

THE CHRIST CHURCH CONNECTION

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE MOTHER CHURCH OF THE DAKOTAS



September 2021

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

Dear Family:

As we move into the autumn season, we once again resume the busy pace of modern life, and our calendars will slowly fill up with a multitude of appointments and activities. Please take some time for self-care and jealously guard time for rest, prayer, and solitude. Constant business and being 'on-the-go' is detrimental to a healthy lifestyle and can contribute to spiritual death.

My favorite season is autumn, and it has much to teach us about life and death and rebirth. I must admit that the fall colors are truly breathtaking and reflect the glory of the Lord in His amazing creation. Autumn is a season of letting go, a time to prepare for a new season of life both physically and spiritually. The gradual early darkening causes us to cherish light and forces us indoors much earlier than the summer season. The cold rain, early frost, and fall winds change the world slowly and deeply, and the flora and the fauna go dormant to wait out the winter. This is a time for spiritual release also. We need to release those things that keep us from being faithful to God so we may fill our hearts and souls with the light that is Christ. Our physical world is shrouded in deepening darkness, but this season is a time to renew ourselves in the increasing light of life in Christ through an intentional and fervent prayer life and spiritual exercises that keep us vigilant in recognizing Christ's light throughout the world. The darkness is a gift in that it helps us recognize the light of Christ much easier at this time of year. Finally, we crave light and adorn our homes and communities with lights that penetrate the dark and aid the cheer and joy of the holiday season. All these natural occurrences draw us deeper into the mystery of the light of Christ.

This is an exciting time in our life together at Christ Church. There is a sense of joy that I notice each week as our family members return to celebrate with us and we deepen our relationships with each other. God is blessing our efforts to build up His kingdom and to be faithful to the mission entrusted to each of us by baptism. I am optimistic that our faith formation program (formerly known as 'Sunday School') will be able to commence in mid-October. Adult formation activities are also in the planning stages so stay tuned for further updates. Christian formation is a life-long process that does not end until we pass to God in eternity. We are formed by our faith community in and through each other and our shared encounter with Christ in the Eucharist and in the encounters with the Word in sacred scripture. We, too, are written into that story and part of the narrative of God's saving actions. We are participants and inheritors of such amazing history and journey of redemption.

As I continue to get adjusted with you all and building relationships in the community, I am finding life in Yankton to be very promising. I am enjoying the presence and involvement of each of you in our parish family and am learning to appreciate the gifts differing that each of our family presents, along with the joyful efforts to build up the parish community and make our church a place where all are welcome and celebrated. My hope is that we will continue to grow and become a 'light in the darkness' for many in our community who are seeking God and wanting to belong to a community of life and love and acceptance. What great joy to walk in this way and be God's holy people together with each of you! Rest gently in the heart of Jesus, beloved!

Peace and all good!

Fr. Mike

OUR OFFICES HAVE MOVED!

Cathy and Fr. Mike have moved their offices downstairs in the Olde Rectory. You will now find us in the former living room, with the old offices being converted to Reading and Records rooms. The ECW is funding some necessary wiring upgrades to make the downstairs functional as an office and are helping clean out the kitchen and other storage areas. We are very grateful for their assistance and input on this project. It will be much easier for our parish family and visitors to be served on the main floor rather than having to ascend the stairs. Come see our new setup!

CONGRATULATIONS ALY

Aly Fedde, granddaughter of Dick and Dawne Unruh and niece of Cathy, was presented with a Star Quilt in thanks and honor for the work she has done and continues to do with the White Swan community of the Sioux. Her current project is an ongoing one in which she is doing a great deal of research and is finishing her ethics training before she begins interviewing community members about their experiences with the recurrent flooding and moving of their community. She will then compile a written publication of these oral histories for them to have and to be used as a fund raiser for funds to build a playground once their new community location is more fully established.



BANQUET

Christ Church will once again be providing a meal for the Banquet on Thursday, September 9th. As usual, we will purchase the meal from Pizza Ranch. Donations to help cover the cost are greatly appreciated. You may send a donation to the church office or give it to Dick Unruh on any Sunday prior to September 9.

We also need to provide about 16 dozen bars or cookies for dessert. Please notify Kathy Wright if you can help with this. You can either bring the baked goods to church by noon that Thursday or call Kathy (760-3833) and she will pick them up and take care of delivering to the Banquet location.

The Banquet serves anyone in the Yankton community, regardless of circumstances. Anything you can do to help us provide this ministry is appreciated.

BLACK HILLS STRING RETREAT

Matthew Dykstra (center in photo), son of Cathy Unruh and grandson of Dick and Dawne Unruh, attended the Black Hills String Retreat at Cedar Canyon Camp in Rapid City, polishing his violin skills, learning the ukulele, and having lots of fun!



ECW MEETING

ECW met at the home of Jane Hawk on Thursday, August 26. Ten members attended the meeting.

The business meeting consisted of approving the 2021 budget and, in addition, to approve funding for needed electrical upgrades at the Rectory. We will continue to support numerous community organizations as well as Children International, TEC and Christ Church needs. Also discussed was the need to find people willing to serve as officers. The treasurer and president positions will need to be filled in the coming months. If anyone would be interested in taking on either of these positions please contact Kathy Wright or Gert Boyles.

Our program for the evening was a mini-fundraiser Jane arranged. Those in attendance were able to select from a variety of household items, glassware, and gifts and make a donation to ECW for their selection(s). More than \$280 was raised through Jane's creative fundraiser. Thank you Jane!

ECW's main source of funding is our product sales. We will be receiving a new shipment of pecans in October. The pecans are \$12.50 for a 1 pound bag and are wonderful to use in your holiday baking. Speaking of holidays, it's not too soon to start shopping for those special gifts. ECW has a nice selection of Rada cutlery, hat lady notecards, dish cloths in a variety of colors, and of course our famous Episcopal Bean Soup mix. A small display of what is available will be on the table at the east end of the undercroft. Gert or Kathy can be available to help you find what you need.

The evening was a wonderful time of fellowship with our church family. It was good to see both new and not-so-new faces! Thanks to all who were able to join us.



September

- 8 Emma Hershfeldt
- 14 Matthew Dykstra
- 17 Elizabeth Bigley
- 21 Richard Unruh, Jr.
- 25 Colin Neubauer-Keyes
- 28 Kati Stange



September

- 4 Gary & Somer Bares

VESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JUNE 27, 2021

Members Attending: Shann Doer, Steve Adamson, Dawne Unruh, Janelle Tacke, Sandy Cope, Dick Unruh (Treasurer), Norm Wright

Opening Prayer: delivered by Shann Doer

Approval of the minutes from 5/30/21 was moved by Dawne, seconded by Steve. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Funds were transferred from the Restricted Fund to the Operating Fund to cover approximately ½ of Fr. Mikes moving expenses. The brick donation funds (\$5,625.00) were transferred from the Restricted Fund to the Unrestricted Fund with \$5,890.00 to cover the expense for the additional brick transferred from the Unrestricted Fund to the Operating Fund. Donations have been trending downward the past 2 months and is a cause for some concern. We have received the refund of \$2,644.59 from MidWest Alarm. Excluding transfers, our Restricted and Unrestricted funds continue to show growth. The annual Report for Domestic Nonprofit Corporations was completed and filed with the SD Secretary of State on 6/2/2021. The first payment of \$653.18 on the building improvements loan was due on 6/26/2021. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Steve, seconded by Janelle. The motion carried.

Junior Warden's Report: When the sprinklers were turned on, it blew the back flow preventor. John Keys will send somebody down to fix it. There have been reports of bugs in the church and Steve will spray for pests. The clean-up of the church grounds on Monday, June 21st went well thanks to the many volunteers who showed up. Steve is looking at Johnson Roofing for the gutter job as they stock larger gutters and have the equipment to install them. Steve continues to work on getting additional information for the vestry to consider regarding the front steps of the church and the air conditioning unit. It was noted that the church was still quite comfortable this morning even with the one unit out of service. Sandy made a motion to approve the Junior Warden's report; Dawne seconded. The motion carried.

Senior Warden's Report: Covered under old business.

Old Business: Norm has agreed to write the newspaper article to introduce Fr Mike to the community. Shann plans to talk with Fr. Mike after the 4th regarding plans for the meet and greet after Fr. Mikes first service on July 18th. Kathy Wright and the ECW are putting together a welcome basket for Fr. Mike and his family. The vestry reviewed our status on Covid 19 restrictions. Some recommendations and points to consider were submitted by Fr. Mike. Following discussion, Sandy recommended that we lift restrictions with the exceptions of keeping the collection of offerings and the passing of the peace as is (no contact), resume the use of the intinction cup but not yet resume the use of the common cup. The vestry did not address resuming the coffee hour at this meeting. Steve seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Consideration of additional capital projects was tabled until more information is available. The fire alarm had some issues with a sensor which brought attention to the fact that the call list the service was using still had the name of a deceased parishioner on it. The correct call list includes Steve, Dawne, Dick, Cathy U. and Fr. Mike.

New Business: Fr. Mike will meet with the worship team on July 7th. Steve reported that the family of a former parishioner came from Iowa to take pictures of the church. Norm will end his weekly reflections when Fr. Mike starts his job as our rector on Thursday, July 15th. The vestry sent a plant to Rev. Ellie following her accident. Cathy U. washed the curtains in the old rectory in preparation for Fr. Mike.

Closing Prayer was delivered by Norm Wright.

Steve made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Dawne. The motion carried.



Christ Episcopal Church

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Events subject to change based on Covid conditions, pastoral emergencies, and Diocesan events. 5 10 AM Mass 2PM All Faith Service At Majestic Bluffs	Birthdays 916 – Emma Hershfield 914 – Matthew Dykstra 917 – Elizabeth Bagley 921 – Dick Urzuli 6 Labor Day Office Closed	Birthdays/Anniversaries 925 – Colin Neuhauer-Kayes 928 – Kalle Stange 94 – Gary & Susan Barnes Anniversary 7 9 AM Morning Prayer 3 PM Communion at Majestic Bluffs Evening Prayer 4:30 PM	9 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Midweek Mass 8 9 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Midweek Mass	9 AM Morning Prayer 10 AM Clergy Zoom Evening Prayer 4:30 PM 9 9 AM Morning Prayer 10 AM Clergy Zoom Evening Prayer 4:30 PM	9 AM Morning Prayer 9 AM Morning Prayer 9 AM Morning Prayer 17 9 AM Morning Prayer 24 Diocesan Convention in Pierre	4 9 AM Morning Prayer 11 9 AM Morning Prayer Palmist Day 18 9 AM Morning Prayer 25 Diocesan Convention in Pierre
10 AM Mass Vestry Meeting in unbracket following Mass 2PM All Faith Service At Majestic Bluffs 26	13 20 27	Holy Cross Day 9 AM Morning Prayer 3 PM Communion at Majestic Bluffs Evening Prayer 4:30 PM 21 9 AM Morning Prayer 3 PM Communion at Majestic Bluffs Evening Prayer 4:30 PM 28	9 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Midweek Mass Soup Supper following Mass 22 9 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Midweek Mass Soup Supper following Mass 29 9 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Midweek Mass Soup Supper following Mass	9 AM Morning Prayer 10 AM Clergy Zoom Evening Prayer 4:30 PM 16 9 AM Morning Prayer 10 AM Clergy Zoom Evening Prayer 4:30 PM 23 Diocesan Convention Clergy Conference in Pierre 30 9 AM Morning Prayer 10 AM Clergy Zoom Evening Prayer 4:30 PM	9 AM Morning Prayer 10 AM Clergy Zoom Evening Prayer 4:30 PM 15 9 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Midweek Mass Soup Supper following Mass 22 9 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Midweek Mass Soup Supper following Mass 29 9 AM Morning Prayer 5:30 PM Midweek Mass Soup Supper following Mass	18 9 AM Morning Prayer 25 Diocesan Convention in Pierre