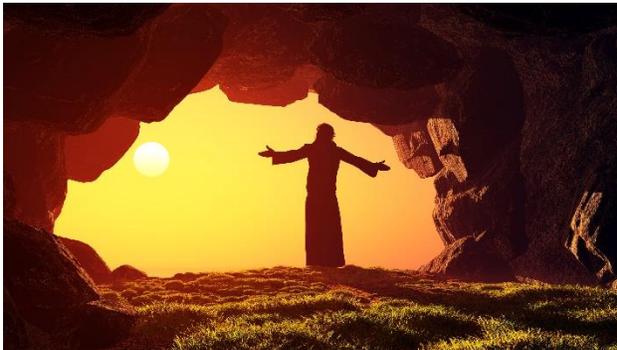




Christ Church Chronicle

APRIL 2021

“I AM the resurrection and the life!” - John 11:25



Resurrection!

In graduate school at Colorado State University, I had an assistantship in residence life. During the first year of the two-year college student personnel administration program (CSPA), I had the position of assistant hall director at Edwards Hall, where 400 undergraduates lived. Carol, the hall director, was in the second and last year of the CSPA. Outside of weekly staff meeting, we hardly saw each other. I received little guidance and supervision. Nonetheless, I worked hard; I strived to meet the needs of the residents. I had healthy relationships with the student assistants, residents, and full-time staff. Since I had not received any poor evaluations, I thought my job performance was at least satisfactory.

Sometime after spring break, we graduate

assistants often learned of next year's assignments. Usually, assistant hall directors became hall directors in their second year. Dave, one of the two supervisors for graduate assistants, came to my apartment, to tell me what role I would have. I had expected the promotion, but he said I would not become a hall director. His words threw me for a loop. I was shocked; disappointed and practically speechless. I questioned myself: What had I done or not done?

Dave offered me the position of assistant residence hall director at the Towers Complex, whose director was a full-time professional who had earned her master's in CSU's CSPA Program. Dave told me to think it over before I responded to the offer.

I spent much of the evening thinking of the offer. I hardly spent any time thinking of what went wrong, how I had failed to receive the promotion. I wondered what my peers thought of me. I could not let their perception influence my decision. Opportunities awaited me. Before I went to bed, I decided to accept the position. I slept well. In the morning, I called Dave and told him I wanted the position: Assistant Complex Director.

With a positive frame of mind, I started the position. I had such a good year I succeeded Maria as the Towers Complex Director, which I held for three years.

- Fr. Henry Doyle

What Does It Take To Believe?

The stone is rolled away! The Lord is alive!
And what we have is an empty tomb.

The women came to the tomb with the spices they had prepared for the body. Seeing heavenly messengers, they believed and ran to tell the men.

But when the women told their news to the disciples - what they had seen and learned at the

tomb, that empty tomb - the men didn't believe them! "These words seemed to them an idle tale," says one gospel.

And so when we read the story of what happened next, when Jesus came into the house and stood among his disciples, we have to wonder what was going through their minds.

After all, these were the same disciples who had refused to believe the women until they could see with their own eyes. And even running to the tomb to see what he could find, Peter did not go in: He stayed outside, seeing only the emptiness.

And then, as we read in the Gospel of John today:

“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them. ... Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.”

They got it! They finally believed!

But not all. No, just as there were disbelievers at the tomb, there is a disbeliever in their midst in today’s story: Thomas. No sooner does one believe than another does not, and these back-and-forth tales persist throughout the Christian story.

“But Thomas ... one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’”

Thomas was the holdout. There is no record of the other disciples’ response to this, but they could hardly claim the moral high ground. Looking back in John’s story only a few sentences, we read that Jesus showed them his hands and his side. It was only *then* that the disciples “rejoiced when they saw the Lord.”

What is it about proof? Why do these disciples – the ones who were closest to Jesus, who walked with him, ate at table with him, listened to the wisdom of his preaching – require something more in order to believe? And how much is enough to tip the scale?

“Tip the scale”: That’s the image to hold in mind as we think about this.

Have you ever watched one of the many dog shows on television, a dog show that has tricks and trials? Sometimes dogs will have to run an obstacle course, and one of the obstacles will be a teeter totter sort of thing, where the dog will run up one side, and carefully balancing, carefully stepping past the middle point, will tip the board

down on the other side. At this point, the dogs often seem not to walk, not even to run off the board, but to *jump* off, in their excitement.

Faith is much like that teeter totter. It’s a balancing act of running up one side of consideration to the tipping point, and having reached that dangerous ground, that area where you can stay safely balanced on your comfortable side, or you can even stand in the middle if you’re very, very careful – and then jumping, with all you’ve got, to the other side, where you might find the downside of the plank, or you might find only thin air.

This is a useful application of the expression “leap of faith,” because that’s exactly what it is. Most often, what we find when we get to that fulcrum, that tipping point, of faith, is only spiritual “thin air” on the other side. It’s much safer, we think, to stay on the uphill side where we have solid wood under our feet. It’s more uncertain, scarier even, to have to scramble to keep our footing and balance just like those dogs on the obstacle course, before deciding to *jump*!

The threshold of the empty tomb of Easter morning is a fulcrum, a tipping point, a place of decision. Imagine two people on a teeter totter, facing each other. What is in between them, in the middle, is the threshold of that tomb. The door. The entry or exit. What does each one see? A way in? A way out?

In his collection of essays “A Grief Observed,” C.S. Lewis wrote:

“You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you. It is easy to say you believe a rope to be strong and sound as long as you are merely using it to cord a box. But suppose that you had to hang by that rope over a precipice. Wouldn’t you then first discover how much you really trusted it?”

Such is faith.

What is necessary for us to believe? We can all practice religion: That’s what we’re doing now, in acting out worship and remembering Christ in the Eucharist. That is the stuff of identifying ourselves as Episcopalian or Methodist or Baptist or any of a myriad of Christian labels and distinctions.

All of us who call ourselves Christian are not

necessarily converted to faith. Tongue in cheek, we might claim that there is complete agreement in this church and every other church about whether to have wine or grape juice for communion, whether to have candles on the altar, or whether to have an altar at all. But those are the things of religion. And yet, so often those are the things that divide us, that get in the way of Christian believing and Christian community. But Jesus was not concerned so much with matters of religion as he was with matters of faith.

Think back on the stories of Jesus, his ministry, his interactions with people. Do you remember the stories of the Pharisees criticizing Jesus for eating food that was unwashed, for healing on the Sabbath, for sharing a meal and associating with those who were considered the less desirable people of society? And what was his response in every single case? Those are trappings, those are not the things that are important. Those are not the things of the Kingdom of God.

In the season of Easter, we tell stories not of religion, but of faith and believing. Of standing at the entrance to the tomb, and deciding whether to go in. Of being closed in the house with the disciples and greeting our Lord. Of the women, the only ones who believed without question or denial. Of Peter and the other disciples. Of Thomas, called "Doubting Thomas," because he demanded to see and touch. Of Paul and

Annanias.

May each of us this Easter season come to know the Risen Christ in a new way. May the event of Easter be a unifying experience, to bring together the Body of Christ, instead of breaking it again on the cross. May we celebrate our differences that will be honored in the gathering of Pentecost and the sanctification of the Holy Spirit at the end of this season. May we remember that it is Jesus Christ who unites us as Lord and Savior, so that we cling to our faith more firmly than we do to our religion.

And may we think about something in this Easter season: How will we put ourselves into the story?

What does it take for you to believe?

You stand at the entrance to the tomb. You have heard the testimony of the women. You know what the disciples know.

What is your story of faith? What is your response to the Easter news?

- *Machrina L. Blasdell*

The Rev. Machrina Blasdell teaches religious studies online for Park University from the flexible locations allowed by a traveling laptop. She is enjoying the return to her hometown of Phoenix where she revels in growing roses and making anything chocolate.

A Mighty Season!

This is a mighty season for those in need after the year that we have had. We have all experienced death this year: figuratively for some, and for others the death of our hopes, dreams and reality. We are luckily all finding our way out into a space that is safer, and into a space of hope for the future and a 'rebirth' of sorts. We continue to be reminded of the need for compassion and a bit of understanding, so I remind you all of that today. Live the spirit of this current 'resurrection'. Live for a moment in whatever has helped you get through this time and has helped to ease this period of tumult for you individually or as a family. We as a church family, must continue to ask for grace, so that our path forward becomes clearer and our sins forgiven. Thanks be to God.

- *Savile Lord, Senior Warden*

It's Greek To Me – "Be Perfect"

This will hopefully be a regular article providing a short meditation on the original Greek of the New Testament.

Matthew 5:48 - Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

This passage from the Sermon on the Mount can be daunting if not down-right discouraging! Did Jesus really mean that we must be as perfect as God? I don't know about you, but that leaves me far back in the dust in the race of faith! The original Greek, however, gives us a somewhat different picture of what Jesus may have meant here.

The word that is translated as 'perfect' is the Greek word 'teleoi' or 'telos' (τέλειου) and it means a good deal more than the simple idea of 'perfect' as we generally understand it in English. 'Teleios', according to Strong's Concordance, means to be complete in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral; completeness, of being of full age (mature). Telos is also the root of our word 'teleology' which is the idea that things that are created have a definite purpose or goal they are meant to reach. Telos also means the end of something.

So, how can we take this and place it back in the passage and have it make sense? In what way is God 'teleois' – complete, mature? Perhaps we can see this as being fully self-aware, fully whole; isn't that what a virtuous, mature person is? Perhaps

Jesus is saying that we need to be committed to the ongoing process of maturing spiritually, becoming evermore whole, evermore complete, evermore self-aware, and thus more God-aware. The idea of 'perfect' in English conjures the idea of something static, unmoving and unchanging. But the word that Jesus uses here implies a process of becoming until we are the mirror image of God. The Eastern Orthodox Church has the concept of 'theosis', the notion that the Christian life is meant to be a gradual realization of the divinity that God has already placed inside of us: a process that requires our conscious efforts to cooperate with the grace of God. The radical thought here is that we are not simply invited to become believers, or followers, or worshippers; we are invited to become like God Himself. Perhaps, then, we can freely paraphrase this passage as, "Be evermore and increasingly whole, just as your heavenly Father is whole." Let's take Jesus up on his invitation to endeavor to grow continuously into the very image of God – and be whole.

- *George M. Favell*

Do You Remember When?



and other parishioners wore colonial dress as well, calling attention to the continuity of history and

looking at George Washington's profound influence on and his faithfulness to a growing nation. A social time with refreshments and a dinner and entertainment followed the service with a colonial minuet danced by Joy Shaft and Jerry Tapp. – *Gail Thurnau*

These photos are from the colonial-style worship celebrating the 125th anniversary of Christ Church on October 14, 2001. George Washington was the theme for the joint English and Spanish service as it was conducted at that time in which Washington participated and prayed. Rev. Jim Young and Deacon Jake Loper wore wigs



Reflections – Resurrection – New Beginnings!

This a regular feature of the Chronicle where members and friends of our community can share their own reflections and thoughts.

Resurrection - New Beginnings

It seems my life has included many new beginnings when I think about all of the new places I have played in my 63 years as a church musician. There was St Luke's Lutheran in Duluth and Grace Lutheran in Overland Park, Kansas. In Albert Lea there is Ascension Lutheran, First Baptist, Christ Episcopal, Salem Lutheran, First Presbyterian, and Christ Episcopal and Ascension Lutheran again. With each new beginning I have felt a "resurrection" of my musicality and been inspired by chances for the future. – *Gail Thurnau*



and even heart aches today. God gives us all a new day-a new beginning in our tomorrows.

New Beginnings:
Choose Joy!
Every day we have an opportunity for a new beginning-its called tomorrow!
We may have had struggles, fears, obticles,

What we do with our todays and tomorrows is a choice. What you choose is up to you and you alone. You can choose to be happy with what God has given you or you can choose to be unhappy with your situation.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passes away; behold, all things are become new.

- *Joy Shaft*

Begin Again

I am wiser than I was
My muscles stiff
My hands calloused
Though my pace has slowed,
My determination is strong with purpose.
My days are filled with obligation,
Laced with the melody of an impending

Nocturne.

I return to a room one thousand miles wide
Thankful for the voice that will echo
And the story that follows.
The nights are meaningful again
As they were when the world was new
At sunrise, in the glory of morning
Let me begin again

- *Daniel Montenegro*

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT G4, INC



(See John 20:1-18)

03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES,
WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS
SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"

Worship Schedule

April Worship Schedule

Thursday, April 1, 2021	Maundy Thursday	
Maundy Thursday Liturgy with Holy Eucharist		5p.m.
Friday, April 2, 2021	Good Friday	
Good Friday Liturgy (Communion from the Reserved Sacrament)		5 p.m.
Sunday, April 4, 2021	Easter Day	.
Holy Eucharist		10:30 a.m
Drive-In Communion		11:15-11:45 a.m
Sunday, April 11, 2021	2nd Sunday in Easter	
Holy Eucharist		10:30 a.m.
Sunday, April 18, 2021	3rd Sunday in Easter	
Holy Eucharist		10:30 a.m.
Vestry Meeting		
Sunday, April 25, 2021	4th Sunday in Easter	
Holy Eucharist		10:30 a.m
Drive-In Communion		11:15-11:45 a.m



Memorial Service for Jerry Blakeslee

The Memorial Service for Jerry Blakeslee will be held on Saturday, April 24, at 11:00 am, at the church.



Service of Prayer in Remembrance and Hope – April 1

You are all invited to participate in a Service of Prayer in Remembrance and Hope on Thursday, April 1 at noon at the Gazebo downtown. The service will be live streamed on Trinity Lutheran's Facebook page.

The prayer service will be informal with prayer, scripture, and music. Here is a draft of the service:

Welcome & Why We're Here

Prayers for Essential Workers and First Responders

Prayers for those who have died from CoVid19

Prayers for those who have survived CoVid19

Prayers of hope as we move forward in life

We would love to have different clergy from throughout the community provide prayer. Please let me know if you would like to participate in this way and which prayer you would like at ewoyen@gmail.com.

Pastor George Marin will provide music.

Thank you to Pastors Jill and George Marin, Pastor Matt Griggs, and Pastor John Holt in planning the service.

- **Pastor Eileen Woyen**

Trinity Lutheran Church

501 S. Washington

Albert Lea, MN 56007

507/373-2466



Do you remember UTO (United Thank Offering) boxes?

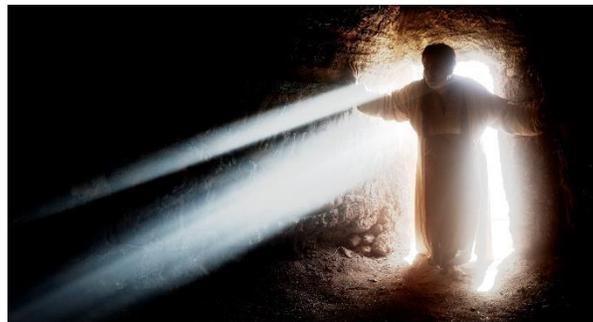
It's been a while since we have seen them. Betty Loper was the person who was our contact person for UTO for many years and we thank her for her work. At the annual meeting I offered to become the contact person for Christ Church and begin this ministry again.

What is the UTO? The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. 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 using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute the 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Watch for a display on the UTO and the reappearance of the *blue boxes*.

- **Gail Thurnau**



*"[Christ] has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death."
Everything is different because He has done so." – C.S. Lewis*

New Revised Common Lectionary Sunday Readings

Eucharist Lectionary – Year B

Daily Office Lectionary – Year 1

4-Apr-21	Easter	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
11-Apr-21	Second Sunday in Easter	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
18-Apr-21	Third Sunday in Easter	Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
25-Apr-21	Fourth Sunday in Easter	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Henry Doyle

Senior Warden: Savile Lord

Junior Warden: Kenneth Johnson

Vestry: Peggy Havener, Jeff Shaft

Organist: Gail Thurnau

Treasurer: -Joy Shaft

Parish Secretary: George Favell

Fr. Henry - Please keep me in the loop

Far too often, you might hesitate to inform me of your desire/need for pastoral care, because you do not want to bother me. On the contrary, you are not bothering me when you inform me of a major illness, yours or a loved one's illness. Because of privacy issues and regulations, staff at hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities will not contact me. You, a family member, or a close friend must contact me, if you have a pastoral need.

Prayer

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]. – James 5:16b (Amplified Bible)



Prayer for Peace – BCP, page 815

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*



Christ Episcopal Church April Birthdays

4 - Jared Paulson

23 - Richard Lowman

Episcopal Church in Minnesota Cycle of Prayer

For the month of April – please pray for the work of the House of Prayer and all spiritual directors serving in the Episcopal Church in Minnesota.

EASTER (April 4) - ANNIVERSARIES: Sanford Hampton

2 EASTER (April 11) - ST. ANTIPAS, Redby; ANNIVERSARIES: Robert Lyga, Paul Christopherson, Catherine McDonald

3 EASTER (April 18) - ST. GEORGE'S St. Louis Park, ANNIVERSARIES: Scott Monson

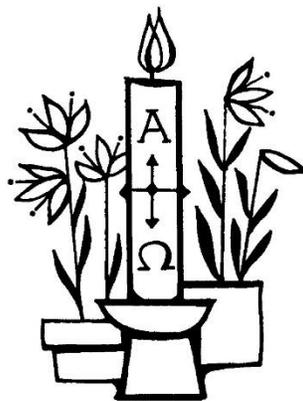
4 EASTER (April 25) - ST. MARK'S, Annandale, Lake City, Minneapolis; ANNIVERSARIES: Gretchen Pickerel, Deborah Brown, Johnson Loud



Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer

Thursday 1 April 2021 Maundy Thursday	The Diocese of Bath & Wells - The Church of England (Canterbury Province)
Friday 2 April 2021 Good Friday	The Diocese of Bathurst - The Anglican Church of Australia (New South Wales Province)
Saturday 3 April 2021 Holy Saturday	The Diocese of Bauchi - The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Jos Province)
Sunday 4 April 2021 Easter Day	Pray for the peace of Jerusalem
Monday 5 April 2021 Easter Monday	The Diocese of Belize - The Church in the Province of the West Indies
Tuesday 6 April 2021 Easter Tuesday	The Diocese of Bendigo - The Anglican Church of Australia (Victoria Province)
Wednesday 7 April 2021 Easter Wednesday	The Diocese of Benin - The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Bendel Province)
Thursday 8 April 2021 Easter Thursday	The Diocese of Bentiu - The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Upper Nile Province)
Friday 9 April 2021 Easter Friday	The Diocese of Bermuda - Extra Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury
Saturday 10 April 2021 Easter Saturday	The Diocese of Bethlehem - The Episcopal Church (III (3) Province)
Sunday 11 April 2021 2nd Sunday of Easter	The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean
Monday 12 April 2021	The Diocese of Bhopal - The (united) Church of North India
Tuesday 13 April 2021	The Diocese of Bida - The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lokoja Province)
Wednesday 14 April 2021	The Diocese of Biharamulo - The Anglican Church of Tanzania
Thursday 15 April 2021	The Diocese of Birmingham - The Church of England (Canterbury Province)
Friday 16 April 2021	The Diocese of Blackburn - The Church of England (York Province)
Saturday 17 April 2021	The Diocese of Bo - The Church of the Province of West Africa (West Africa Province)
Sunday 18 April 2021	The Church of Ireland
Monday 19 April 2021 3rd Sunday of Easter	L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo
Tuesday 20 April 2021	The Diocese of Bolivia - The Anglican Church of South America

Wednesday 21 April 2021	The Diocese of Bondo - The Anglican Church of Kenya
Thursday 22 April 2021	The Diocese of Bor - The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Jonglei Province)
Friday 23 April 2021	The Diocese of Botswana - The Church of the Province of Central Africa
Saturday 24 April 2021	The Diocese of Brandon - The Anglican Church of Canada (Rupert's Land Province)
Sunday 25 April 2021 4th Sunday of Easter	The Nippon Sei Ko Kai
Monday 26 April 2021 Mark the Evangelist	The Diocese of Brasília - Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil (3 Province)
Tuesday 27 April 2021	The Diocese of Brazzaville - Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo
Wednesday 28 April 2021	The Diocese of Brechin - The Scottish Episcopal Church
Thursday 29 April 2021	The Diocese of Brisbane - The Anglican Church of Australia (Queensland Province)
Friday 30 April 2021	The Diocese of Bristol - The Church of England (Canterbury Province)



I love you this much...



1 John 4:9-11

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Romans 8:37-39

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Community Communication

Father Doyle

Home - 507-334-3742

Cell - 507-491-2695

Office - 507-333-1651

Email: henry.doyle@s-sm.org

Mailing Address: Shattuck-Saint Mary's School, 1000 Shumway Ave., Faribault, MN 55021

Parish Office

The Parish Office is open on Tuesdays and Thursday from 10am to 2pm.

Office Phone: 507-373-3188

Office email: cecalmn@gmail.com

Weekly Sunday Bulletin

Please get all items for the following Sunday to George Favell (Church Office) by 10am Tuesdays.

Monthly Christ Church Chronicle

Please get all items to George Favell (Church Office) by 10am of the 2nd Thursday of the preceding month.

April 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 MAUNDY THURSDAY 5:00 pm - Holy Eucharist	2 GOOD FRIDAY 5:00 pm - Communion from Reserved Sacrament	3 HOLY SATURDAY
4 EASTER SUNDAY 10:30 - Holy Eucharist with Drive-by Eucharist from 11:15 to 11:45	5 MONDAY IN EASTER WEEK Yoga - 10am & 6pm	6 TUESDAY IN EASTER WEEK	7 WEDNESDAY IN EASTER WEEK	8 THURSDAY IN EASTER WEEK	9 FRIDAY IN EASTER WEEK	10 SATURDAY IN EASTER WEEK
11 2 ND SUNDAY OF EASTER 10:30 - Holy Eucharist	12 Yoga - 10am & 6pm	13	14	15	16	17
18 3 RD SUNDAY OF EASTER 10:30 - Holy Eucharist VESTRY MEETING	19 Yoga - 10am & 6pm	20	21	22	23	24 Memorial Service for Jerry Blakeslee - 11am
25 4 TH Sunday of Easter 10:30 - Holy Eucharist with Drive-by Eucharist from 11:15 to 11:45	26 ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST Yoga - 10am & 6pm	27	28	29	30	

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 7, 2021

Attendance at the annual meeting:

Father Henry Doyle, Savile Lord, Kenneth Johnson, Joy Shaft, Jeff Shaft, Peggy Havener, Rev. Chris Boyce, Gail Thurnau, George Favell, Daniel Montenegro, Mike Murtaugh, Tom Jones, Taylor & Ashley Shaft.

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Father Henry opened the zoom meeting with prayer.

Jeff made the motion to accept the 2021 budget, and Peggy Havener seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Rev. Chris Boyce closed the meeting with prayer.

Kenneth Johnson gave the Junior Warden Report

Savile – no additions to report

Kenneth – Boiler needed some work. Be sure to use the whiteboard when you see something that needs to be worked on.

Joy - 2020 info is in packet.

State Farm transferred youth account CD to US Bank.

One account not getting statements but it is reflected on financials. Farmer State Bank CD. Joy following up to find where statement is being sent.

Disbursements - not changed much for several years. Day to day.

Note: 2020 womens' retreat income down because of pandemic.

Building use – Readers' Group – donation, \$104

Had to purchase a new Quickbooks. Kenneth will help set up on new computer.

New external hard drive for back up of financials. Should be “Special Contributions” – Christmas or any additional dollars outside of pledge.

2021 budget – decreased womens' retreat building use amount (\$2000).

Disbursements:

Ground maintenance – increased but will probably be less. Tom and Nancy are doing mowing and weeding. Snow removal across the front done by the city.

Machines, internet, phone, website – some increase

Tom Jones – Nancy putting in flowers for the church, and hedges trimmed up.

Flying the flags – issue with the lighting. We have an Episcopal flag. Need rope.

Perhaps use a solar run light to solve the problem. Electric box no longer works.

Have someone out to solve the flag and lighting problem. Have it done when George is there. Tom does not like the idea of a light pointed upwards – light pollution.

Tom – mowing, hedges in spring. Gail helps with pots but cannot do it anymore. Will

burn sticks and such in their firepit.

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE DISCUSSION

Savile leads.

Update on where the church stands. We hope the diocese will lift the meeting ban. Perhaps meet outside in spring. Three deaths this year - continually shrinking congregation. What will be our future?

GAIL - answer to Fr.s questions. United Thank Offering started again. Gail would be happy to work on that.

Each diocese has a United Thank Offering coordinator. Gail will find them.

Using memorial money to redo the labyrinth.

Start a walking group.

Book club discussions on Zoom.

Handing out water to people at the farmers' market.

The biggest opportunity was using all kinds of new and untried means to worship together: recorded Christmas Eve service, outside services. Now we could by Zoom.

Our challenge to be to continue with reduced number of members. Being creative with our resources and reaching out to the community.

What has changed the most: Technology, membership numbers, staffing.

George seems to be more knowledgeable of technology. Website, Facebook page and other means of digital outreach will be updated.

Themes for chronicle, get congregation more

involved, George more engaged with the congregation.

Labyrinth - redo in the spring. Gail spoke with landscaper.

Modernity of service - need to look at type of music and style of service to attract new/younger members.

Zoom account for the church - George look into.

Training for lay readers

Strategic planning meeting soon.

ACTION IDEAS/ITEMS FROM THE MEETING

United Thank Offering

Update and advertise the Labyrinth

Flags and lighting

Church music (updated style)

Church worship

Outdoor Services

Church Activities

Wine Tasting

Taco Night

Movies

Digital Outreach

Community Outreach

Community use of building as a form of outreach

Presence at Farmers' Market

Walking Group

Use of Zoom even without COVID

Training of Layreaders

Creative with Resources

Literature in racks at church

Articles for newspaper and Albert Lea

Happenings, etc.

Signage outside

Banners inside

Enriching our spiritual life so we have much to offer to new people