

Christ Church Chronicle

December 2015 & January 2016

STEWARDSHIP

“No one has ever become poor by giving.”

Anne Frank

Some people say that it is hard for them to make a monetary pledge to their church, because they have many other payments: the mortgage, the car note, student loans. For others, making an annual pledge of time, talent, and treasure to the church is the normal thing to do and to fulfill, even though they have major financial obligations.

As Christians, we have responsibility that goes far beyond belief. As stated in the November 6th meditation from *Take Five For Faith*, “Part of being a disciple means being a steward, that is, taking care of the goods and graces with which God has entrusted humanity. A good steward gives her or his all to live in fidelity to God’s call. That means offering your time, talent, and treasure to fulfill God’s will and serve God’s people. Sometimes this can seem a thankless task, but true stewards find joy in living their calling and giving their all. Holding true to that call takes faith, but the reward for such stewardship is beyond measure.”

All that we have comes from God. I thank God for the abundant gifts given to me. Since I feel much gratitude in my heart, I strive to express this gratitude in words and in giving in return. God has enabled me to tithe to Christ Church. I gladly and willingly contribute; I put no restrictions on the contributions. I join fellow parishioners and friends of our parish in proclaiming, sharing, and living the Gospel.

Like most faith communities, Christ Church, Albert Lea, has members and friends who do not tithe, who do not make a pledge. Whatever they contribute matters and supports the church’s ministry. John Wesley said, “The last part of a person to be converted is his or her wallet.”

As Saint Paul writes in his Second Letter to the Corinthians (9:6-8)

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as much as you have made up your mind not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

How generous are we willing to be with the gifts God has given us? Remember the poor widow’s offering of two little copper coins. She gave all that she had because she knew that she owed all to God; she wanted to do whatever she could to honor God.

Let us pray this prayer from Brother Ryan Carlsen, AA:

Lord Jesus Christ, all that we have and all that we are comes from you.
You have created us and provided for our lives. You have given us yourself on the cross and in the breaking of the bread. Thank you.
Teach our hearts to give as you have given, to give without counting the cost, even to the last penny, the last kind word, holding nothing back. Help us to follow the example of Christ, who gave everything for us.
Sustain us in your love and guide us in your steps, for we trust in you. Amen.

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Writer's Group 7:00 p.m.	2 Yoga 6:00 PM	3	4	5 Audubon Christmas Party
6 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	7 Yoga 10:00 a.m.	8 Prayer Group 4:00 p.m. Writer's Group 7:00 p.m.	9 Yoga 6:00 PM	10	11	12 Restorative Yoga 9:00 a.m.
13 Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m.	14 Yoga 10:00 AM	15 Writer's Group 7:00 p.m.	16 Yoga 6:00 PM	17	18	19 No Restorative Yoga
20 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	21 No Yoga	22 Prayer Grp. 4:00 p.m. Writer's Group 7:00 p.m.	23 Yoga 6:00 PM	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m.</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 No Restorative Yoga
27 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	28 No Yoga	29 Writer's Group 7:00 p.m.	30 Yoga 6:00 PM	31		

December Birthdays

December 11 – Carmen Morley
 December 15 – Phiz Olson
 December 19 – Alicia Erickson
 December 20 – Tanner Shaft

December Anniversaries

December 27 - Craig & Peggy Havener
 December 29 - Jerry & Bev Blakeslee

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Restorative Yoga 9:00 a.m.
3 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	4 Yoga 10:00 a.m.	5 Writer's Group 7:00 p.m.	6 Yoga 6:00 PM	7	8	9 Restorative Yoga 9:00 a.m.
10 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	11 Yoga 10:00 AM	12 Prayer Grp. 4:00 p.m. Writer's Group 7:00 p.m.	13 Yoga 6:00 PM	14	15	16 Restorative Yoga 9:00 a.m.
17 Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m.	18 Yoga 6:00 PM	19 Writer's Group 7:00 p.m.	20 Yoga 6:00 PM	21	22	23 Restorative Yoga 9:00 a.m.
24 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	25 Yoga 6:00 PM	26 Prayer Grp. 4:00 p.m. Writer's Group 7:00 p.m.	27 Yoga 6:00 PM	28	29	30
31 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.						

January Birthdays

January 10 – Taylor Shaft

INVITATION

Please invite family, friends
 And neighbors to worship with us at Christ Church.
 Help them feel comfortable in our midst.
 Familiarize them with the Liturgy.
 Often people join a faith community
 Because of their relationship
 To the person who invited them.

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m.
 Please feel free to attend these informal prayer meetings.
 Tuesday, December 8 & Tuesday, December 22
 Tuesday, January 12 & Tuesday, January 26

SUNDAYS AT CHRIST CHURCH

December 6 (Advent II) Holy Eucharist
 December 13 (Advent III) Morning Prayer
 December 20 (Advent IV) Holy Eucharist

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m.
 Festive Holy Eucharist at Christ Church

December 27 (Christmas I) Holy Eucharist

January 3 (Christmas II) Holy Eucharist
 January 10 (Baptism of our Lord) Holy Eucharist
 January 17 Morning Prayer
 January 24 Holy Eucharist
 January 31 Holy Eucharist

February 7 (Annual Meeting) Holy Eucharist
 February 14 (Lent I) Holy Eucharist
 February 21 (Lent II) Holy Eucharist
 February 28 (Lent III) Morning Prayer

December 2015 readers:				
	<i>Lay Reader</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Chalice</i>
Sun. Dec. 6 - HE	Father Henry Doyle	Paul Johanson	Paul Johanson	Jake Loper
Sun. Dec. 13 - MP	Mark Jones	Savile Lord		
Sun. Dec. 20 – HE	Father Henry Doyle	Taylor Shaft	Phiz Olson	Betty Loper
Thurs. Dec. 24 – HE	Christmas Eve Service	Mark Jones	Jake Loper	Mark Jones
Sun. Dec. 27 - HE	Father Henry Doyle	Jeff Shaft	Phiz Olson	Jeff Shaft

January 2016 readers:				
	<i>Lay Reader</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Chalice</i>
Sun. Jan. 3 - HE	Father Henry Doyle	Paul Johanson	Paul Johanson	Jake Loper
Sun. Jan. 10 – HE	Father Henry Doyle	Savile Lord	Savile Lord	Jeff Shaft
Sun. Jan. 17 – MP	Jeff Shaft	Taylor Shaft		
Sun. Jan. 24 – HE	Father Henry Doyle	Mark Jones	Phiz Olson	Mark Jones
Sun. Jan. 31 – HE	Father Henry Doyle	Jake Loper	Betty Loper	Jake Loper

New Revised Common Lectionary – December 2015

Sun. Dec. 6 – 1st Reading: Baruch 5: 1-9 or Malachi 3: 1-4; Canticle 4 or 10; 2nd Reading: Philippians 1: 3-11; Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6.

Sun. Dec. 13 – 1st Reading: Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Canticle 9; 2nd Reading: Philippians 4: 4-7; Gospel: Luke 3: 7-18.

Sun. Dec. 20 – 1st Reading: Micah 5: 2-5a; Canticle 3 or 15; 2nd Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10; Gospel: Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55).

Sun. Dec. 27. – 1st Reading: Exodus 33: 18-23; Psalm 92; 2nd Reading: 1 John 1: 1-9; Gospel: John 21: 19b-24.

Sun. Jan. 3 – 1st Reading: Jeremiah 31: 7-14; Psalm 84 or 84: 1-8; 2nd Reading: Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-19a; Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 or Luke 2: 41-52 or Matthew 2: 1-12.

Sun. Jan. 10 – 1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14; 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 1-12; Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12.

Sun. Jan. 17 – 1st Reading: Isaiah 43: 1-7; Psalm 29; 2nd Reading: Acts 8: 14-17; Gospel: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22.

Sun. Jan. 24 – 1st Reading: Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 36: 5-10; 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; Gospel: John 2: 1-11.

Sun. Jan. 31 – 1st Reading: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a; Gospel: Luke 4: 14-21.

An Excerpt taken from the Sermon from Nov. 15th. Gospel: Mark 13: 1-8

Although the Gospel focuses on the end of times, the central point on buildings and signs may give us a perfect analogy to meditate on our current reality as we struggle with failing, demanding and impressive infrastructures that house our collective worship.

For decades, our buildings have been symbols of wealth and power. The Episcopal Church's red doors have been a sign of welcome and visibility in our communities. Yet, the signs of the times show us that the decline in church attendance or church life as we knew it is an evolving reality.

We run the risk of remaining in a state of awe, like the disciples, admiring our stain glass windows, wood, paintings, carving, and stones or we could run the risk of remaining in denial and exclusively focus inward just like the man in Anthony de Melo's story:

A father knocks on his son's door "Jamie", he says, "Wake up!" Jamie answers, "I do not want to get up, Papa." The father shouts, "Get up, you have to go to school!" Jamie says, "I do not want to go to school." "Why not?" asks his father. "Three reasons," says Jamie. "First, because it is so dull; second, the kids tease me; and third, I hate school." The father responds, "Well, I am going to give you three reasons you must go to school. First, because it is your duty, Second, because you are forty-five years old; and third, because you are the headmaster."

We may rather stay under the covers of denial about the state of our communities. The signs are visible. The world needs our commitment as disciples and apostles to engage in the mission of God in the communities where our buildings are located. Yes! The buildings are a means to an end, a receptacle of God's grace to facilitate God's mission. Our buildings are vessels to facilitate community and service.

Jesus' response today is to us an inspiration to focus on God's mission outwardly. The buildings we once treasured may be limiting us from engaging the world in meaningful and powerful ways.

This past summer a resolution presented to the General Convention of our church addressed the challenges we face with our physical spaces. The resolution highlighted the fact that our buildings are underutilized and constricted by habits, customs and mindsets that preclude us from using them as sacred spaces for the greater good. It emphasized that our worship services are one of many expressions of the holy use of buildings.

The resolution invited us to tap into our Anglican understanding of incarnation, so that it's not just formally religious things that are sacred, but other activities too can become sacred and sanctified, themselves benefiting from being present in church buildings. It is an invitation to be creative and to redefine our perceptions and relationship with the assets we have been blessed with.

A new outlook to our church's infrastructure can be life-giving and generative beyond our wildest imagination. It may require us to deconstruct our worship of building behaviors and build new practices and understanding of mission. Many Episcopal churches and of other denominations have discerned the signs of the time and have stepped out in audacious faith to bring Christ and Church to the world, from celebrating Eucharist in a corner store, in a park, or opening our sanctuaries to community gatherings.

Our buildings are holy ground, spaces where we find a sense of community, where we are fed and nourished. It is not only a space in which to dwell, but also a space to be formed, prepared and sent out into the world to bear witness of God's faithfulness and greatness.

May we develop a theology of sacredly inclusive use-of-space that is adaptive and generative both financially and spiritually. May we collaborate to re-envision the purpose of our buildings and be aware of the need of walking in faith outside of our walls to bring about reconciliation into the world. Amen.

PLEDGES

Although we have been made to believe
That if we let go we will end up with nothing,
Life reveals just the opposite:
That letting go is the real path to freedom.
Sogyal Rinpoche
Glimpse After Glimpse

Throughout the year, the Vestry, Wardens, and Treasurer have acted fiscally responsible. Much has been done to stick to the budget. Essential and important work has been done in and around the church at reasonable cost and paid in full. Thank you for faithfully fulfilling your pledges for the year. If you have fallen behind in making your pledge and if you are able to fulfill it, please do so by Sunday, December 27, 2015. We welcome pledges for 2016 to help us with our planning.

Blessings,
Father Henry

END OF THE YEAR DONATIONS

If you intend to make a financial contribution to the church before the end of the year, please put it in the offering plate no later than Sunday, 27 December 2015, so that it is credited to your 2015 statement. If you mail in your contribution, please make sure that the postal service has postmarked the envelope by the date of 31 December 2015. We must adhere to government regulations, in order to maintain our non-profit status. Thank you very much.

Vestry Meeting October 11

No news from church of Minnesota on Minnesota state convention.

Bike appears to be sold, we had an issue with the engine as it had been replaced, which made it difficult to get title. Gentleman has not called back. Money will go into youth account in a couple more days once we are certain there are no changes to sale.

Rainier who did the yard work is done for the summer. We will look into having a Leaf pick up once more leaves have fallen. Paul will work with Hanson tire about shoveling sidewalk and doing salting. They already do the parking lot.

Munchkin boiler has an issue as it is not raised from ground, also, has a short cycling issue. Has present cost of thirteen hundred dollars quoted. Christianson is worried about wear on it. Peggy has made motion, we will see what doing all work will cost but will do the minimum presently.

Joy presented the financials.

Chamber membership was approved for 2016.

Please try to inform Cindi when there are prayer needs so she can include them in the weekly bulletins. Contact the church office on T-TH, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. 507-373-3188, or you can send an email to: christch@q.com Thank You

Our Vision

Where All Are Welcomed and Fed at the Table

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Henry Doyle

DEACON EMERITUS: The Rev. Jerald Loper

SENIOR WARDEN: Savile Lord

JUNIOR WARDEN: Paul Johanson

TREASURER: Joy Shaft

VESTRY CLERK:

VESTRY: *Peggy Havener, Jeff Shaft*

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