



July & August 2025

The Eagle

John's
ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HAVRE DE GRACE • EST. 1899



Newsletter for St. John's Episcopal Havre de Grace

Everyone is Welcome Here!



St. John's Episcopal Church 114 N. Union Ave. Havre de Grace, MD 21078
www.stjohnshdg.org stjohnshdg@comcast.net Office: 410-939-2107

Office Hours: Mon/Wed/Thurs 9am-1pm Fridays 9am-Noon Closed Tuesdays

Sunday Service: 9:30 am Father Josh Messick, Long Term Supply Priest
Parish Administrator: David Parker

2025 Vestry

Irmgarde Brown, Sr. Warden
Ray Mastnjak, Treasurer & Jr. Warden
Nicole Murray, Registrar
Jackie Brandon, Vestry Member
Cary Chabalowski, Vestry Member
Peter Murray, Vestry Member
Bill Price, Vestry Member
Bess Reed, Vestry Member
Jackson Rivers-Byrnes, Vestry Member
Barbara Snyder, Vestry Member
Fred Vesce, Vestry Member

Food Ministries

St. John's Cupboard
667-201-0236
Serving Time: Fridays 10am - Noon
cupboardstjohns114@gmail.com
Contacts: Sheila McCutcheon and
Lori Gengenbach

Grace Place
410-652-4554
Serving Time: Tuesdays 10am - Noon
Contact: Louise Silsby

Mosaic Center

Jackson Rivers-Byrnes, Pres.
www.mosaicharco.org
mosaicharco@gmail.com
667-268-1609
Insta: mosaicenter_
Board Members:
Seth Byrnes
Nicole Iarrobino
Peter Murray
Francisco Vasquez-Harris
Renee Vesce

Vestry News by Irmgarde Brown

Due to Irmgarde's open-heart surgery and recovery, the June meeting was pushed to July 1st.

Ray Mastnjak led the meeting and Irmgarde attended by zoom.

Key results from that meeting:

- T-shirt order completed
- A new copier printer was voted upon (a lease from Doceo).
- We are awaiting news from the Diocese regarding our two grant applications.
- A facility condition assessment has been completed and staff will be reviewing it in the next two months to determine priorities.
- Children's church is going well, with teacher volunteers doing 2 weeks at a time. Additional volunteers are welcome.
- An assessment was also made of the boiler and fan in the rectory and although it is aging, Vestry decided to wait until absolutely necessary to replace these items due to the high cost (\$30k) to replace.
- The annual Vestry retreat will be one full day, held locally, on Saturday, October 11th



FOOD DRIVE

CAN GOODS

- ☐ Green Beans
- ☐ Potatoes
- ☐ Carrots
- ☐ Corn
- ☐ Mixed Veggies
- ☐ Cream Corn
- ☐ Asparagus
- ☐ Shelf Milk
- ☐ Pork n' Beans
- ☐ Tuna
- ☐ Chicken
- ☐ Spam
- ☐ Vienna Sausages
- ☐ Prepackaged pop-top meals (Hormel, Chef Boyardee, etc.)
 - Ravioli
 - Beefaroni
 - Lasagna
 - Spaghetti
 - Stew
 - Chicken or Tuna Salad w/crackers

Please take the food drive seriously and contribute canned goods to the Cupboard.

This is one of our primary missions and needs to be supported both financially and with food and prayers.

Cupboard Corner



St. John's Cupboard is at St John's Episcopal Church.

July 10 at 12:34 PM · 🌐

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St. John's Cupboard

St. John's Episcopal Church

114 N. Union Ave., Havre de Grace, MD. 21078

667-201-0236

Cupboardstjohns114@gmail.com

WHO ARE WE?

St. John's Cupboard has been feeding food insecure people from Harford and Cecil Counties for the past twelve (12) years. In 2013 we became aware of the numerous families who need food. The first week we opened, we provided food for eighteen (18) people. Fast forward twelve years, to 2025. In the first five (5) months we have fed approximately 575 people per month!

WHAT DO WE OFFER?

Weekly we offer perishable, non-perishable food, toiletries (when available) and a lunch to go to those that walk through our door. We provide service with dignity, allowing individuals to select the food they need. Because we accept food from the government, we have monthly reports that need to be submitted. Along with set limitations of that food. We also accept food from individuals and businesses.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE CUPBOARD

It takes fourteen (14) volunteers throughout the week (7 days) to pick up donated food. It takes ten (10) volunteers to set up on Thursdays. It takes eighteen (18) volunteers to open on Fridays. It takes one (1) volunteer to compile and track our data. It takes two (2) volunteers approximately twenty-five (25) hours to complete weekly, monthly, yearly reports. Along with searching and submitting applications for grants. As well as purchasing food to supplement what we are lacking.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We accept non-perishable food donations that are not past the expiration date. During the grow season we accept fresh vegetables and fruits. We accept grocery gift cards and monetary donations. With the gift cards and money, we supplement our perishable and non-perishable goods. We have a volunteer that tracks the local sales on meats and can goods for us. We can always use more volunteers to pick up food weekly and monthly.



Neighbor of St. John's response: "Thank you, and your congregation for being such a true and good representation of what faith should be. So many religious institutions judge and condemnation, you all give me hope that some decency remains in the church."



St John's Episcopal Church

Published by Renee Vesci · July 5 at 7:04 PM · 🌐

🌈 St. John's Church Silent Witness – Compassion for All 🌈

Our mission at St. John's Church is clear:

- ✨ Centered in Christ
- 🌳 Rooted in History
- 💛 Compassion for All

Saturday, July 5th, the Moms for Liberty organization marched in the Havre de Grace Fourth of July Parade. While they advocate for parental rights, they also promote views that oppose critical race theory and LGBTQ+ inclusion—positions that conflict with our belief in dignity and compassion for everyone. 🙏

In response, we held a silent, peaceful witness on the lawn of [St John's Episcopal Church](#) as the parade passed. This was not a protest of people—it's was a visible act of love, inclusion, and nonviolence, rooted in our faith. Let's stand together—for all. ❤️ 🌈

[#CompassionForAll](#) [#SilentWitness](#) [#StJohnsHdG](#) [#LoveYourNeighbor](#) [#PrideAndJustice](#)
[#RootedInFaith](#)



Sept. 10th, 2025: "We Are America March" - Volunteer/Housing Needed



****An email went out about this event/volunteer request on June 19th****

"In light of our baptismal covenant, which asks if we “will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being,” please see the attached emails below – the “We Are America March” will be going through Havre de Grace, and are looking for volunteers to provide housing for the marchers. While St. John’s is not formally partnering with Together We Will, our very own Bill Price is offering to help monitor how many beds are available, and asks that if you are so inclined and sign up, that you also contact him at williamprice3rd@msn.com so that he can monitor how many beds are available."

From Bill Price:

On September 10th the “We Are America March” will be coming to HdG. There will be 50 marchers making the trip from Philadelphia to DC. They need housing for the 50 people. Below you can read the release that will go out about this. If you are willing please contact them at the sign up below.

From: Together We Will—Harford County:

Together We Will is partnering with WE ARE AMERICA MARCH to carry the US Constitution from Philadelphia, where the Constitution was written, to Washington DC, where the Constitution should be enforced. 50+ dedicated Marchers will march the entire Route, spending 2 and half days and 3 nights in Harford County. We are so excited to partner with St. John's Episcopal to work to provide housing for the night of September 10th. We are hoping that we can house the Marchers in people's homes and are asking for volunteers. If September 10th does not work for you, we will also be assisting with housing for the nights of September 11th and 12th as well.

We ask anyone interested in volunteering, or in finding out more, to email Together We Will at info@togetherharford.org with the reference WE ARE AMERICA HOUSING.

For more information on the march: weareamericamarch.com

Fundraisers



*Saturday
September 13th*

*Saturday
November 22nd*

The fall yard sale and the Christmas Bazaar are two of our biggest fundraisers each year!

Please save these dates so that you can volunteer and/or attend. We definitely need baked goods!

More info to come...

Do you have any news to include in the newsletter for our congregation?

Reach out to Renee Vesce at reneevesce@gmail.com or call 704-258-4730.

****Submit your info by the 25th to be featured in next month's issue!****

HARFORD READING CAMP - A BISHOP'S APPEAL PROJECT

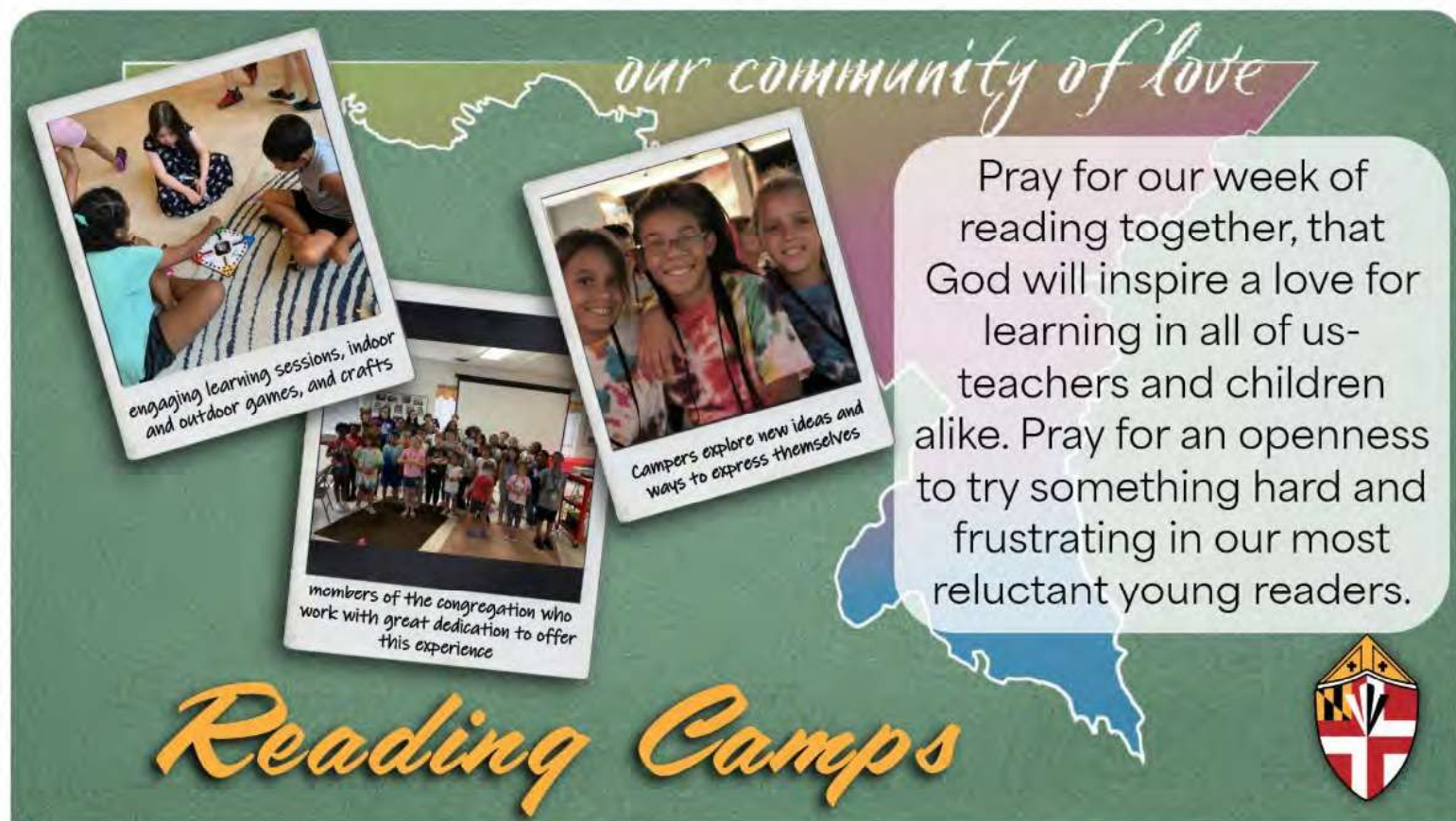


St John's Episcopal Church

Published by Renee Vesci · July 29 at 7:12 AM ·

We are excited to partner with sister parishes this week in volunteering for the Harford Reading Camp! [St John's Episcopal Church](#) has two teachers, a teen counselor, and two students at the camp.

[St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Abingdon](#) is our wonderful host. We are grateful for their months of planning and preparation. There are volunteers from [Christ Church Forest Hill](#), [Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Churchville](#), and [Emmanuel Episcopal Church](#) all working to make this special week of fun and interactive reading instruction happen!



Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

July 28 at 8:00 AM ·

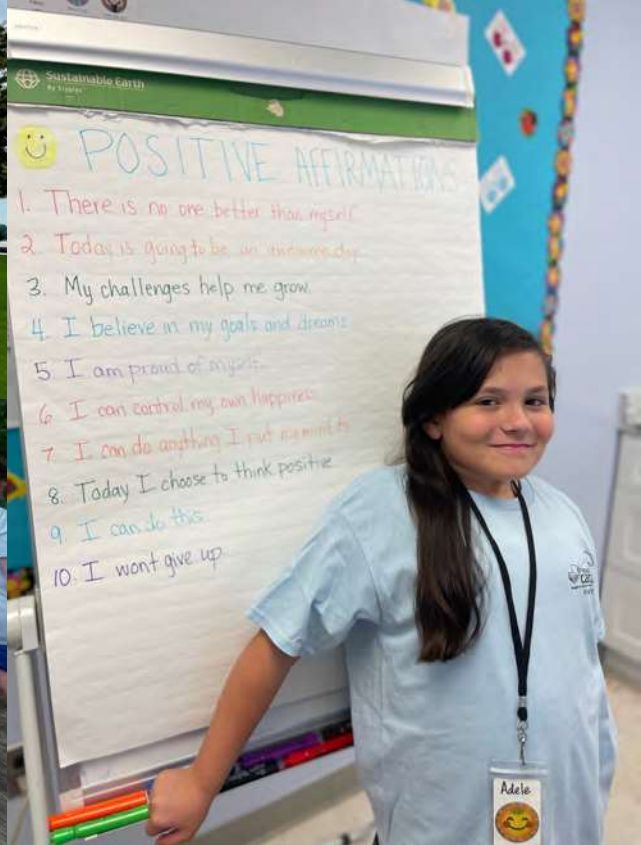
The 6th year of Reading Camp Harford 2025 begins today! We are ready to welcome 26 young readers and 15 teen reading counselors today!

Pray for our week of reading together, that God will inspire a love for learning in all of us- teachers and children alike. Pray for an openness to try something hard and frustrating in our most reluctant young readers.

Harford County organizing congregations include Bel Air, Abingdon, Holy Trinity, and St. John's. Bishop's Appeal contributors offer financial support for this worthy week of learning.

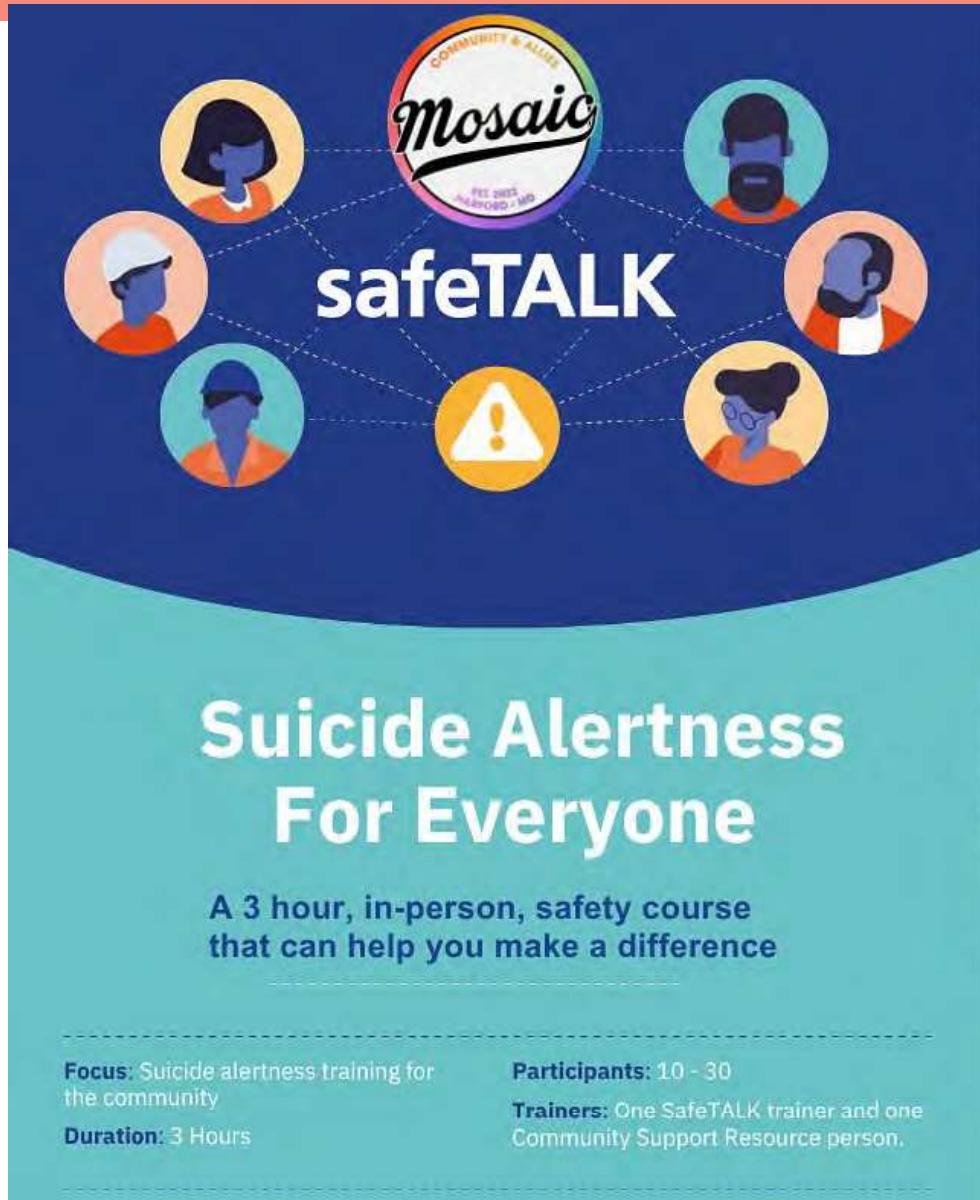
PHOTOS FROM HARFORD READING CAMP

St. John's parishioners Nicole Murray and Renee Vesci volunteered as teachers during the Harford Reading Camp week. Nicole led the Discovery class and Renee led the Comprehension class. Students rotated through four reading classes each morning and then had an afternoon filled with activities!



Mosaic

Mosaic is a community center for LGBTQIA+ and allies in Harford County that supports diversity, inclusion, and belonging.



The poster features a central graphic with the word "safeTALK" in large white letters on a dark blue background. Above it is the Mosaic logo, which includes the text "COMMUNITY & ALLIES" and "P.E.T. DIES HARFORD - MD". Surrounding the central text are seven circular icons: a woman with short dark hair, a man with a beard, a man with a beard and glasses, a woman with glasses, a man with a beard, a man with a beard and glasses, and a yellow triangle with a white exclamation mark. Below the central graphic, the text "Suicide Alertness For Everyone" is written in large white letters, followed by "A 3 hour, in-person, safety course that can help you make a difference" in smaller white letters. At the bottom, there are two columns of text: "Focus: Suicide alertness training for the community" and "Duration: 3 Hours" on the left, and "Participants: 10 - 30" and "Trainers: One SafeTALK trainer and one Community Support Resource person." on the right.

Where?
114 N Union Ave. Havre de Grace, MD 21078

When?
August 8, 2025
5:45-9:00 PM

Why take a SafeTALK course?
Our primary aim is to further support through empowering our community with confidence to talk about suicide.

Dinner?
Dinner is sponsored by Mosaic's Board Members. Dinner will be pizza and various beverages. Gluten free options will be available.

For more information about the course, contact us at:

mosaicharco@gmail.com
(667) 268-1609

Focus: Suicide alertness training for the community
Duration: 3 Hours

Participants: 10 - 30
Trainers: One SafeTALK trainer and one Community Support Resource person.

Susquehannah State Park Hike

Want to join us for our next event? Check out our event calendar at <https://www.mosaicharco.org/events>



Beyond the Obvious Speaker Series: **Debbie Saylor, Indian Steps Museum Curator**



Our "Beyond the Obvious" speaker series is going strong. On Tuesday, August 12, 6:30 pm, we are hosting Debbie Saylor, Indian Steps Museum Curator. She will cover evidence of survival & innovations left by prehistoric peoples and insightful facts about Shenk's Ferry and Susquehannock settlement areas.

Please bring artifacts if you would like them assessed.

The program is free and open to the public.

St. John's Prayer Group....by Ridge Pilcher

Prayer Group
Every Wednesday
4pm
St. John's Sanctuary



Our chapel area in the sanctuary awaits us on Wednesdays at 4pm. As we met there with Father James in past years, we come together to pray for those who are in need of healing prayer; family members, friends, church folk and those in the world who are hurting. We pray specifically for our congregation, our Reverend Josh and his family, our community and our country. We share the prayers available in the Book of Common Prayer and read scripture God brings to mind. Sometimes we simply sit in quiet and allow God to speak.

When I am alone God blesses my presence. Often we are two and hear answers to prayers. Please join us to sit quietly for a while and remember that God is present when two or three gather in His name. God's gift of prayer allows us to understand what we can do to be a part of the healing process. Wherever you are at 4 o'clock on Wednesdays say a prayer for our country.

As Paul says, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority. That we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." 1 Timothy 2:1-2

St. John's wildflower garden - Summer 2025



August 2025: In the wildflower garden, the following are currently at their peak: maximilian sunflower, purple coneflower, black-eyed Susan, zinnia, marigold, sage, chives, catmint, lemongrass, yarrow, and Shasta daisy. The maximilian sunflower is over 7 feet tall!

Another flush of bee balm should bloom soon...the section that was "Chelsea chopped" in the spring. The other section of bee balm now consists of spent flower heads, which the birds can feed on in the fall and winter.

The Jerusalem artichoke should bloom at the end of August (or early September). The aster should bloom in October. This will keep a series of flowers in this area until the end of fall.

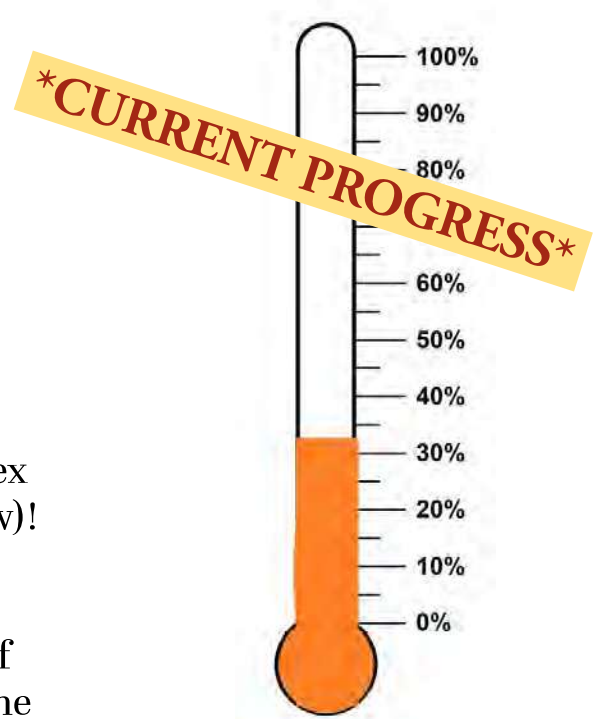
NexTrex Recycling Challenge

1/3 of the way there.....

Help the environment...and help St. John's earn a FREE Trex bench by bringing in your stretch plastic (see graphic below)!

Christ Church in Forest Hill has completed the challenge previously and their parish continues to collect on behalf of St. John's. Together, we can meet the 1,000 pound goal in one year.

Renee Vesce will be picking up the plastic once per week to weigh it, log it into the NexTrex Challenge website, and drop it off at the partner location. The collection bin is in the Parish Hall.



What can I win?



Trex Bench

What can be recycled?

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



Grocery bags



Bread bags



Bubble wrap



Dry cleaning bags



Newspaper sleeves



Ice bags



Plastic shipping envelopes



Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags



Cereal bags



Case overwrap



Salt bags



Pallet wrap & stretch film



Wood pellet bags



Produce bags

Lector and Usher ROTA

8/3	Ellie Moore	Cam Moore	Cam Moore	Ellie Moore
8/10	Megan Hirsch	Nic Iarrobino	Peter Murray	Lee Parsons
8/17	Nic Iarrobino	Megan Hirsch	Megan Hirsch	Nic Iarrobino
8/24	Irmgarde Brown	Pat Hopkins	Pat Hopkins	Michael Garrity
8/31	Gay Lynn Price	Bill Price	Gay Lynn Price	Bill Price
9/7	Jackie Brandon	Rodney Lynk	Pat Hopkins	Alexis Lynk
9/14	Cary Chabalowski	Molly Chabalowski	Eric Carstensen	Cary Chabalowski
9/21	Fred Vesci	Renee Vesci	Michael Garrity	Fred Vesci
9/28	Cam Moore	Ellie Moore	Ellie Moore	Cam Moore
10/5	Peter Murray	Lee Parsons	Peter Murray	Lee Parsons
10/12	Henry Burden	Pat Hopkins	Megan Hirsch	Nic Iarrobino
10/19	Bill Price	Gay Lynn Price	Bill Price	Gay Lynn Price

Interested in serving or volunteering at St. John's?

For sign-ups: <https://www.stjohnshdg.org/sign-up>

To learn about ongoing activities:

<https://www.stjohnshdg.org/volunteer-opportunities>

For those of you who didn't get the chance to order them the first time around, never fear: we're putting together another order! I've conveniently attached the order form for you to print out and bring to church with you; blanks are also available in the Parish Hall. PLEASE bring your completed form to church, or come by and drop it off at the office during business hours (M W TH, 9am-1pm; F 9am-12pm) along with either a check or cash; for those wishing to pay by PayPal, here's a link (bearing in mind that you will have to pay separately for each \$25 t-shirt):

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/ZA7HADDJRYNLS>

However you wish to pay, we still need the returned order form for tracking purposes! When we get to the magical number of 24 shirts, we will submit another order.

St. John's T-Shirt Re-Order Form



Front Pocket Location
(white letters on black shirt)



Back of Shirt

Family Last Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Available sizes: Adult: S, M, L, XL, XLT, 2X, 3X, 4X Youth: S, M, L

Cash or check (made out to St. John's Episcopal Church)

Individual's Name	Size	Cost
		\$25
		\$25
		\$25
Donation toward a shirt for someone in need		
TOTAL here if this order will be paid on Paypal		
Cash or Check TOTAL		

As we continue to live into our mission to have “compassion for all” and celebrate our 2025 theme of “Belonging,” we invite you to help us make a statement about St. John's wherever we go or wherever we serve—all are welcome.

We need 24 shirt minimum to re-order. Reorder Deadline: **September 1, 2025**

UPCOMING EVENTS

<https://www.stjohnshdg.org/calendar>

Donations

SCAN HERE



Thank you!

John's
St. EPISCOPAL CHURCH
114 N. UNION AVE. • HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078



AUGUST:

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP - August 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

4pm every Wednesday in the Sanctuary

MOSAIC CENTER - SAFETALK SUICIDE ALERTNESS COURSE/DINNER

Friday, Aug. 8th at 5:45pm in the Parish Hall

SAMANTHA BIONDO REMBOLD BABY SHOWER

Sunday, Aug. 10th from 2-4pm in the Parish Hall

BEYOND THE OBVIOUS SPEAKER SERIES: DEBBIE SAYLOR, INDIAN STEPS MUSEUM CURATOR

Tuesday, Aug. 12th at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall

AUGUST VESTRY MEETING

Tuesday, Aug. 19th at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall

MOSAIC AUGUST MEETING - BINGO AND TACO NIGHT

Friday, Aug. 29th at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall

SEPTEMBER:

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP - September 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

4pm every Wednesday in the Sanctuary

BEYOND THE OBVIOUS SPEAKER SERIES

Tuesday, Sept. 9th at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall

FALL YARD SALE

Saturday, Sept. 13th - more details to come!

INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST SESSION - Father Josh Messick

Sunday, Sept. 14th

UPCOMING: UCB Pride Festival (Oct. 4th), Vestry Retreat (Oct. 11th), Trunk-or-Treat, Fall Workday, Mosaic Friendsgiving (Nov. 14th), Diocesan Convention (Nov. 21-23), Christmas Bazaar (Sat. Nov. 22nd), Children's Christmas Pageant

ONGOING PARISH HALL ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays - 10am to noon - Grace Place Food Pantry public serving hours

Wednesdays - 7pm to 9pm AA

Fridays - 10am to noon - St. John's Food Cupboard public serving hours

Saturdays - 4:30pm to 6:30pm AA

Sundays - 6:30pm to 8:30pm AA

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