

Christ Church Parish, Kent Island
830 Romancoke Road
Stevensville, MD 21666

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August 2024 Connections

- ✚ Grounded in Christ
 - ✚ Growing in Faith
 - ✚ Giving in Community
- 410-643-5921 www.ccpki.org



A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton

...the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen

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“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”¹ I derive such comfort from this verse from *The Letter to the Hebrews*. It encourages me to persist in living a faithful life when my limitations might persuade me otherwise. This verse from *Hebrews* describes the sum and substance of lofting a boat.

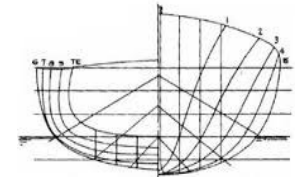
Any metaphor can be pressed past usefulness, and very few stand more than passing usage in larger conversation. That said, the theology implicit in lofting a boat is a metaphor that really will not break, and using it here is worth the risk.

Lofting is boatbuilding’s most faithful behavior, and it is the first task undertaken by the boatwright. Lofting begins as an act of faith. It is the art of interpreting a table of offsets from which a full-sized drawing of the boat, in three views, can be made. From those full-sized views of the boat, full-sized patterns can be drawn to make the pieces that, when assembled, are the boat.... in effect, just as a dressmaker lays the pattern upon the cloth and cuts out the garment, so also the boatwright can lay wood upon the lofted plans, trace and cut them out, to make the various pieces of the boat. But before it is lofted, the boat exists only in the mind of the naval architect who imagines it and the boatwright who has glimpsed the architect’s vision. Believing the glimpsed glory of what has yet to be revealed, the boatwright lofts the boat to render fair² lines. At first there is very little external evidence of even the idea of a boat, and faith is tested when the evidence of the boat is this:

OFFSETS.													HEAD 2'-3" AS 2'-10"		
STA.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	T	HEIGHTS ABOVE & BELOW W.L. 1	
DECK	3-6-6	3-2-1	2-0-8	2-1-2	2-7-2	2-1-1	2-8-9	2-2-1	2-1-2	2-0-8	2-0-3	2-0-7	2-1-6		
CHINE		1-1-4	0-9-1	0-1-4	0-2-6	0-0-2	-2-0-2	-0-2-2	-0-3-6	-0-3-8	-0-4-0	-0-4-2	-0-4-3		
B-1		1-9-4	0-0-4	0-1-4	0-8-0	0-9-0	0-8-1	0-9-7	0-8-0	0-7-7	0-7-3	0-6-7	0-6-0		
B-2			1-8-0	0-2-8	0-2-4	0-4-7	0-5-7	0-6-2	0-6-3	0-4-2	0-8-7	0-8-6	0-8-5		
C.L.		0-0-7	0-8-4	0-10-4	0-11-3	0-11-6	0-11-9	0-12-7	0-12-0	0-9-3	0-8-3	0-7-7	0-7-3		
DECK	0-0-3	1-4-7	2-0-7	3-0-2	3-9-1	3-4-3	3-7-2	3-7-1	3-6-3	3-3-0	3-3-0	3-0-0	2-8-1		
CHINE		0-8-3	1-7-3	2-2-6	2-9-3	3-0-7	3-1-4	3-2-7	3-2-7	3-1-4	3-1-1	3-0-1	2-10-3		
W.L. 1		0-0-7	0-11-2	1-8-7	2-0-1	2-11-7	3-2-7	3-3-3	3-3-2	3-2-1	3-1-3	3-0-4	2-10-2		
W.L. 2		0-4-0	1-7-0	2-1-9	2-11-0	3-2-4	3-4-1	3-4-7	3-4-1	3-3-4	3-2-0	3-0-3	2-10-7		
W.L. 3		0-10-1	1-11-1	2-0-0	3-0-1	3-4-2	3-5-6	3-6-0	3-7-0	3-6-3	3-5-1	3-4-4	2-9-7		
W.L. 4		1-3-3	2-2-5	3-0-8	3-2-2	3-2-7									

This is called a table of offsets. It does not look like a boat. At all. It is a two-dimensional array of numerical identifiers, esoterically displayed with no apparent rhyme or reason, making no obvious reference to anything nautical. The table of offsets “is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen,” and at this point it is the *only* thing connecting the conceptual boat to an actual one. These numerals refer to theoretical points in space that are not yet defined by a transom, stem, keel or any other part of the vessel. They have no form, no majesty or grace, and to many boatwrights the offsets have a vaguely sinister aspect. They have no observably sturdy purpose, no pragmatic buoyancy, no sensuously elegant sheer. The numerals themselves do not touch the heart, and the table of offsets barely fires the imagination. Yet, in these abstrusely arrayed numerals is manifested a boat; trusting that premise is the boatwright’s most profound act of faith.

The boatwright must have “the conviction of things not seen.” and use the numerals to develop lines that form a picture. One of the three views the boatwright lofts is the body plan:



This is starting to look a bit like a boat, isn’t it? It is a hint at how the boat will look. It is a very early reward for the faithful boatwright laboring to loft the lines. The left half of the body plan shows the boat looking forward from the transom, and the right half of the plan shows the boat looking aft from the stem. Boat lines are displayed in half view because, like that valentine heart you cut out for your Mother, the boat is identical on each side, and one side on the plan renders the lines for both sides. As utterly unseaworthy as this drawing is, it is an “assurance of things hoped for,” and the boatwright’s hope is quickened by this brief glance at what has yet to emerge.

And what is true with lofting so also is true with faith.... heart/art and mind/science combine to locate the Truth; the passionless data and the passionate eye combine to interpret life and that’s what makes the lines live. When a boatwright discovers the errors that s/he inevitably will locate in the offsets, the plotted values will cross-check themselves and prove one another with a high degree of assurance. But it is the human eye - the eye of the boatwright who can see a “fair line” - that perceives the final shape. No matter what the numerals and lines derived from them may be, if it is not *fair* – if she does not sweep the eye along in a sensuous continuous curve, then the lines aren’t right. And in a conflict between what the numbers say and what the eye and heart say, guess who wins? Just as a boatwright’s lofting will locate wonky places in a

1. Hebrews 11:1 NRSV

2. Fair as in “beautiful,” not fair as in “just or equitable.”

hull, so our faith locates discrepancies in life. Sometimes the data are clear and easy, and sometimes life's lines are not "fair" in any sense of the word; they are neither beautiful nor just. And we must use perception rooted in what cannot be seen to discover Truth lying within the discrepancies of life that can be seen.

The point of all of this is that we are called as faithful people to loft God's lines. We are called in our baptisms to embrace the designs God has for the World, and act in such a way that those designs are seen first by us, and then by as many people as see us. Sometimes we understand intuitively, immediately, what is next in God's mind and heart, and other times that knowledge must be represented first by faith that says it is present even if it is not yet apparent to us.

The boat is an ancient icon for the Church; we are called to loft God's boat the Church so that she has clean, fair lines that are useful for the voyage and beautiful to glorify God. We're doing a pretty decent job of it at Christ Church, and that bodes well for the next skipper.

For all that has been, *Thanks*. For all that will be, *Yes*.

FBC3+

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A WORD FROM OUR SR. WARDEN

You may have heard Father Frank's quip about being in ministry, "After Christmas, it will slow down." We all look to that break in the action to recharge and renew. But the reason it gets a laugh, is that it never truly slows down! And I can tell you, this summer is no exception.

The Vestry meeting of July 15, 2024 (minutes are on the website after approval) revisited the concern brought forth in June regarding parishioners having difficulty hearing all parts of the service. Dr. Caroline Aland and Patrick Herlihy, working with the initial report developed by Marguerite Staroneck, shared their professional opinions regarding the devices on hand (which are no longer sold and have no available support) and systems available to those using hearing aids and those who are not. At the August meeting, Patrick will present a draft proposal to the vestry of costs to implement a more user-friendly option that can be made available to anyone. In the meantime, Father Frank will test the head set microphone we have on hand and determine if that

improves sound quality. We all thank Caroline, Patrick and Marguerite for their time and expertise.

As of the time I am writing this, our call for a Priest in Charge has not yet been posted by the Office of Transition Ministry. That does not mean we are sitting idle. Warren Prender has done a remarkable job in getting our rectory ready for a new priest by coordinating all of the contractors to truly make this a lovely home. Our fellow parishioner, Tom McDowell has spent many hours repairing, painting, and installing new fixtures. Tom and Toinette McDowell have spent countless volunteer hours sharing their time and talents, we are truly blessed to have them as part of our church family!

Our Parish has been hard at work putting together a Happy and Grateful Hour. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and socialize with our parish family. Please plan to attend on August 10th at 5:00pm for beverages, appetizers, and of course lots of great conversation. Questions? Contact Molly Cannon


On September 8, 2024 at 9:30 am we will hold our annual Camp Wright worship service. This year, we will also be celebrating the retirement of our mortgage debt with a ceremonial burning of the mortgage. We will be inviting Bishop Santosh Marray, Bishop Bud Shand (retired) and Father Mark Delcuze to celebrate this amazing milestone with us. Please plan on attending and please bring a dish to share for our lunch following the service on the grounds of our Diocese's beautiful Camp Wright.

Please remember Father Frank in your prayers as he heads to surgery on July 29th and will be recuperating during his planned time off for the month of August. Father Frank has secured two wonderful priests to lead our worship for those four Sundays, the Rev. Doctor Frieda Malcolm and the Rev. Charlotte Meyer will be with us for two Sundays each. I hope that the breathtaking attendance we've seen this summer will not change while father Frank is away. Please plan to be with us to celebrate the Eucharist and enjoy their presence.

I am as always humbled and grateful to be of service to this parish. Bill and I are truly blessed to be a part of the Christ Church family.

Lois Vanderbok 847-650-2680 srwarden@ccpki.org

Christ Church Calendar ~ August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales	2 6:30 Women's AA Mtg 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	3 2:00 AA Meeting
Fr Frank Away for the month on August						
4 9:30 Worship Service	5 1:00 Broad Creek Cemetery Committee Meeting	6	7 7:30 AA Meeting	8 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales	9 6:30 Women's AA Mtg 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	10 2:00 AA Meeting 5:00 Happy & Grateful Hour in Shand Hall
11 9:30 Worship Service	12	13	14 7:00 Finance Committee 7:30 AA Meeting	15 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales	16 6:30 Women's AA Mtg 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	17 2:00 AA Meeting
18 9:30 Worship Service	19 6:30 Vestry Meeting	20 5:30 Bible Study	21 7:30 AA Meeting	22 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales	23 6:30 Women's AA Mtg 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	24 2:00 AA Meeting
25 9:30 Worship Service	26	27	28 7:30 AA Meeting	29 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales	30 6:30 Women's AA Mtg 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	31 2:00 AA Meeting
Sept 1 9:30 Worship Service	Sept 2 	Sept 3	Sept 4	Sept 5 2:30-5:30 Soup Sales	Sept 6 6:30 Women's AA Mtg 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 Al-Anon Meeting	Sept 7 2:00 AA Meeting

Christ Church Office: 410-643-5921 ~ office@ccpki.org ~ www.ccpki.org

Clergy Emergencies, contact Lois Vanderbok, Sr Warden 847- 650-2680

Regular Office Hours 9 am—3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

JR WARDEN REPORT FOR JULY 2024

Christ Church—We are planning to have the metal **cross on the top of the building** painted in the near future. This will cost approximately \$3,500, due to the rental fees on the lift that is required to reach the cross. The **garden** outside of the Rector's office and the one outside of the kitchen has been weeded, cleaned up and mulched. The **Kitchen** fire suppression system has been serviced. Hood cleaning has been scheduled for Friday, July 26th.

Future Items include retrofitting one of our water fountains to become a bottle filler in the late fall/early winter, replacing the roof over the Office area— Approx. \$17,900, hiring an electrician to install outlets in the kitchen wall, church narthex and extra pole lights in the circle. We also plan to purchase a Fire proof lateral file cabinet approx. \$4,685.

Rectory—There have been some dedicated volunteers working to spruce up the rectory and do some much needed maintenance and repair work. Thank you so much!!!

Future items for the Rectory include fence repair or removal. At approx. \$950 to repair or \$1,250 to remove. This estimate is a few months old so the price may change. We also need to replace the carpet and seed the yard. There is literally no grass at the rectory, just weeds. We plan to have the landscaper do a fall seeding.

CECDS—The school was painted this summer, making it look new. The carpets were cleaned. New mini blinds will be installed in August. Mud Daubers have taken up residence outside of the school. We will be having our pest control company out to take care of this before school begins.

The roof is scheduled to be replaced the week of August 12th. The cost is \$22,800 for this much needed maintenance.

Any donations toward these expenses would be greatly appreciated.

Christ Church Parish Kent Island

Camp Wright Sunday September 8 at 9:30



**Worship
Lunch &
a Dip in the Pool**



YOU ARE INVITED TO A
*Happy &
Grateful
Hour*

SATURDAY

AUGUST **10** 5:00-7:30 PM

SHAND HALL

**Please join us for a Happy and Grateful Hour
on Saturday, August 10, 2024
in Shand Hall from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm.**

**We will celebrate the many blessings that Christ
Church Parish enjoys with heavy hors d'oeuvres,
assorted beverages, and great company.**

**It's a terrific opportunity to make new friends
and hang out with old ones.**

It wouldn't be the same without you; please come!

Questions?

Call Molly Cannon 410.991.6752