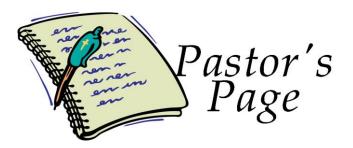
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November 2013 Volume 4, Issue 11



Dear Friends,

The Vestry and I "retreated" from the world for a brief time over All Saints' weekend. Beginning Friday night and ending about 5 on Saturday afternoon, we prayed the Hours together, ate wonderful meals prepared for us, meditated, did Bible Study, and spent several hours in silence. About an hour at the end of the time together was spent in talking about Christ Church, but that hour wasn't the reason we went on retreat.

I think it's probably true that none of us spends enough one-on-one time with God. There are probably very few among us who devote a specific hour (or even half-hour!) every day to simply sitting quietly with God. The world we live in doesn't support that kind of time at all, and it requires great intentionality to set it aside.

We all need that time with God. But those whom you have chosen to lead us here at Christ Church, Xenia, especially need to take that time. They need to be renewed and refreshed. They need to experience God as deeply as possible if they're to lead us to do the work God is calling us to do. And so, every year, we take some time to simply sit with God and allow our Creator to work within us.

Our time away with God was richly and abundantly blessed, and God, I'm sure, was happy to have us there.

Thank you all for supporting your Vestry and this important Retreat. You, too, are a blessing.

In peace, ML+



Warden's Words

"Our Common Ministry: Know the common story, Proclaim our common faith, Pray our common prayer, Drink the common cup, Serve the common good, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (from the Diocese of Southern Ohio website)

This weekend at Diocesan Convention I was reminded of our diocese's strategic plan. We watched short videos showing the plan in action at various churches throughout the diocese. But what does this plan actually mean for Christ Church? Maybe, like me, you could use a refresher (or perhaps this is the first time you've seen it!).

Here are brief descriptions of the five elements of the plan:

Know the common story (Formation): Encourage intentional formation in communities of faith by creating, developing and enhancing discipleship resources for people of all ages.

Proclaim our common faith (New Relationships): Discover and nurture relationships with seekers and people in transition using engaging venues and communication to share the Gospel.

Pray our common prayer (Healthy Congregations): Become vibrant, healthy centers of Christian spirituality, faith, and practice based on the hallmarks of health.

Drink the common cup (Mission): Empower the people of God to be agents

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of transformation, both in actions and policies consistent with works of mercy and social justice, and informed by the Gospel.

Serve the common good (Stewardship of Resources): Make finances transparent and use the resources of the diocese to maximize efficient and effective administration and operations.

Using a concept from the African Bible Study method (see my blurb on this elsewhere in the Trumpet), when you read those five elements, what one word jumps out at you? I'd like for you to sit with that word for a while & consider what that word might mean for Christ Church. For example, for me? The word that just jumps off the page (or computer screen) is *transformation*. What does it mean to be an agent of transformation? Do I think that Christ Church is called to be a bulwark against social injustice? And if so, how do I think we can do that? I need to let that concept percolate for a while, so I'll get back to you. And you let me know what *you* think!

Dana Rhyne

Leadership Lines

News from the Ministries



Will return next time...



Bible Quiz

The book of Revelation is addressed to seven churches. Which city in the United States shares the name of one of those churches?

- A. St. Paul
- B. Philadelphia
- C. Oconomowoc
- D. Orlando

Answer: B (See Revelation 3:7-13.)

Homeless Shelter

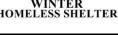
Hello Christ Church Congregation!

As the homeless shelter season opens, I thought I'd ask you for help with a couple of items we could use for the guests. Here is a list of items:

- Gloves men's medium and large are usually the sizes we need
- Long underwear men's or women's sizes s,m, or 1
- Gift cards to McDonald's or Wendy's. This would be useful so they could be a paying customer and hang out there for a while until the library or other places open.
- Personal hygiene items anything along this line for men and women, though usually we have more men

If you like, you could wrap them up as a Christmas gift, or just bring it to the shelter and let us know that it is a gift for our guests.

Thanks as always for your support of the shelter. Carol



Stewardship



Thoughts on Stewardship
By Jack Kitch

The past several weeks we have written in one way or another about the importance of relationships, the need we all have to be in relationship. But relationship to what or to whom? Some have formed deep relationships with their automobiles, cell phones, computers, and other objects which monopolize their lives--they are overcome by "stuff."

But as Christians we are called to more significant relationships--to ourselves, the natural world, our fellow humans, and our Lord God. We relate to ourselves by being mindful of our physical and emotional needs. to the natural world by caring for and nurturing our environment,. to our fellow humans by showing understanding and compassion to all, and to our Lord God by worshiping him as we walk humbly in his way.

The salient factor in relationship is love, a love that transcends all we have and all we can hope for, a love that without which St Paul says we are nothing. We need to love ourselves for who we are as God created us and for who we can be as God continues his work within us: likewise with our fellows, within whom the Lord is also constantly at work.

In the coming weeks, each of us will be asked to make a personal commitment as to how we intend to demonstrate our relationship to Jesus and our fellow parishioners at Christ Church.

Let us all commit ourselves to join this Godly relationship with joyfulness and thanksgiving.

Jack Kitch



Welcome Our
New Members & Friends
at Sunday Brunch ~
December 1

Some of our newest friends and members have already been here for a while-- and others for just a few months. It's time we gave them all a proper "Welcome!", and we'll be doing just that on the first Sunday in Advent at a special Brunch in their honor. Come and celebrate!

Dates to Remember

November 15th - Homeless Shelter opens

November 24th - Budget Meeting

November 28th - Thanksgiving

December 1st - 1st Sunday of Advent

December 1st - New Members Brunch

December 4th - African Bible Study begins

December 13th - Poinsettias orders due

December 24th - Christmas Eve

December 25th - Christmas Day



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers: If you would like to donate flowers for the altar, either in memory of or in honor of a loved one, just sign up on the Flower Chart on the Parish Hall bulletin board. Send the check into the office with 'Altar Flowers' on the memo line - or see Pam Feinour or Doug Pultz. (Cost is \$20)

Coffee Hour: We need volunteers for the coffee hour. Sign up is in Parish Hall.

Recycling: Reminder to all, we are recycling. There is a recycling bin in the Parish Office for paper, glass bottles, plastic bottles, and the like. We are using easily compostable tableware so it will not spend that much time decomposing in the landfill. Help us out by sorting. Help us out by reading the newsletter online. Help us out by suggesting ideas to your local vestry member.

African Bible Study Group!!!

I was introduced to the African Bible Study at our Vestry retreat last week. In this method, a passage of scripture is read from three different translations of the Bible, and participants are asked to reflect (very briefly) on each reading in a different way. It doesn't require study "outside of class" – and in fact is really based on what the Holy Spirit is saying to you at that particular moment.

This method of looking at scripture really spoke to my heart, so I decided that I want more! Therefore, I invite you to join me each Wednesday in Advent at 8:00 p.m. in the Nickell house. Our first meeting will be December 4th. The study should last less than an hour.

-Dana Rhyne

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Suzanne Ellis
- 08 Tanya Ellenburg-Kimmet Dick Loveless
- 09 Barbara Blackburn Eric Patterson
- 10 Otto Anderson
- 12 Karen Patterson
- 13 Chris Hudson Michael Rhyne
- 16 Carol Conway
- 22 Isabelle Ellis



If we have missed your birthday, please let us know.

Check out our Church website: www.christepiscopalxenia.weebly.com Parish Office email address:

christepiscopalxenia@gmail.com

From the Green Team

Like a Drop of Water: Ocean Acidification

We all have heard that the release of carbon dioxide from industrial and agricultural processes has increased the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere, but have you heard that the ocean absorbs about a quarter of that CO2. This is changing the chemistry of our oceans. This impacts the inhabitants of the oceans. Some, like algae and sea grasses, benefit from the higher CO2. Others, like clams, oysters, sea urchins, some corals, and plankton, are harmed by the effects of this acidification. This may seem just like small potatoes... or small mollusks to the average man, but one has to remember that bigger things tend to eat the smaller things... so this even reaches your dinner plate. Read more about this here:

http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/co2/story/Ocean+ Acidification





Thanks to everyone who helped to set up, take down, and clean up the Stewardship High Tea! You're all a blessing, and we couldn't have done it without you! Brad, Carolyn, Cheryl, Pam & Rick, Jonathan, Ruth, Jennie, Eve and Lily, Pete, Marilyn, Tommy, Maxine, Tanya (Please forgive us if we've missed you on the list above!)



From the Vestry Retreat

Here are some creative things from our Vestry Retreat:

For now I struggle with my unknown path I worry for the tools I need and lack I long so ever for a guiding staff And fear the wolves that bring their hunting pack.

Like nervous sheep, I listen for the voice Of my dear Shepherd calling me come forth

But winds blow passed my ears and paths give choice

Which leads me ever wandering this earth. But wait, was that a call that I just heard Or was it just another calling out? Perhaps now I should seek within the Word

The answers which I want are all about. For with the words and observations, Are hidden all of the best suggestions (Ellenburg-Kimmet - November 2013)























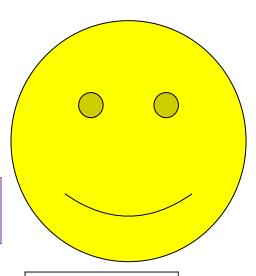


Children's Corner

For those who are young, those who think they are young, those who feel young at heart, and those who aren't any of the above (nobody's looking... Have some fun!)



Answers: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." I Chronicles 16:34, NIV





Brighten your dinner table with these festive candle holders.

What you need:

- An adult's help
- Miniature pumpkins (palm size)
- Tea light candles
- Pencil
- Sharp knife
- Spoon

What you do:

- Place a candle on top of each miniature pumpkin and trace around the candle's base.
- Have an adult cut around the circle.
- Scoop out the pulp and seeds.
- Place a candle inside. Keep scooping, if necessary, so the candle sits inside the pumpkin nicely.
- Decorate your dinner table with the pumpkins. Have an adult light the candles for you.



Christ Episcopal Church, Xenia Service Calendar, November 2013

Ministry	11/3	11/10	11/17	11/24
Worship Leader	ML	ML	ML	ML
Altar Guild	JoAnne, Becky	Pam, Tanya	Dana, Becky	JoAnne, Tanya
Lector	Chandra	Mark	Chandra	Nancy
Ushers	JoAnne, Doug	Elizabeth, Tommy	Donovans	Rick, Brad
Intercessor	Ruth	Dana	Mark	Doug
Chalice	Kim	Pam		Debbie
Vestry Member of the Week	JoAnne	Jack	Larry	Chandra

Service Calendar, December 2013

	Scriffee Calcinaar, December 2013					
Ministry	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/24	12/29
Worship Leader	ML	ML	ML	ML	ML	MP
Altar Guild	JoAnne, Becky	Pam, Tanya	Dana, Becky	JoAnne, Tanya	JoAnne, Becky	Pam, Tanya
Lector	Dana	Tommy	Pete	Becky	Debbie	
Ushers	JoAnne, Doug	Rick, Elizabeth	Donovans	JoAnne, Doug	Elizabeth, Tommy	Brad, Rick
Intercessor	Rick	Barb	Debbie	Ruth	Dana	
Chalice	Summer	Ruth	Barb	Rick	Mark	
Vestry Member of the Week	Barb	Kim	Dana	Tanya		Joanne

If you can't be there for your assigned position, please find a replacement and let Becky know of the change.

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	Poinsettias. The flowers, from Stockslager's Greenhouse & Garden Center in New Lebanon, will be in 6" gold foil pots, and will have four to six large blooms. The poinsettias are \$9.50 each.				
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	Place the order sheet in the offering plate or mail to the office with your payment. The due date for your order is Friday, December 13, 2013.				
	If you have questions, please contact Chandra Hightower at 937.376.3990 or via e-mail ccllns793@gmail.com .				
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Anita and Michael Dohn

E-mail: DohnFamily@SAMS-USA.org Tel: <u>+1 809 246-1718</u> or <u>809 357-5155</u> San Pedro de Macorís, Rep. Dom.

Missionary Report

The Wrong Side of Wrong

A friend of mine, who barely makes ends meet as a single mother in a poor barrio, came to me asking for money. She felt it necessary to flee her home and neighborhood for the safety of her family.

Threats were made against her son who had told the police the truth about the criminal activity of a local gang. Now the whole family was a target..

My friend raised her children in a Christian home, where honesty was valued, and they stayed out of trouble in that neighborhood where trouble often came looking for young people. Yet, here they were now, a law-abiding Christian family on "the wrong side of wrong."

I gave her 1,000 Dominican pesos (about \$23) for bus fare and supplies to get the family to another city where she had relatives. The problems eventually blew over, and the family returned to their home in San Pedro about six weeks later.

Raising children to know right from wrong does not always save them from troubles. Faith and trust in God can see us through troubles, though. Christian friends and relatives helped this family through their difficulties. No one lost their faith or compromised their moral values during this family's crisis.

Keep praying, Anita

PS II – As a mother with four girls of my own, I especially related to these two little ones. They spent the entire visit holding hands – a sisterly haven of support and alliance, the two of them uniting their strength to face the future.



The Chancel Choir is looking for singers! Even if you feel you do not sing "well", but enjoy making a joyful noise to the Lord, we will welcome you with open arms. Rehearsals are from 7:00 to 8:00 pm on Wednesdays at the church and we sing about once a month during Sunday Service. Come join this fun group of people as we sing God's Praises!



From Newsletternewsletter.com





If you are not on the email mailing list or not receiving emails and you thought you were on the mailing list for the church, email Tanya at cecxtanya@gmail.com
Make sure any spam filters allow email

Make sure any spam filters allow email from cecxlist@googlegroups.com and cecxtanya@gmail.com

Submissions:

Anyone who wishes to submit information or creativity (links of information, upcoming events, shoutouts of recognition) for the Trumpet should do so ASAP. **Deadline for submissions is November 25th.** Submit information by hand to Tanya or by emailing it to cecxtanya@gmail.com.