

KTF July 24, 2025

Dear Ones,

On Sunday, as I was driving home from blessing the Cranes' new house in Topsham, I was running through my to-do list. Not the pre-vacation one that would have made sense, no...I was working on my back-to-work, post-vacation list. I laughed to myself as I realized I have continued this practice I started years ago, when I was up north. In the first few years I was their priest, there was a marked increase in anxiety in the week before I went on vacation. Sometimes they would even act out, making it difficult to enjoy my time away because I was worried about how they might all be bickering with one another in my absence. It took me a couple of years to figure out why: my predecessor in that congregation had gone away on vacation one summer and never came back. He announced in a letter that he was leaving The Episcopal Church and by extension the congregation. Once I realized their behavior was an expression of their fear that I would do the same, I developed a habit of writing and sharing my "When I'm back from vacation" list. It calmed them down to know that I had a to-do list for those weeks after I came back. Clearly, that meant I wasn't going anywhere! I knew it had been a success when one summer, in my absence, they took care of a pretty significant maintenance issue that arose, working beautifully as a team.

But the habit of preparing my post-vacation to-do list had by then become ingrained. As I described it to Liz the other day, she pointed out that maybe it was good for me too. If I put it down on paper then I don't have to think about it while I'm gone.

I'm looking forward to this time away and I know I very much need it. I am grateful for all of you, who work together to keep everything running along smoothly so I don't have to worry about a thing!

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

Nancy+

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Genesis 18:20-32 * Psalm 138 * Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19] * Luke 11:1-13

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff Stuhr (7/27)

Mary Crane (8/2)

Walter & Kim Perry (8/2)

CREATION CARE TIPS

Contemplating nature can be fascinating – "Pass Me By" by Cy Coleman and Carolyn Leigh, for the film, "Father Goose"

Bruce and I watched the 1964 film, "Father Goose" recently – again. It was at least the third time I've seen it; it probably won't be the last. And of course, the song of a degenerate escapee from polite society, "Pass Me By," is still running through my head. One line in the song caught my attention – "Contemplating nature can be fascinating."

Contemplate the beauty of a shoreline, waves lapping gently at the stones, sand, and waterlogged tree limbs. There you may find some evidence of human interference. But perhaps you are there as part of a clean-up effort? One thing you might notice is a plastic bag, the kind we used to get at the grocery store, clinging to a shrub, or stuck under a log or rock. And of course, as a participant in the clean-up, you would pick it up, and you

or someone else working with you would register this piece of garbage as being removed from the scene.

The Ocean Conservancy has noticed a dramatic drop in plastic bags littering shorelines of lakes, rivers, and oceans in areas where plastic bag bans have been implemented. The more time that has passed since the ban was put in place, the fewer bags that were found. And that makes nature more fun to contemplate.

Just in case you're curious about how the Ocean Conservancy could determine that there was a dramatic change, it was due to the data collected from more than 45,000 shoreline cleanups from 2016 to 2023. That's a lot of cleanups! Aren't you glad people volunteer to do that! Maybe that's something you could do, too.

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

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

*References: NY Times June 19, 2025 Banning Plastic Bags Works to Limit Shoreline Litter, Study Finds
Ocean Conservancy (oceanconservancy.org)

CALENDAR

SUN:	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Eucharist
THU:	9:00 AM	Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
	7:15 PM	Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cleaning and sorting Choir, Eucharistic Minister and Acolyte robes You are invited to be part of a team that will go through all the lay ministers' robes and create an organizational system that will help everyone find the robe that fits them (as well as help our growing acolytes figure out which ones fit them when). This project begins with washing them ALL. Can you help?

Bishopswood Fund Two of our Chapel Kids had a WONDERFUL time at Bishopswood earlier in July. We were able to provide some financial assistance to them—but it doing so we depleted the fund started by some very generous (and anonymous) donors a few years back. We would like to build this fund back up, and in fact we have had two donations toward it already. But with SIX age-eligible kids next summer, we will need quite a lot more in there if we hope to help them go. Please consider making a donation toward this fund. Checks should be made out to Christ Church with "Bishopswood Fund" in the memo line.

Summer Garden Maintenance We are looking for volunteers to maintain the gardens in the front—mostly weeding and maybe a little trimming. Would you like to help?

Rector's Vacation Nancy will be on vacation July 28 through August 11.

Coffee Hour (From Holly Stuhr) Do you have what it takes? I am pretty sure you do! I know covering coffee hour at church sounds like a big deal, but not at Christ Church Norway! The coffee, juices, crackers, and paper goods are all provided and stocked up. You just need to bring a little fruit and veggie (who doesn't love carrot sticks) maybe some cheese and a baked good. If you're in the mood to bake, now is the time to try out a new recipe or make an old favorite. If you are short on time or don't like to bake, pick something up at the store. Our group is pretty happy with just about anything. Remember, it's a snack to tide you over till lunch somewhere else. A little nibble to start a conversation with someone new. A chance to break bread together. Consider contributing something to a potluck coffee hour or volunteering for an open slot. Many of our regulars are away, so the numbers are smaller but so are the volunteers. ***Next potluck coffee hour is August 3.***

For ongoing and up-to-date information about diocesan activities and news, as well as news from other congregations, sign up for **the DioLog**. <https://episcopalmaine.org/newsletter/>

MINISTRIES LIST

	<u>This week:</u>	<u>Next week:</u>
Lector 1:	Rosemary Laban	Fran Martin
Psalmist:	Bruce Watts	Jill Cunningham
Lector 2:	Jose Garcia	Thelma Cunningham
Acolyte:	Doug Wall	Bella Long
Euch. Minister:	Patty Watts	Patty Watts
Shepherd:	David Mering	Sue Glines
Usher:	Rosemary Laban	Tom Knight
Altar Guild:	Jan Wall	Jan Wall
Coffee Hour:	Jan Wall	Pot Luck
Counter:	David Mering	Peter Hammond
Closer:	David Mering	Tom Knight