

January 29, 2026

Dear Ones,

As I write this, we have just finished Wednesday morning Bible Study and Eucharist. It's my favorite time of the week. We dig into the readings, share our prayers and concerns, challenge one another to think deeply and consider new ways of seeing the Scriptures and the life of faith...and we laugh a lot.

Last week Poppy was resting quietly out of sight in Fran's lap as I began the Eucharist. Just as I was about to bless the bread and wine, her little head popped into view. One ear was flopped backwards over her head and she had a dazed "IS IT COOKIE TIME?" expression that looked like a sleepy-eyed teenager with bedhead wandering into the kitchen looking for breakfast. For the first time in my 24 years as a priest, I started to laugh during the consecration. I finally pulled myself together and continued. That Eucharist was marked by a particular joy.

When I was being trained, I was told that once you begin the prayer of consecration, you must continue without interruption until it is completed. Last week was the first time something interrupted me to the point of not being able to press on.

And you know what? It was fine. God was worshiped, the sacrament was shared. We went back out into the world in joyful service to God. May you experience this sense of joyful call to mission whenever we gather together at God's table.

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

Nancy+

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Micah 6:1-8 * Psalm 15 * 1st Corinthians 1:18-31 * Matthew 5:1-12

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Dexter Mulandi 2/6; Dexter & Jenna Mulandi 2/7

CREATION CARE TIPS

An ounce of prevention

In a New York Times article titled "The true cost of recovering from the LA wildfires," reporter Christine Cyr Clisset wrote: "*We usually associate that adage, 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,' with health care or financial planning. But Benjamin Franklin wrote this now-famous phrase in the 1730s about preventing fires — advising his fellow Philadelphians to get their acts together by cleaning their chimneys, forming a fire brigade, and being more careful when carrying live coals from room to room (what a time!).*"

The headline had me expecting a dollar sign, a few digits, and lots and lots of zeros. But what I found were very helpful suggestions for homeowners, renters, and churchgoers to follow in order to keep on going if disaster strikes.

1. 66% of homes are underinsured. That means rebuilding a house half the size of the one you're in now might fit in your budget. Checking to see what your coverage actually covers is a good first step. And yes, there's such a thing as renters' insurance. It doesn't cover the building, it covers your stuff.
2. Know what you've got. Our church in New Jersey had videos taken of every room, every cabinet, floors, ceilings, beams, to document what they had and where it was. The number of electrical outlets, the number of chairs and tables, the number of prayer books in the pews and in the library, the pots, pans, and coat racks could all be documented and replaced. A video of what is in your house can be a godsend if you need

to replace your wardrobe, book collection, carpets, draperies, good china and everyday cookware! Don't forget the attic, garage, and basement! BTW, St. David's hasn't had to view the video.

3. Our risks aren't the same as L.A.'s. We have ice storms, blow-outs from hurricanes, and yes, possible wildfires. Consider what you can do to eliminate some damage and reduce other damage. Branches or entire trees may need to come down if they're endangering your roof or an un-garaged car. You may need to consider an alternate heat source if the power is out for several days.
4. The final point made in the article was that people matter more than things! Getting out fast can be extremely important. Have an evacuation plan, and a meeting place. (Our young family had fire drills, even some when our children were already in bed.) Have a GO Bag.

Most documents are replaceable. It's a pain in the derriere, but it's not impossible. A fire-proof box can hold the truly essential papers.

Do we expect to ever need the Go bag? No. In Matthew 24:43 we hear, *"But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into."*

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

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

CALENDAR

SUN:	10:15 AM	Eucharist Annual Meeting following worship
WED:	9:00 AM	Eucharist/Bible Study
	6:30 PM	Zoom Bible study w/Jim C: Gospel of Mark
THU:	9:00 AM	Christ Church Book Group/Zoom
	7:15 PM	Zoom Compline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School resumes February 22 We will meet every Sunday before church at 9:15. The kids will stay in church during worship.

Annual Meeting, SUNDAY following worship We will meet following the service to review 2025; look ahead to 2026; elect a warden, vestry members, and convention delegates; and accept the 2026 budget.

The bishop is coming! The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown will be with us at worship and fellowship on Sunday, March 15. I will meet with those who are interested in being confirmed or received after worship on February 8.

Church Closers One of the important duties every week is to make sure we leave church with lights off, doors locked, fans turned off, etc. We call these folks the "closers" and our list has grown rather short. It does *not* require being the last person to leave, and there is a checklist to follow. Please let us know if you can help with this task, so we can give our faithful few a break! Thanks.

Ash Wednesday, February 18 If you have palms left from previous years, please bring them in by February 15 so we can burn them.

Study Mark with Jim Christoph Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, on Zoom.

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:	Nancy Mering	Jenna Mulandi
Psalmist:	Thelma C	Kyalo Mulandi
Lector 2:	Michelle C	Peter Bickford
Acolyte:	Doug Wall	Patty Watts
Euch. Minister:	Michelle C	Peter Hammond
Usher:	Peter Hammond	Tom Knight
Altar Guild:	Jan Wall	Mary Bickford
Coffee Hour:	Nancy Mering	Holly Stuhr
Counter:	Marg Means	David Mering
Closer:	David Mering	Nancy Mering