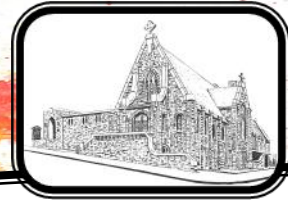


The Rainbow



October, 2022

An Attitude of Gratitude: Reflections on Stewardship *by the Rev. Lou Hays*

October is commonly stewardship season in the Episcopal Church. Parishes around the country will be asking their congregations to make a commitment to financially support their mission and ministries. And so it will be at Christ Episcopal Church.

Stewardship is an integral part of my call to the priesthood. I first heard God calling me to ordination as the lay leader of the stewardship campaign in my home parish in Maryland. I have had the privilege of preaching and teaching about and expanding stewardship in every parish I have served.

Too often financial stewardship is promoted in connection with the parish budget. Often the message is, “you need to give to the church in order to fund the budget.” As important as our budget is (more about that later), we don’t just give to a need, we have a need to give. We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us. We give from an attitude of gratitude, not an attitude of obligation. As my former Bishop in Connecticut was fond of saying, “stewardship is a spiritual issue and how much we give is a faith statement.”

There is, of course, a broader concept of stewardship. We are called to be good stewards of God’s creation. We are called to give of our time and talent to support the church and good causes in the community. But this is the time that we focus on the financial aspects of stewardship by asking everyone to make a financial pledge to Christ Episcopal Church for 2023. You will receive a letter explaining how to do that, so I won’t repeat that here.

The theme of our stewardship campaign is “See, I am making all things new” from the Book of Revelation. It is intentionally the same theme that we are using for our transition and Rector search process. Our stewardship campaign and the Rector search process are closely linked.

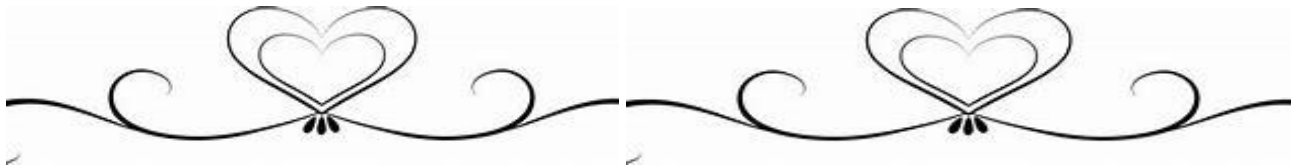
The number and amount of pledges are two important measures of the health and vitality of a parish that candidates carefully consider. And a successful stewardship campaign will provide the resources necessary to enable you and the new Rector to pursue the hopes and dreams outlined in the Parish Profile.

That brings us to that dreaded “B” word, budget. Carrying out the mission and ministry of Christ Church, or any church, isn’t cheap. The approximately \$80,000 pledged for 2022 by 29 families and individuals isn’t enough to pay the cost of having a Rector, let alone pay the

utilities, maintenance, other salaries and outreach costs of the church. My prayer is that we might get closer to \$100,000 in pledges for the coming year. We can achieve that goal if current pledgers increase their giving and those who don't pledge begin doing so.

A pledge to Christ Church says that we are committed to the mission and ministries of our parish. We want to see Christ Church thrive, not just survive. We want Christ Church to make a difference in the lives of our parishioners and the people of Bluefield and the surrounding communities. We are grateful to God for all of our blessings, and we want to give back to God through Christ Episcopal Church.

I will be praying for a successful stewardship campaign. I will be praying that you respond in generosity with an attitude of gratitude. I will be praying for you.



United Thank Offering *by Patty Richardson*

Fall is quickly approaching, which means the time for the United Thank Offering Ingathering is here. The Thank Offering is an important mission by the Episcopal Churchwomen. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing. Offerings are collected and presented at the State Convention. One hundred percent of what is collected is used to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Christ Church will be participating by putting a jar in the Narthex near the usher table every Sunday and money may be deposited in that jar. If you do not wish to contribute to the jar, you may choose to write a check with UTO in the memo line and place it on Emma's desk. In the last year or so, Christ Church has been one of the leaders in the UTO Ingathering. Let's make it happen again this year. Let us show our gratitude for all our blessings by a generous contribution to help bless others.

Minutes-Christ Episcopal Church-Bluefield
September 14, 2022 Meeting

A regular meeting of the vestry was held in Rowley Hall, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Present	Absent
Peter Richardson	Linda Ammar
Peter Taylor	Vic Bowman
Susanne Pulse	
Mary Catherine Williams	
David Kersey	
Elizabeth Clement	Betty Nash

Also present were Don Kersey, Treasurer and Rev. Lou Hays.

Lou called the meeting to order and declared the presence of a quorum.

Lou distributed readings from Isaiah and James, which were read as the opening devotion. Both addressed the issue of patience, applicable to our continuing search for a new rector. Lou then lead the Vestry in the Prayer for the Transition.

The August Vestry minutes were reviewed and upon motion of Mary Catherine Williams and second of Betty Nash, unanimously approved.

Don Kersey gave the Treasurer's Report. He distributed a summary of significant observations about our financial picture. Pledges are above budget by \$5,000, but non-pledged gifts are down \$20,000. Year-to-date, expenses exceed income by \$20,000. All investment fund balances are down, as a result of the stock market downturn. Upon motion of Susanne Pulse and second of Mary Catherine Williams, the report was unanimously approved.

David Kersey gave the Senior Warden's report. The diocese requires an annual review of our finances. That can be accomplished by hiring an outside accountant, done by lay members of our church (excluding Vestry members and the treasurer) or by trading books with another church, for review. We received a proposal of \$3,000 from Jeff Hollifield, whose firm assists us with payroll, taxes and other accounting matters. After a discussion, it was agreed to have church members perform the review and upon motion of Peter Richardson and second of Susanne Pulse, the Senior Warden and rector were authorized to appoint two members to perform the review.

Based on our current financial status and with anticipation of incurring expenses, David recommended that we opt to take a withdrawal from the St. Lucy Fund for the third quarter

of the year. Upon motion of Peter Richardson and second of Betty Nash, it was unanimously agreed to request the distribution.

We have received a current quote from Dunford Roofing for replacement of the rubber roof over the office wing and library. After discussion, it was agreed to apply to the Tierney Foundation and the 1912 Foundation to fund that capital project. Upon motion of Peter Richardson and second of Mary Catherine Williams, David Kersey was authorized to submit the applications for funding to those foundations.

We have been in touch with Rev. Slater about the Eli Lilly Foundation sabbatical grant and expect the final accounting to be accomplished in the near term.

Peter Richardson gave the Junior Warden's report and deferred to Mary Catherine Williams. The round tables have been sold for \$700. There was a leak under the kitchen sink, which has been repaired by Wolfgang. The storage room items have been moved back into the room. We are trying to recycle, and need volunteers to take recyclables to Mitchell Stadium on Thursdays. The Community Foundation of the Virginias has granted the Food Pantry request for funds. The railing in the memorial garden has been repaired and repainted.

For Parish Life, Mary Catherine Williams reported that coffee hour sign-ups are good. Renewal of parish dinners will be considered, depending on Covid numbers. Pansies will be planted in the memorial garden, next month.

Susanne Pulse reported that the Rainbow and weekly emails are being published regularly. She will check with Emma on the number of Rainbow copies being placed on the narthex railing.

Betty Nash and Peter Taylor reported that Food Pantry will be held tomorrow and about 30 people are expected.

Lou gave the Interim Rector's report. He gave the invocation at the 911 ceremony on Friday, September 9 at Chicory Square.

Five people have been trained in the lay Eucharistic ministry and the first visit has been scheduled.

On October 16, we will have an interment of ashes for a member of the Black family. The stewardship campaign will begin on October 7, with letters being sent to members and donors. The sermon for October 9 will concentrate on stewardship as will the article for the October Rainbow. For three Sundays, beginning with Sunday October 16, we will have short testimonials from members. On November 6, All Saints' Sunday, we will bless the pledges.


Lou will be gone on the last Sunday of September and first Sunday of October. Brian Tracy will preach the first Sunday and Teresa Paine will read a short sermon prepared by Lou on the first Sunday of October.

Bishop Klusmeyer has been selected to serve, after his retirement in October, as Canon to the Presiding Bishop.


Lou requested that the Vestry allocate any compensation paid to him for the period October 1 through December 31, as housing allowance, rather than stipend and presented a proposed resolution to that effect. After discussion and revision, the resolution was adopted upon motion of Mary Catherine Williams and second of Peter Taylor. Peter Richardson left the meeting prior to the vote on the resolution.

New Business-Mary Catherine Williams expressed concern about the attendance numbers on Sunday and questioned whether live streaming our service is depressing in-person worship. After discussion, the consensus was to continue with the live streaming and re-visit the issue after we have called a new rector. Mary Catherine Williams also expressed concern over the cost of printing service bulletins and suggested we return to using the prayer book. After discussion about the confusing nature of the prayer book, for those who are not very familiar with it, the consensus was to continue printing the bulletins.

There being no old business, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Lou, upon motion of Mary Catherine Williams and second of Peter Taylor.



Prayer List: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Chris Justice, John Beckett, Patty, Brian, Lane, Sherry, Lilian Blackman, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, and Joan



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2022

FOOD PANTRY

Sept. 15, 2022

35 bags distributed

Volunteers: Betty Nash, Peter Taylor

Hats, gloves, and scarves are being collected for the month of November. Boxes to put your items in are available at the front of the church.

UNION MISSION

Sept. 14, 2022

Meals prepared: 43 served for dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 14.

Menu: Stouffer's Lasagna and green beans hot from the oven, cream cookies and freshly baked crescent rolls provided by Betty Watson. Krispy Kreme doughnuts donated to the Mission were also distributed.

Volunteers: Sheila Brooks and Art Mead of Christ Episcopal Church and Betty Watson and Marjorie Justice of Bluefield, Va. Mission Director Craig Hammond also assisted.

Sept. 28, 2022

Meals prepared: Total of 114 prepared, packaged and served.

Menu: BBQ on a bun, coleslaw, baked beans, brownie and a drink.

Volunteers: Sheila Brooks, Elizabeth Clement, Art Mead, and Shirley Ofsa of Christ Episcopal Church in Bluefield; Charlie Helmandollar of Christ Episcopal Church, Pocahontas, Va., Fredia Helmandollar of Cumberland Heights Baptist Church, and Marjorie Justice and Betty Watson of Bluefield, Va.



Birthdays:

October 1	Michael Parks	October 9	Grace Sudduth	October 21	David Faber
October 3	Sheila Brooks	October 11	Brian McCoy	October 21	Phyllis Walker
October 4	Deak Kersey	October 14	Mike Lilly	October 24	William Joseph Allen
October 8	Elizabeth Clement	October 16	Burt Kersey	October 24	Bernadette Dragotto
October 8	Don Williams	October 16	Emma Slater		
		October 17	Stephanie Smith		

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	10	11	12 4:00 Union Mission	13	14	15
16 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	17	18 Saint Luke The Evangelist 10:30 DOK	19 6:00 Vestry	20 9:00 Food Pantry	21	22
23 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	24 Saint James of Jerusalem, Brother of our Lord Jesus Christ	25	26 3:30 Union Mission	27	28 Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles	29
30 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Holy Eucharist	31					

The following people have graciously offered to donate flowers for the month of October:

October 2, 2022	Linda Ammar
October 9, 2022	Rob and Mimi Merritt
October 16, 2022	David and Debbie Faber
October 23, 2022	Phyllis Walker
October 01, 2022	Becky Steorts

Lectors and Acolyte Schedule for October:

Lector:

Acolyte:

Don Williams	Katherine Lewis
Ted Lewis	Becky Kersey
Don Williams	Becky Beckett/Chris Justice
Linda Ammar	
Linda Ammar	

Altar Guild for October:

Linda Ammar, Teresa Paine and Mimi Merritt

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



October 2022

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