

August 14, 2025

Dear Ones,

As you saw in last week's addendum, my vacation did not go quite as planned. My cat Figg has something going on medically, and I didn't want to be away from her for those days. I am happy to report that she is stable, comfortable and happy. We're still not entirely sure what is going on; it may be a cancerous growth or it may be something benign; because of where it's located surgery for a biopsy would be very tricky.

In the end, I was grateful for this change of plans. It gave me time to do some sorting and clearing out, get a lot of sleep, knit, read, go swimming in the lake, and enjoy having my house all to myself. I will confess I did spend time thinking about Christ Church than I should have, but it was okay. I am looking forward to moving into the Season of Creation in a few weeks. I hope you will read through the announcements below to find out some opportunities to be part of creation care both locally and on a diocesan level.

In the meantime, stay cool and....*keep the faith*,
Nancy+

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 5:1-7 * Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18 * Hebrews 11:29-12:2 * Luke 12:49-56

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Bruce & Patty Watts 8/18

Sue Emerson 8/19

Bonnie Trundy 8/21

Jose & Carolee Garcia 8/22

CREATION CARE TIPS

The Pine Tree State? Really?

As a child, I was taught that Vacationland, where I did, indeed, spend my summer vacations, was the Pine Tree State. Imagine my surprise when a map in my Social Studies book showed that Maine is considered to be a Beech-Maple forest! Oh, the shock, the dismay!

Both pine forest and beech-maple forest were accurate descriptions, it seems. Beech and maple trees are the main components of an Eastern US climax environment, which means that as forests here evolve, they will transition from comprising other types of trees such as pines, spruce, birch, oak, hickory, etc, to being made up primarily of beech and maple trees.

Here's the reason I'm mentioning this factoid: Bruce and I need a new roof. Before the roof can be replaced, the beech tree that's outside our kitchen window has to be trimmed. Or taken down. There are reasons to keep it up – more oxygen and less carbon dioxide, more shade means we use the air conditioning less often, the birds, especially the hummingbirds, love it. So do I. But reasons to take it down are, unfortunately, at least as valid. Once the large branches that hang over the house are removed, the tree will be unbalanced. Not just in the esoteric way, but weight-wise. And cutting those big branches will leave the tree more vulnerable to disease and a slow death. But wait! There's more! I read recently that a nematode small enough to be carried by the wind has invaded Maine and infected beech trees in all of Maine's sixteen counties.

This tiny worm will damage trees beyond salvation long before they are detected. So my tree is coming down. Or in the vein of Nancy-before-a-vacation, by the time you read this, it will have been cut, hoisted by crane over our house, laid down on the front lawn, and carted off in pieces. (Yes, Nancy, I'm learning how to time travel, thanks to you!)

Other trees endangered by tiny organisms and their invaders:

Hemlock -- adelgid beetles

Ash -- emerald ash borers

Elm -- Dutch elm disease (not endangering them, elms have been wiped out)

American Chestnut -- blight fungus

I'm researching what to plant to replace this big old tree. Fast growing, maybe. Disease resistant, maybe. Good shade tree. Pretty. Great fall foliage. Any suggestions?

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

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

CALENDAR

TODAY: 9:30 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Eucharist
3:00 PM Bethel House Church
THU: 7:15 PM Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Picnic and Dragonboat Ride September 7 Immediately following church on Sunday, September 7, we will go to the lake for a picnic and a dragonboat ride for our church kids, their friends (please invite them!) and anyone else interested. Speak to Sandy for more information. We are considering an outdoor service that day, so stay tuned!

Ministry Opportunity! The Diocesan Creation Care Team has an opportunity for new members to join them in their work! The team is a mix of clergy and lay people who aim to advocate, network, and inspire through education, action, and worship so that the Episcopal Diocese of Maine might fulfill its calling to care for creation. They meet on the third Thursday of the month, 4 - 5 p.m. on Zoom. If you are interested in joining this important mission, please email Sarah Braik at sbraik642@gmail.com.

School Supplies In past years we have collected school supplies in the late summer, to be given to one of the local schools. We can do that again, but I suggest we extend our collection time into the fall so that they have a 'second harvest' just as the things donated for beginning of the year have run out.

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 We would like to build this fund back up. Please consider making a donation toward this fund. Checks should be made out to Christ Church with "Bishopswood Fund" in the memo line.

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:	Br. Matthias	Bruce Watts
Psalmist:	Allison Long	Rosemary Laban
Lector 2:	Bella Long	Tom Knight
Acolyte:	Doug Wall	Evie Lehr
Euch. Minister:	Michelle C	Tom Knight
Shepherd:	Jason Long	Jen Lehr
Usher:	David Mering	Doug Wall
Altar Guild:	Caroline Leonard	Marg Means
Coffee Hour:	Patty Watts	Nancy Mering
Counter:	Carolyn Tanner	Tom Knight
Closer:	Jen Lehr	Tom Knight