearly new

The Nearly New is in need of **gloves.** It is also in need of **cashiers for Saturdays as well as substitute cashiers**. When we do not have cashiers, we have to close the store. If you are interested in lending a hand, even only to be a substitute to keep the store open, please let us know in one of the following ways:

Send an email to nearlynewcrew@gmail.com

Contact **Kathy Zimmer** by cell at **412-287-7483** or by email at **kathyzimmer24@gmail.com**

Contact **Maryn Fisher** by cell at **240-409-6845** or by email at **mhffisher@comcast.net**

Contact Julie Hartman in her office at 301-334-2510 ext. 3 or by email at: episcopalchurchingarrettcounty@gmail.com

ministers of today's service

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee
Reader: Mike Voelkel
Chalicist: Carol Voelkel

prayer list

We pray each Sunday and Thursday for members, relatives and friends of this faith community who have asked for our prayers. You may call Julie in the Church Office at 301-334-2510 ext. 3 or email your request to:

episcopalchurchingarrettcounty@gmail.com

Let us pray to the Lord and for each other, especially for Chip Lee; Nancy Ihloff; Madalyn Hoffeditz; Megan Morin; Marshall Stacy; Sharon Pyle; Butch Virts; Roberta Seward; the Hodge-Williams Family; Don Loomis; John & Brenda Rathgeb; Frances Sharpless; Laura Tasker; Walt Tasker; Ron Peterson; Michael Marine; Kathy & Elon O'Connor; Mary Ely; Smith Lantz; Barb Riley; John Jorgensen; Hugh & Dolores Andrew; Jessie Harris; Dave Arnold; Jeff Arnold; Amy Harmon; Kim Lovett & Family; Mary Ann Crawford; Michael Null; Bernie Ferguson; Regina Ray; Margaret Russ; Willie Rissell; and for all whom we hold in our hearts this day.

(Silence)

In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for Holy Nativity, Baltimore; Immanuel, Glencoe; St. Andrew's, Baltimore.

We also pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Carrie our Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers.

In the Anglican communion we pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa.

For relatives and friends of this faith community serving the victims of disasters and political unrest around the world, for those who are in harm's way in war zones, and for those who are working for peace everywhere.

For all victims of natural disaster, terrorism, war, economic and environmental injustice and addiction.

Members of our Faith Community for whom we are praying

Linda Ludwig Baker; Lexie Byrne; Joseph R. Clark, Sr., Carolyn Germain, Kathleen Gibbs, Larry Glatt, Stephanie Hawtof & Kevin Rissell; Kolby Hefner, Dan Jonson, Smith Lantz, Madeline Meister, Brenda Rathgeb, Kat & Matt Rayner, Kip Senholzi, and Gavin Tasker.

also

Little ones have a place at St. John's!

Our Sunday school is downstairs. Ask anyone for directions.

Stay in touch with us digitally!

To receive the Parish E-news, please add your name, address, phone number, and email address to the guest register just inside the door of the narthex, or use the form on our website home page at www.episcopalchurchingarrettcounty.org. When you are not able to be with us on Sunday, you can watch the livestream at 10 a.m. on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays of the month.

In case of rare snow closures or sudden changes in our worship schedule, we will send an email to our address list announcing the change.

Please note that we delete addresses that report as nonexistent and cause our emails to bounce back. Make sure you add episcopalchurchingarrettcounty@gmail.com to your computer's address book to ensure that our email does not end up in your spam folder.

upcoming church schedule

St. Matthew's
St. John's
St. Matthew's

Sunday, January 4th at St. John's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10 am Sunday School downstairs

Coffee hour in the fellowship room immediately following the service

Thursday, January 8th at St. Matthew's

7:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II - The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee

Sunday, January 11th - The Epiphany at St. Matthew's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

10 am Sunday School upstairs in the parish hall

Coffee hour in the chancel immediately

following the service

sunday schedule

January 11th St. Matthew's
January 18th St. John's
January 25th St. Matthew's
February 1st St. John's
February 8th St. Matthew's
February 15th St. John's
February 22nd St. Matthew's

weekly

1st and 3rd Sunday at St. John's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10 am Sunday School downstairs

2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday at St. Matthew's

10 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

10 am Sunday School in the Parish Hall

Wednesday

10 am - 2 pm Nearly New Open

11 am It's in the Bag Packing at St. John's

Thursday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Friday & Saturday

10 am - 2 pm Nearly New Open

monthly

third Sunday

6 pm EpiscoPals (none scheduled at this time)

monthly

7pm

12 noon Seekers- parish hall- no meetings at this time

Vestry/Advisory Board meeting at SM

(January 15th)

next-to-the-last Thursday

5 - 6:30 pm Stephen's Table (January 22nd)

The Episcopal Church in Garrett County

the episcopal diocese of maryland

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church 126 East Liberty Street Oakland, Maryland 21550

St. John's Episcopal Church 5234 Maryland Highway Oakland, Maryland 21550

Office phone: 301-334-2510 ext. 3

Website: www.episcopalchurchingarrettcounty.org E-mail: episcopalchurchingarrettcounty@gmail.com Parish office hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

clergy

The Rt. Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent

Bishop of Maryland

The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee

Rector, St. Matthew's; Vicar, St. John's

The Rev. Anne Byrne-Deitch

Assistant Priest for Christian Formation, St. Matthew's

staff

Julie Hartman

Parish Administrator

Krysta Huxford

Senior Warden, St. Matthew's

Mark Ludwig

Junior Warden, St. Matthew's

Mike Voelkel

Senior Warden, St. John's

Gladys Virts

Junior Warden, St. John's

Leah DeLauder

Music Director

vestry/advisory board members

St. Matthew's Vestry St. John's Advisory Board

Rev. Anne Byrne-Deitch ~ Assistant Priest

Mary Jane Fike ~ St. Matthew's Julie Hartman ~ Parish Administrator

Dane Huxford ~ St. Matthew's

Krysta Huxford ~ Senior Warden, St. Matthew's

Rev. Dr. Chip Lee ~ Vicar, St. John's/Rector, St. Matthew's

Mark Ludwig ~ Junior Warden, St. Matthew's

Liz Morin ~ St. Matthew's Leslie Roper ~ St. Matthew's Larry Shipe ~ St. John's

Mike Shirey ~ Treasurer, St. John's Gladys Virts ~ Junior Warden, St. John's

Mikey Virts ~ St. Matthew's

Mike Voelkel ~ Senior Warden, St. John's Bonnie Winters ~ Treasurer, St. Matthew's

The Episcopal Church in Garrett County

A Believing Community Diverse in its Faith; Unified in its Purpose

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
126 East Liberty Street
Oakland, Maryland 21550

St. John's Episcopal Church
5234 Maryland Highway
Deer Park, Maryland 21550

301-334-2510 www.episcopalchurchingarrettcounty.org

