



Christ Episcopal Church

The Rev'd John Kevern, Ph.D., D.D.

Rector's Corner

SUMMER PLEASURES....and AUTUMN GROWTH

I don't want to start on a legalistic note, since I'm not feeling legalistic, but wanting to share something good. If you don't know or have forgotten, I am employed three-quarters time. This presumably means that every fourth Sunday we would have a visiting priest or Morning Prayer. However, I have tried to avoid the "letter of the law" by picking Sundays in July when I reckoned many would be on vacation. And I presumed that attendance would be low in July anyway, since construction obliged us to worship in the Parish Hall. However, every time I predict "There won't be many here today...", I am wrong! Incidentally, I chose not to be away on Labor Day Sunday (which would seem an obvious choice for a getaway), and I'm glad I didn't for several pastoral reasons, but there was also a nice little crowd at mass! Can I just say (as Joan Rivers says) that I am cheered by this support of Christ Church and that I look forward to seeing all of you, in spite of your many obligations and travels. So, looking forward.....

Any early September message from the Rector (or Vicar, or Interim, or Priest-in-Charge, or whatever) is inevitably a "rah rah, it's September, here we go". Well, we hadn't stopped, but I AM glad to report fresh initiatives and the opportunity now to start planning the "next phase" for Christ Church. What do I mean?

The short version appears in CEC notes sent out from Michelle. BIBLE STUDY will occur TWICE, not once. This coming Sunday, September 8th, we "formally" kick off the autumn season with a very American picnic of hot dogs and hamburgers – on the lawn if it doesn't rain. We thank the men's group for this! And YES – nursery and Sunday School are rescheduled and restaffed – but note: starting at 10:15. We have AMY BLAKE to thank for stepping up to the plate on Sunday School.

Going forward further (if that's barbarous English, please forgive): I propose the autumn (until Christmas) as the first phase of a discernment of "Where do we go from here?". I mean this in the positive sense. I will be proposing that the Vestry take a structured and calm retreat away to do some creative brainstorming. The relatively "new" endowment can assure that we shall be here for another 100 years – unless we go on a spending binge. Think of it as securing the substructure and the superstructure so that we have the creative and godly leisure to focus on God's will – and not on whether we can simply keep the doors open (I've been in that kind of church and institution – one of perpetual anxiety, and I've been in the other – where one has the ability to plan without a gun held to one's head). Here are only a FEW of my own personal thoughts and goals, and the I will be soliciting those of the vestry and all of us:

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1. Can we re-establish some weekday masses, e.g., a mass for the sick on Wednesday morning before Bible study? But if we do, will you come? I'm open to the possibility of a weekday mass in the EVENING also – again, if folks will come. (My home parish, in my little town, and the big parishes in New York, had mass every day, except on the rector's day off, so I do not regard this as unusual or excessive.)
2. Can we create a better understanding of the theology of the BEAUTY OF HOLINESS? This may sound odd, but "beauty" is every bit as much of the Christian tradition as is proclamation (the True) and good works (the Good). Our worship has become perhaps more stately (for better or ill, but the feedback I get is good), but our sacristy and altar are woefully unequipped in a building that is now first rate. Money spent on worship is not money spent in frivolity and to tickle one's ego. Jesus never spoke against the beautiful Temple as such, but against the "wrong attitudes" of those who used ritual but declined to draw out its conclusions. This spiritual problem cannot be solved either by adding – or throwing out – altar furniture or tinkering with other aspects of worship (for those who like to tinker). It is solved spiritually by prayer. Further, the frequent reaction that this is taking away from the poor will not bear up under critical scrutiny. In my experience, where there is money for beauty, there is money for the poor. I think specifically of my own role in restoring the dilapidated cathedral in Chicago in the 1980s; the donors to that had all the means in the world also to give to outreach (which they did, in many forms). I will say more about all this in the future.
3. Can we disentangle the often mushy concept of "mission" so that we can squarely focus on "evangelism" as such (making new Christians and reviving the faith of dormant Christians) and "outreach", meaning sharing our abundance in the face of our multitudinous social problems (and which we are doing already via the Soup Opera, for example), expecting nothing in return.

I could go on and on, in the "September spirit", but this epistle is quite enough for an opening. YOUR visions for our future are part of this, and I/we welcome reactions and input. This will probably happen formally at some point, but don't hesitate if you find the Spirit prompting you now.

In Christ's peace, Fr. John

Financial Report

August Income: \$6,973

August Expenses: \$13,901

R. I. P.



Condolences to
Donna Nuzum
on the loss of her son Tony
And to
Garry and Carla Wood
on the loss of her mother,
Louise Starr

*May they rest in peace, and rise in
glory.*

Outreach Committee Update

By Jim Kerr

The OUTREACH COMMITTEE is pleased to announce that on behalf of the congregation the sum of 92,000. has been given to the Trustees for reinvestment in the Foundation of the Johnson and Talkington Memorial Fund.

The Outreach Committee has sent to The Virginia Episcopal Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia the sum of \$1,800 for the education of our seminary priests. This gift represents 1 percent of our Church budget for 2012. We thank you and your Vestry for making this possible.

OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES of our church has been the food cans that have been brought to the Altar Of Repose have been given to the Soup Opera. And Kyle Hamilton's dedicated servants continue to outreach to the Hungry at the Soup Opera every 3rd Saturday of each month. We can rest assured that Our Lord is well pleased.

Continuing projects of Outreach is the receiving of Aluminum Pop Top Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities at WVU University Hospital. This donation of this precious metal benefits critically ill children. And of course we encourage ourselves to keep bringing our canned foods to worship services.

A REAL BIG ACT OF OUTREACH was done by Lucas Hilsbos. He served in Ghana this summer. Ask him to tell you about the water project he worked on.

THANKS TO MARTHA HALL for providing our Sunday Mass with Greeters as we come to worship. Visitors and Regulars appreciate our Outreach at the church doors. Names of the Greeters appear in the Bulletin and The Manna.

A new Outreach Program has been approved by the Vestry called FRIENDS. Our Outreach Committee has committed itself by reaching out to the elderly of our congregation and our neighborhoods. This is a big tasks for our 6 members, so maybe others will want to join in this sacred venture of being a FRIEND of a elder Homebound.



Wow what an amazing season!

Congratulations to everyone who played this year and a big shout out to Glenn Boyles for leading this great group.

A Note of Thanks

By Barb Barkley

I just want to say a special "thanks" to Chris Metheny for leading the Confirmation kids and Dana Riedeman for teaching them how to bake the unleavened bread that was used for the Confirmation service, as well as having them set up for communion. Also an extra special thanks to Lisa Baker for the beautiful confirmation cake and for helping me set up for the luncheon. And a special, special, thanks to all of you for attending and bringing those fantastic side dishes. And all of you who cleaned up, God Bless you! After meeting with the Bishop, I walked out and saw what a wonderful job you all did! You are wonderful beyond words!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Local Community Happenings

HANDS ON HISTORY & HANDS ON ART

This program is designed for children and their families to discover the joys of art and history. There will be any things for children of all ages to do as they did long ago. Among the organizations participating are the Artisans Guild, the Marion County Library, The Marion County Commission, Main Street Fairmont, the West Virginia Re-enactors association, The Marion County Historical Society and Museum and Pierpont Community College. Children will learn to sort coal as they had to in the mines, make coal gardens, weave their own bookmark, make a basket, try on clothes from the Civil War era, and other activities at the Marion County Museum and Court House. The Marion County Library will be having old fashion games with prizes at the same location. Down at the Veterans' Square, Artisans will teach drawing, pottery, jewelry and other crafts. Everyone is invited.

Cost is Free

Time: 10 -3

Date: September 21st.

Contact person: Gena Wagaman - 304-657-1813

VICTORS NOT VICTIMS

This is an outstanding opportunity to learn about the Black soldiers during the Civil War. It is sponsored through grants for Voices of the Earth during the 5 years of the 150th Birthday of WV. The voices of Frederick Douglass, Maj. Martin Delaney, Robert Smalls, and Capt. Luis Emilio take us back in time to reveal the contributions of African Americans in the fight for freedom during the American Civil War. Laughter and tears, riddles and puzzles, and tales of glory and terror highlight this historical day open doors of the past to reveal hidden thoughts, covert actions, and secrets and loyalties that remained untold.

VFTE a "travelling" theater, under the direction Ilene Evans, brings historical events directly you. VFTE's Chautauqua-style programs use historical portrayals, storytelling, and songs to recapture the chilling and inspiring exploits of some of the most famous men and women in America. Their unique theater presentations bring history to life by allowing the audience to take part by interacting with the storytellers who are renowned scholars on their character's life and times. The interactive dialogue invites an ongoing inquiry into historical issues that continue to shape us today. To learn more about VFTE and their unique storytelling style, visit their website at: www.vfte.org.

Lunch is \$8.00 which is home made soup, sandwich, dessert, and drink. You may bring your own bag lunch.

Cost: Free

Date: September 28, 2013

Time: 10 - 3

Place: Fleming Memorial Church

1493 Locust Avenue

Fairmont, WV

Contact: Faith Bowyer 304-366-7544 or Dora Grubb 304-612-1377

Church Contact List

Website: www.fairmontepiscopal.com

Priest-in-Charge

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BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP will have two classes beginning September. The first class will be held at the usual Wednesday 11:00am with lunch provided by Carolyn Kerr. The second class will be held on Thursday evening at 7:00pm. Coffee and maybe a cookie will be made available. These classes will begin **September 4th and 5th**. The evening hour may be most helpful to those who work during the day. Perhaps you men would like to come too. You are most welcome. This fall we will be studying **THE REVELATION TO JOHN**. The Holy Bible will be provided. The Thursday class will meet in the Church Library while the Wednesday class will meet in The Patterson Parish Hall.

Sunday, September 8th – Mark your calendars for **“Rally Day”** hot dog picnic on our front church lawn. The Outreach Committee is planning a rally for the congregation and all who pass by! See below.

Sunday, September 8th – First day back for the **Choir**.

Saturday, September 21st – Volunteers are needed to help serve meals to those in need at the **Soup Opera** (located downtown at the corner of Quincy and Jackson Streets, just below the Fairmont Municipal Building) from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Christ Church is scheduled to provide and serve the meals at the Soup Opera every third Saturday of the month. Contact Kyle Hamilton (366-5148) for more information and to sign up to help.

Please be sure to check the bulletin board at the entrance of the church or contact the Parish Office for information about various **events** in our community and our Diocese. Coming soon: **Mountain Grace Conference**, September 13-14, at Morehead State University Conference Center, Kentucky.

Rally Day Picnic

The Outreach Committee is giving the congregation a Rally Day Lawn Picnic on Sunday, September 8th. Immediately following Morning Mass, we will all go to the Front Church lawn for a Hot Dog Lunch. We invite all Christ Episcopal Church worshippers to "Rally Back To Church" after our wonderful Summer Vacations. Bring the family. Bring the Kids. Bring a neighbor. Bring an unchurched person. All who drive by while we are eating will be invited! Now, that is OUTREACH. Everyone of God's Children are invited. Glenn and Mike (and the whole OR Committee) are hosts.

Liturgical Assistants Calendar for 10:30am Holy Eucharist

If you cannot be at church on one of your appointed days, please make arrangements for a replacement. Ushers should be in place at 10:15 to serve as greeters and provide assistance to those needing help. Lectors can find their weekly readings at: <http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

Date	Greeters	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Acolytes	Sacristans	Ushers	Counters
9/1 Pentecost 17	Joseph L. Louise L.	Jim K. Jude M.	Dede B. Joyce H.	Abby W. Brett M.	Team 3 Green	Kent B. Glenn B.	David B. Toni B.
9/8 Pentecost 18	Martha H.	Barb B. Lisa C.-B.	Barb B. Bruce H.	Hunter B. Nicolas G.	Team 4 Green	Baker Family	Barb B. Lisa C.-B.
9/15 Pentecost 19	Glenn B. Laura B.	Kyle H. Caroline C.	Kyle H. Carrington R.	Abby W. Brett M.	Team 1 Green	Glenn B. Kent B.	Chris M. Neal H.
9/22 Pentecost 20	Steve R. Dana R.	Bruce H. Dot H.	Bruce H. Dot H.	Nicolas G. Hunter B.	Team 2 Green	Baker Family	Lisa C.-B. David B.
9/29 Pentecost 22	Ken M. Jude M.	Neal H. Jude M.	Neal H. Dede B.	Abby W. Brett M.	Team 3 Green	Kent B. Glenn B.	Neal H. Chris M.

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