

KTF 2025 January 16

Dear Ones,

Every January, as my ordination anniversary rolls around, I find myself reminiscing about my years as a priest. Some of you have heard me say, laughing, that it seems oddly appropriate that I was ordained “on” (it was actually the day before) the Feast of the Confession of St. Peter. Peter, the blockhead with a devoted heart. When I have one of those moments I wish I could do over, I remind myself that Jesus didn’t give up on Peter, and won’t give up on me.

These 23 years have been tumultuous, for sure. I was still a transitional deacon when I began my first call on September 9, 2001. The challenges of that disaster, the war(s) that followed, Hurricane Katrina, the economic crash in 2008, more school and public shootings than I care to count, COVID, flooding in the south, wildfires... Bishop Knudsen once teased me with the story of the curse, “May you live in *interesting* times...”

Through all these events, I have been aware of the power of prayer, the faithfulness of God, and the difference even small acts of kindness and generosity can make. We don’t all need to be Martin Luther King, Jr. for our words and actions to have an effect. All it takes is for us to respond to the present moment in whatever way we are able, and trust that it will be enough.

Episcopal Relief and Development has been a great resource in those efforts. ERD is the organization through which The Episcopal Church coordinates its response to these tragedies. You can find more information, and a donation page, at <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/press-resources/press-releases/2025-wildfire-response/>

Bishop Brown wrote the following prayer for us to use.

Gracious and loving God, you are beyond and yet within this moment of devastating loss in Los Angeles. Open our eyes that we may see you. If we cannot see you, show us others who can, so that we help your loved ones who face incalculable loss. We know that within this destruction, you are present, and always ready to equip us with generosity to give, and faith in Jesus Christ, who leads us from death to life, Amen.

On Sunday, our kids will be working on their own prayer for use during the Prayers of the People. I hope you will be able to join us in person or online.

In the meantime....*keep the faith*,
Nancy+

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5 * Psalm 36:5-10 * 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 * John 2:1-11

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy Moore ordination (1/19)

Nancy Rideout (1/20)

PARISHIONER’S NEWS

Evangeline Lehr will be playing the bass at a regional concert on Jan. 25 at Lewiston High School (Time TBD)

CREATION CARE TIPS

Waste Not, Want Not

Use it up, Wear it out, Make it do, Or do without.

I sometimes wondered which came first, this practical poem from sturdy old New Englanders, or the more familiar, shorter admonition in today’s Creation Care tips title.

Poor Richard (alias Ben Franklin) seems to have quoted John Wesley, who paraphrased something Richard Edwards wrote in the 1500's, when he included "waste not, want not" in his Almanac.

At any rate, the heart of the matter is USE LESS, WASTE LESS. So today, I've gathered some seemingly unconnected ideas under one umbrella.

1 - Have you amassed a collection of free samples? Maybe toiletries from hotel stays, toothpaste and toothbrush from a visit to your dentist? Rather than drop them into a drawer where they can work their way to the very back, languishing until they're old, bedraggled, and out-of-date – and therefore useless – why not drop them into the basket under the Christ Church guest book, where they will magically move and re-appear at the FOOD PANTRY, downstairs? People who need this social service also need shampoo, skin care lotion, toothpaste, and a new toothbrush. A win for them, a win for the environment.

2 - Did you know that January is National Hobbies Month? Perhaps you have enjoyed a craft or hobby that helped others – mine has been knitting hats or mittens for school kids – and you think now is a good time to dust off your supplies and try again. One idea? Some new bird feeders or bird houses could beautify someone's yard and help our feathered friends. There are more beneficial hobbies than there are people in church. Let's amend that: There are more beneficial hobbies than there are hymns in our blue hymnal – and the green one and the red one, combined! Making something for someone else makes us feel better, makes them feel better, and just might help empty out a closet. Now, if your new (or old) hobby doesn't require a shopping spree, that's even better for your wallet and the environment. A win for you, a win for them, and a win for the environment.

3 - A big thank-you to Carolyn Tanner and all who helped with "The Napkin Project." We gave away about eighty napkins, removing lots of paper products from the waste stream. There is still fabric left from the project, which can be picked up by the donors, or perhaps used for another environmentally friendly project in the near future. One project I'd like to consider for next fall is door snakes, a.k.a. draft dodgers. Fabric tubes, door-width in length and about three inches in diameter and filled with rice can keep heat in and drafts out. Dropped onto the threshold of each entrance, and on the hallway side of any unused bedroom's door, these 'snakes' can reduce your heating fuel consumption and keep you more comfortable all heating season long. A win for you, a win for the environment.

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This space has been intentionally left blank. Add your own ideas here, and share them!

– Patty

Hurt not the earth—neither the sea—nor the trees. Revelation 7:3

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

TONIGHT (1/16) 5:15 Vestry meeting

SUN: 9:30 am Sunday School

10:15 am Eucharist/In-person and online

3:00 pm Bethel House Church 132 Paradise Road, Bethel

WED: 9:00 am Eucharist/Bible Study

THU: 9:00 am Christ Church Book Group/Zoom

7:15 pm Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer Opportunity As Liz takes on some of the accounting responsibilities, we are identifying a few tasks which could easily be done by volunteers. The most current one is help assembling the CLYNK bags. It's a pretty simple, straightforward job, involving sticking the labels on the bags and then folding them. Let us know if you would like to help!

Potluck Coffee Hour

We're trying something new—potluck coffee hour! Once a quarter, you are invited to bring a snack foods to share. Examples: crackers, cheeses, fruits, yogurt, nuts, pretzels, bread, Jello, cookies, etc. We will try in next Sunday, January 26, and again on April 6.

Annual Meeting is February 2 following worship Annual Report submissions due today.

January 25 1 PM Funeral for Marcia Pottle Volunteers to help with the reception, please speak with Rosemary Laban.

Note of thanks We received a lovely note in response to our Christmas outreach project with Community Concepts, which included the following line: *In a world that can sometimes feel overwhelming and cold, it has been so beautiful and warming for me to be witness to the good that still exists. From the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of the families, Thank you!*

Outreach Project

Our Christmas outreach project was so successful, we have decided to continue working cooperatively with Community Concepts. Their greatest need at present is diapers and baby wipes. Diapers of all sizes are welcome. If you would prefer to give money or a gift card toward the purchase, that works too—Jenna Mulandi has offered to be a shopper with any funds we gather.