

THE CHRIST CHURCH CONNECTION

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE MOTHER CHURCH OF THE DAKOTAS



July & August 2019

A NOTE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Greetings! As Senior Warden I want to extend a thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help in our mutual ministry, as we move forward here at Christ Church. I believe we are in a time of waiting until our new bishop is ordained in November. I know how difficult it is to wait; however, we must be patient and persevere. I know we can. Please attend and help as you are able. Do invite others to join us for morning prayer and coffee hour. A big thank you to Sue Lauck for her baking, hospitality, and cleaning. Bless her heart! I also want to thank Dick Unruh and Norm Wright for their leadership at this time, as well as a big thank you to Junior Warden, Steve Adamson, for all he is doing to take care of the building and grounds. Last of all, thank you to Somer Bares for continuing to maintain our newsletter and website which is so important for our mutual communication.

If you have any questions, please feel free to send me an email (barbarablack131@gmail.com), or give me a call or send me a text at 605-661-0381.

May you have blessings in abundance,

Barb Black



A GREETING FROM CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Friend, you have come to this church, leave it not without a Prayer. No man entering a house ignores him who dwells in it. This is the House of God, and He is here. Pray then to Him who Loves you and bids you welcome and awaits your greeting. Give thanks for those who in times past built this place to His Glory and for those who, dying that we might live, have preserved for us our heritage. Praise God for His gifts of beauty in architecture and handicraft. Ask That we who now live may build the spiritual fabric of the nation in Truth, Beauty and Goodness, and as we draw near to One Father through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we may draw nearer to one another in brother hood. "The Lord Preserve Thy going out and Thy coming in from this time forth and for ever more"

It is not known who originally wrote this greeting found in the entrance of our church, but it has been re-written at least two times in its original style. The first known rewrite was by Shirley Modereger Larson and the second, most recent time by Sandy Cope with repairs to the case by Sandy's husband, Ken Smith. Thank you, Sandy and Ken, for preserving this greeting as part of the heritage that has been handed down to us since our church was built in 1882.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

From the First Epistle of Peter: “Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. For it is God’s will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for ‘malicious behavior’ (KJV). Honor everyone. Love the family of ‘the faithful’ (nw). Fear God.” 1 Peter 2:1-3, 9, 15-17. (New Revised Standard Version- abridged)

When we started the search process for a new rector more than a year and a half ago, Bishop Tarrant made a comment, something to the effect, that he expected our church (our congregation) to look different in five years. Something else that caught my attention during the search process came as a question that apparently all search committees and all prospective candidates are asked to answer, “What are you doing to prepare for the church of the future?”

The message that comes through Bishop Tarrant’s expectation and the preparation question is that change is in the wind. The world is changing. The Church is changing, and the message is clear that Christ Episcopal Church must change or it will be swamped and lost in the sea of changes taking place all around us.

What the ecclesiastical structure of the Church has not done a very good job of throughout the centuries is promoting the priesthood of all the faithful. We hear mention of it from time to time in vague homiletic tones, but the concept of the faithful taking seriously their priestly role has not been emphasized as it should have been, but that is changing; particularly, in the Episcopal Church.

We, the laity, need to take this priestly role of ours seriously here at Christ Episcopal Church; especially now that we’re coping with uncertain times. We need to discuss the changes that are around us and are affecting us. We need to discern how and what we must change in order to present Christ in a changing world.

By being serious about our priestly role, I am not talking about going around wearing a “dog collar” as the English call the wide white band worn by many Anglican priests or taking on specific liturgical roles that ordained priests perform. It’s about becoming servants in a very literal sense.

We need to face some difficult realities that have contributed to shrinking congregations everywhere. Part of the reason congregations shrink and die is because they don’t exercise faithfully in exercising their faith. They say they need a priest or a pastor because they’re so use to being served pew-side. They want a priest who will serve them; to give them interesting sermons that don’t upset them, to give them communion, to baptize their children, to marry them off, to bury their dead, and to be on-call whenever any need arises and, above all, are good at not making many demands on them.

And when the priest doesn’t live up to those kind of expectations members can become quickly critical and “snarky;” especially, if they don’t like the priest changing the things they have become comfortable with. They expect the priest to take their snarky criticisms without complaint because the congregation is paying the priest’s bills. They say they want leadership, but then rarely follow the priest’s lead, unless it suits them. Eventually, ennui sets in and the church dies. If that sound familiar and we don’t want to end up becoming a thing of the past, we shouldn’t expect that getting a priest will fix those types of problems. It’s up to us.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT (CON'T)

Let's face it: We need to become the servants who serve, and by that I don't mean throwing money at things as being equivalent to serving. Yes - money is a reality we all must deal with and deal with wisely but being part of this royal priesthood literally means serving others, person to person and person by person.

It means getting our hands dirty – reaching out to the perceived untouchables in our midst – touching the dead in order to bring them to life. That's the way of Jesus, and that's what the priesthood is about; presenting the face of Jesus Christ to the world around us.

In our parish survey, a number of us said we need more people. Is it because we need people in the pews who will throw enough money in the offering plate so we can afford a full-time priest to serve us?

The bigger question is: Do people beyond our doors really need us? Do we present Christ as a real presence and as an answer to what others are longing for in their hearts and in their lives?

We said we're inclusive and welcoming, but are we? Or are we inclusive and welcoming to those who look like most of us, act like most of us, and are opinionated like most of us. Because the reality is most of the people like us already belong to our church or are in another church.

Who are we not reaching?

We should view and use this interim period as God giving us the grace of time to figure out our ministry as a congregation. We should be doing this right now.

We need to embrace our roles as priests – as servants– as the face of Christ in our community. We need to sincerely want and earnestly pray for the fire that is God's Holy Spirit to motivate us, to engage us in ministry beyond the doors of our church, and to push us beyond our comfort level in order to reach those who have not yet been reached. We need to embrace them in the name of Christ and build the Kingdom of God in our midst.

We can't afford to keep looking back to what was or longing for people who left our church and seeing them as an answer to our empty pew (financial) problem. They are always welcome here as children of God, but we who are here in the pews on most Sundays need to move on and take ownership of our priesthood and become the people God intends us to be.

God's love for us and our small congregation is far more than any of us can imagine. God can and will work wonders among us and work wonders through us – right now if we start putting our "hands to the plow" without looking back as Jesus advised in the Gospel of Luke to those who would be his disciples.

Norm



The Diocese of South Dakota



June 25, 2019

I bring you greetings from the Transition Team. We are now deep into the process of preparations for the consecration of the Rev. Dr. Jonathan H. Folts as the 11th Bishop of South Dakota. The consent process is moving forward and we anticipate that an announcement on this will be coming soon.

Meanwhile, our planning for the November 2nd consecration is also proceeding and you can expect to receive an official notice of the consecration shortly after the consent process is completed. Part of the service involves vesting our new bishop. It is customary to establish a fund for the purchase of vestments and other items needed by a newly elected Bishop. He will be given and vested with a stole, pectoral cross, ring, cope, chasuble, mitre and crozier. Other vestments and apparel needed for our Bishop-elect include a rochet, chimere, cassock, and scarf, as well as clerical shirts.

Knowing the expense involved in outfitting a bishop, I have made a contribution to the Bishop's Vestment Fund. I invite you to join me and make your own donation. You may do so by sending a check to the Diocese of South Dakota, 408 N. Jefferson Ave, Pierre, SD 57501 or through the diocesan website www.episcopalchurchsd.org, or through your local congregation (please be certain to mark your donation "Bishop's Vestment Fund").

Thank you for your assistance in properly outfitting our new bishop. God bless you and may God bless this next chapter of our journey under the leadership of Bishop-elect Jonathan.

Peace,

The Very Rev. Ward Simpson, Dean
Calvary Cathedral
Co-Chair, Transition Team



SIoux FALLS CATHEDRAL

This summer our cathedral in Sioux Falls is in the midst of extensive renovation! Scaffolding is everywhere, while they painstakingly work on the ceiling areas. Excellent photos are available via Facebook -- 'search' Calvary Episcopal Cathedral. It's amazing....

REV. ROBERT GROSS

June 23 the Rev. Robert Gross was the celebrant for our Holy Communion service. He is an assisting priest at St. Andrew's Church in Omaha. It was a pleasure to have Fr. Gross and his wife, Jessie, with us.

LECTORS & WORSHIP LEADERS

Additional Lectors and Worship Leaders are welcome to join our lineup. A Lector reads the Bible Lessons and the Psalm, later leading us in the daily prayers. Sam Herley recently began serving as a Lector. The Sunday Worship Leader will guide us through the service of Morning Prayer. Contact Dick Unruh or Norm Wright.

ECW

For at least fifty years the ECW has offered personalized Christmas Stockings, and they've become family treasures. If your family has 'grown' and you need a new stocking; or perhaps want to begin a new family tradition, you need to place your order by August 1st. The cost is \$25 - \$30. Email Sandy Cope: ssamx3@live.com or phone her at 605 260 0062.

CATECHIST

According to the Constitutions and Canons of the Episcopal Church, "a Catechist is a lay person authorized to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, and shall function under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith" (Canon III.4.8). At the 147th Niobrara Convocation, on June 30th, Carol Smith was commissioned as a Licensed Lay Catechist. We congratulate you and thank you, Carol, for your dedication to Learning, and your commitment to Christ and His Church.



July & August 2019

In Loving Memory of

Ellen Frances McVay



Ellen McVay died May 23, 2019 in Highlands Ranch, CO, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. Memorial services will be held on Saturday, July 20th at 10am at Opsahl Kostel Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Ellen Frances Rodman McVay was born May 4, 1949, in Louisville, KY, to George Hurst Rodman and Francis Mulligan Rodman. She grew up in Greenville, KY, and graduated from Greenville High School in 1967. Ellen received her Bachelor of Arts from Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, OH, in 1971 and then completed her Masters in Social Work at the University of Kentucky in 1973. She worked as a clinical social worker from 1973-1975 at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center. Ellen was married to Michael McVay on September 13, 1975, in Lexington, KY. Ellen and Michael then moved to Gallup, NM, where she worked for the United States Public Health Service as a clinical social worker. In 1979, they returned to Yankton where Ellen joined the staff of the Lewis and Clark Mental Health Center as a clinical social worker. In 1983, Ellen started her private practice, Counseling Services, which she then changed to be Christian Life Counseling in 1986, as she was offering spiritual as well as emotional care for her clients. Ellen completed the Spiritual Direction Ministry Formation Program at Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton. She continued to offer spiritual direction in her home for many years until the onset of Alzheimer's disease caused her to stop this ministry. Ellen was an

Advisory Board Member to the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Regional Advisor to the Association of Christian Therapists, Board Member for Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Hospice, and clinical instructor for the Sanford USD School of Medicine. She was a co-founder of the Avera Center for MindBodySpirit, Yankton, SD. Ellen and Michael have four children, Emily, Kathleen, Patrick, and Tyler, and six grandchildren who brought her smiles and happiness despite her illness. She was a devoted wife and mother who created a loving and welcoming home for family members and friends throughout the years. Ellen loved to have a neighborhood Christmas party at the 416 Capital residence where people came to sing Christmas carols and enjoy good food. There were even surprise visits by Santa Claus that everyone enjoyed. Ellen's spiritual life was so important to her. She was an active member of Sacred Heart Church and Christ Episcopal Church. Ellen loved to offer adult education classes for the church community. Her passion was to teach Centering Prayer, a contemplative Christian prayer. After retiring, Ellen loved to spend time with friends while kayaking on the Missouri River and Lewis and Clark Lake. At age 61, Ellen received the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. Even with all the difficulties of that diagnosis, Ellen became an advocate for spreading awareness about this illness. She was an advisory member for the National Early Stage Alzheimer's Disease Committee and offered many public forums in Yankton where she shared the journey of her illness. Ellen's motto during this difficult time was "I choose to be happy", which sustained her through many trying moments. Ellen and Michael relocated to Highlands Ranch, CO, in 2017 to be closer to children and grandchildren.

Ellen's memory will be cherished by her husband Michael McVay of Highlands Ranch, CO, and formerly of Yankton, SD; and children: Emily (Scott) Bryant of Highlands Ranch, CO; Kathleen (Logan) Kane of Inver Grove Heights, MN; Patrick (Stefanie) McVay of St. Louis, MO; and Tyler (Julie) McVay of Salt Lake City, UT; three brothers: James (Bobbi) Rodman of Lynchburg, VA; Jack (Carol) Rodman of Raleigh, NC, and Charles Rodman of Corpus Christi, TX.

She was preceded in death by her father, George Hurst Rodman; mother, Francis Mulligan Rodman; and older brother, George Rodman.

Memorials may be made to: The South Dakota Alzheimer's Association: 4304 S. Technology Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57106 Contemplative Outreach, 1560 Union Valley Rd, #909; West Milford, NJ 07480



ECW MINUTES

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) met on Thursday, June 13 to discuss activities and fundraisers for the coming year. This year ECW was able to provide funds to help 4 Christ Church youth attend Church Camp this summer. ECW also continues to provide monetary donations and support to Children's International, River City Family Connections/Women's Shelter, Contact Center, Food for Thought (Sack Pack), Pathways (homeless shelter), and Church Women United.

We are able to fund our activities through one-time fundraisers, such as the Ladies Evening Social, and on-going sales of Rada cutlery, pecans, relish, bean soup, and Christmas Stockings. Some of these items are available in the Undercroft and can be purchased after church or can be ordered. If you are interested contact Gert Boyles or Kathy Wright. Sandy Cope will take orders for the beautiful handmade Christmas stockings until August 1st.

It was decided that instead of a traditional fundraiser this year ECW will have a No Work, No Host, No Bakesale Bakeless Bakesale. We will meet at Willa B's the evening of July 31st to enjoy a time of fellowship and a meal, and to gather donations that will be used for future ECW projects. MARK JULY 31st on your calendar for this fun and relaxing fundraiser!! Barb Black will be sending out more information regarding the details. SEE YOU JULY 31ST!!!!

Submitted by
Kathy Wright



July

- 6 Marjorie St. Pierre
- 9 Gail Houfek
Janelle Tacke
- 14 Angeline Mondragon
Bernard Kubal
Rick Wilson
- 16 Megan Mondragon
- 17 Kathy Wright
- 18 Brynlee Luke
- 19 Dean Caton
- 20 Dr. Jo Neubauer
- 22 Jane Hawk
- 23 Nancy Langdon
- 25 Herb Robertson

July

- 2 Chad & Lisa Newland
- 7 Roy & Sue Lauck
Ken Smith & Sandy Cope

August

- 11 Ron & Lavonne Lorenzen
- 12 Max & Jane Hawk
- 21 Elizabeth & Bob Bigley
- 26 Dick & Dawne Unruh

If your birthday or anniversary was left off our list, please contact Carol Smith at 665.2456 or email churchsec@iw.net

August

- 1 Pat Michels
- 4 Nina Freidel
- 7 John Keyes
Nolan Neubauer-Keyes
- 10 Ashley Langdon
- 13 Erin Neubauer-Keyes
- 20 Carolyn Gilster
- 27 Levon Luzier
- 28 Bobbie Kleinschmit



Prayers of the People

Thomas, Hellen, Caroline, Roger, Jim, Ken, Debbie, Andy, Drew, Lois, Tony, Michael, Tammy, Kathy, and Deacon John.

July 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	2	3	4	5	6
7 9 am Serenity 10 am Morning Prayer	8 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	9	10	11	12	13
14 9 am Serenity 10 am Morning Prayer	15 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	16	17	18	19	20
21 9 am Serenity 10 am Morning Prayer	22 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	23	24	25	26	27
28 9 am Serenity 10 am Morning Prayer	29 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft) 5:15 pm Vestry Meeting	30	31 5:30 pm ECW "Bakeless Bakesale" at Willa B's			

August 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
9 am Serenity 10 am Morning Prayer	4 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	5 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	6 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	7 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	8 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	9 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)
9 am Serenity 10 am Morning Prayer	11 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	12 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	13 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	14 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	15 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	16 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)
9 am Serenity 10 am Holy Eucharist	18 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	19 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	20 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	21 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	22 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	23 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)
1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	25 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	26 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft) 5:15 pm Vestry Meeting	27 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	28 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	29 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)	30 1:30 am Centering Prayer (Undercroft)
						31