

## **CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SEPTEMBER 14, 2025**

*Questions, links: Contact Ms. Amanda Paredes at [cccspfld@gmail.com](mailto:cccspfld@gmail.com) or 413-736-2742*

**UPDATE ON THE AFGHAN FAMILY** Afzal and Sharifa asked that we express their thanks and gratitude for the help that the Cathedral has been providing them during this difficult period as Afzal waits for the renewal of his Work Authorization card. Donna Barten is working with their attorney, and they just submitted a revised renewal application this week. Fingers crossed! To show their gratitude, Afzal asked if he could volunteer at the Cathedral. Seeing that our sexton (John) resigned, it seemed like the perfect time to accept Afzal's offer to help. Edwin trained Afzal, and this week Afzal is able to work on his own. Please note that Afzal is not WORKING for the Cathedral. He cannot work without a Work Authorization Card. He is VOLUNTEERING. Please welcome Afzal when you see him at the Cathedral!

**UNITED THANK OFFERING** Remember it, or wonder what it is? It's a particularly Episcopal "thing", having everything to do with gratitude. It's NOT a fundraiser, but it does have to do with money, namely the offerings we make in thanksgiving for our many blessings. UTO boxes, the little banks into which we put our coins signifying our gratitude for all the big and little things that make up our days, are available in the foyer and in the church. Please take one home and begin using it. We will have our Fall Ingatherings at the Cathedral on Sundays, October 12 and 19. More information to come! Questions? Please be in touch with Barbara Thrall.

### **IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, AN ACTION CENTERED TUTORING FUNDRAISER**

The ACTS Mum Sale grower had a devastating fire in March and there will be no flower sale this year. (The sales represented 20% of ACTS operating budget.) Each fall the Mum Sale helped us launch the tutoring service programs. Despite this setback, we're about to begin our 40th consecutive year with 6 sites providing free, after-school tutoring to the elementary school children of Springfield. We're asking the churches that helped us by selling mums to again support us with a September fundraiser. Please consider donating what you might have purchased in the past (or perhaps more) to help us recover these lost revenues. Your gifts can be considered a charitable donation since ACTS is a 501 (c) 3 charity. Gifts can be made in cash or check made out to ACTS. Credit cards are also accepted with processing information on the gift form. Please complete a donor form so that ACTS has a record of your gift and to enable us to send you a proper thank you! You can give your form to Burt Hansen or June Watson or place it in the ACTS box in the foyer.

### **DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE DROP IN CENTER**

As a Cathedral, we should be proud of the success of our Thursday Drop In Center! We are getting between 60 and 80 visitors each week and their needs are great. We distribute snacks, coffee, and water as well as toiletry items and clothing to folks who are struggling to meet ends and those who are unhoused. Since March, we have provided our homeless guests with 27 tents and 22 sleeping bags, which we purchase. Consequently, our financial resources have dwindled.



#### **How can you help?**

1. You can donate funds to the Drop In Center to help pay for the supplies that we distribute!
2. You can donate clean new or used clothing, especially sneakers, sandals, jeans, and underwear for both men and women.
3. You can volunteer – once in a while or on a regular basis. If you want to “ease in” to helping, just come to the Undercroft during our busiest time - between 9 and 11 a.m. - and we will bring you to the storage room where you can fulfill clothing and supply requests. We will bring you a list and you can look for the items (men's XL t-shirt, ankle socks, shampoo, etc). Then one of us will bring back your finds to the guest.

See Jahn or Gary Hart for information or contact Director Jeanne Conrad at [jeanne@conrad.us.com](mailto:jeanne@conrad.us.com) ☺

**THE COLUMBARIUM AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL** For those who might not know, the “Columbarium” are the niches in the Cathedral that contain deceased person's ashes. Once ashes are placed in a niche, a name plate is put on the outside of the niche with the deceased name and dates of birth and death. There are 88 niches in the Cathedral....in the corner near the Chapel. The cost of a niche is \$1200. If a couple or family want to have niches next to each other, we will accommodate that request. The cost is \$1200 for each niche; the spaces will be reserved to be next to each other. There are currently 35 niches available for sale. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with Dean José or Laura Manship (Cathedral Treasurer).

**HELP NEEDED!** Christ Church has been responsible for serving the Loaves and Fishes lunch the first and second Wednesdays of the month for over 25 years. A few of our helpers are retiring next month and we need replacements. It involves coming to the Cathedral at 10am, making the sandwiches and lunch items, and you are finished by 12 noon. You can volunteer for only 1 of the weeks or for both. You might be asked to buy some of the food for which you would be reimbursed. Please contact Susan Forrest at 413-244-0622 via text or call for more information or if you would like to sign up. It is a very rewarding volunteer service.

**SEPTEMBER 2025 CATHEDRAL FINANCES** - Projected 2025 Budget shortfall: \$44,300

Financial Position as of August 31, 2025:

□ Revenue YTD: \$442,091

□ Expenses YTD: \$391,919

Revenue minus expenses = \$50,172 surplus

Questions? Ask Laura Manship 413.275.4587, or send her an email at [Treasurer@cccspfld.org](mailto:Treasurer@cccspfld.org).

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED!** - Christ Church Cathedral is in need for someone who could assist us with our IT needs. We are looking for a technology-minded individual to volunteer a few hours a month to helping us update, install and maintain all of our Information Technology Systems here at the church. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact us today to learn more about this exciting volunteer opportunity.

**THE PRAYER TEAM IS BACK!** The Healing Team is now the Prayer Team, to indicate that prayer support can also come for many aspects of our lives, including healing.

We will be available during two Sundays a month, the second and the fourth Sundays. We will be seated in the side chapel during administration of Holy Communion. All prayers will be confidential.

**WE ARE STILL COLLECTING MEAL KITS FOR SQUARE ONE!** – Christ Church Cathedral is still collecting Meal Kits to send to Square One! Meal kits are items placed in a bag that will be given to parents. They should be non-perishables or items with an extended shelf life. Please consider donating today.

**FLOWER DEDICATIONS-** Donate flowers in memory of a loved one today! Send your dedication, along with your \$45 donation to the Main office, and we will call you to confirm placement! We still need a dedication for 11/23/2025

**UPDATED CORI CHECKS 2025** - All of those who participate in the following need to have an updated CORI check to be able to engage in any ministries involving children: Sextons, secretaries, choir directors, Sunday school leaders, activity chaperones, nursery, J2A, confirmation mentors, acolyte trainers and adult acolytes, VBS, Christmas programs, ACTS, Drop In Center. Forms may be obtained from Delphine Williams or the office and must be returned with a copy of a valid ID in a sealed envelope.

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES** There is an English class for beginners at the Cathedral that meets on Sundays after the 12:15 mass, around 2 pm until 3:30. The curriculum includes conversation and listening practice as well as reading and writing. For more information, call or text Sara at 413-454-7172 or speak with her after the 12:15 Spanish mass.

**BIBLE STUDY** Weekly on zoom, Sunday morning 9:00am, Wednesday morning 8:00am, Saturday evening 5:00 pm. Links and more information are available through the office.

**CENTERING PRAYER** weekly on zoom, Saturday morning at 10:30. Lectio Divino with a guided meditation every week. Links and more information are available through the office.

**BOOK CLUB** - meets via Zoom every 6 weeks or so. Next Meeting: Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7:00 pm, via zoom. The book is “**Anxious People** by Fredrik Backman”. For links and more information contact Laura Manship at [laura@shouldertoshoulder.org](mailto:laura@shouldertoshoulder.org)