

June 2022

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, Minnesota

The Caller

When You Welcomed a Stranger...(or did you?)

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When you welcomed a stranger, you welcomed me (Jesus). . . Matthew 25:35

When have you experienced hospitality or welcome AS a stranger? When have you not felt welcomed?

My husband, Scott, recently reminded me of two experiences he had 40 years ago while doing an independent, study-abroad term in Israel. He had been in the country five weeks and was weary of traveling. He went to visit the city of Haifa and came across an

If we thought of every stranger we meet as Christ, inside and outside church, I wonder if we would treat people differently than we do now?

Evangelical Christian hostel which advertised a free lunch on that day. When the host opened the door to guests, they were told that in order to receive lunch, they first needed to attend the church service. Not one to respond well to coercion, Scott passed on the lunch and went to a deli to buy some bread and cheese. He took his humble meal to the beautiful, nearby Baha'i Gardens for a solo picnic. Upon entering the Gardens, Scott saw a man standing on a balcony waving at him and smiling. The man tossed Scott a ripe, red plum. Both encounters that day made a lasting impression on him: the inhospitality of the Christian hostel; and the simple welcome and generosity of the balcony



man of Baha'i faith.

What would Jesus do?

Jesus was known for dining with sinners, healing untouchables, and welcoming and building relationships with people who were shunned by the mainstream. He even taught us that when we welcome a stranger, we welcome Christ, himself. If we thought of every stranger we meet as Christ, inside and outside church, I wonder if we would treat people differently than we do now? In what ways?

I wonder how Christ Church is perceived in our community and by visitors?

Do visitors feel genuinely welcomed and seen? Do visitors feel like this is a community where they could belong, contribute their gifts, grow in faith, and bring their whole selves? When single people or Black, Indigenous, or People of Color, or LGBTQ people visit, do they feel welcome? Do visitors leave wondering why no one greeted them, or introduced themselves, or invited them to coffee hour or to come again?

Rev. Letha continued...

“I wish our church would grow.”

This is a deep longing I’ve heard expressed often by long-time members of Christ Church.

First off, Christ Church is not the only church in Red Wing, or in Minnesota, or in the United States where membership has been in decline. It is a trend in many denominations, in fact, most. It is a cultural and generational shift. A Gallup Poll, in March 2021, shows that generational differences are linked to change in church membership.

“Church membership is strongly correlated with age, as **66% of traditionalists - U.S. adults born before 1946 -- belong to a church**, compared with 58% of baby boomers, 50% of those in Generation X and 36% of millennials.” Gallup Poll, March 2021.

We need to dig deeper to understand the reasons for these generational differences.

But the headwinds are strong; and we can’t tackle the larger trends. However, if people do come in contact with Christ Church and they don’t feel welcomed, then, that’s on us.

Whose job is it to be welcoming? Is it the priest’s job? Is it the vestry’s job? Is it the usher’s job? I would suggest it is the responsibility and ministry of all of us, of

every member, and of every lay and ordained minister to create a culture of welcome. Each of us inside Christ Church and outside in the community, are representatives or ambassadors of Jesus, and of Christ Church.

I’m confident Christ Church wants to be a welcoming community.

I suggest we take time over the next several months to focus on the issue of hospitality. Let’s find a way to evaluate how welcoming we are. Let’s learn about what we do well. Let’s be willing to listen and learn about the ways we can be better. Let’s figure out how best to welcome the strangers among us. It will be helpful to develop ways of being more visible in the community, to develop processes for welcoming people who come through our doors, and to help connect them to our community.

I will be forming a “Welcoming Congregation” task force. Please let me know if you are interested in being a part of this task force. I hope some of our newer members and recent visitors, who bring fresh eyes and personal experience to this question, will volunteer. I invite any of our young adults who are returning to Christ Church or joining for the first time. I hope for anyone with a passion for welcoming people into our community.

Blessings, Letha



A Pew research survey found, “large numbers of Americans are uniformed about the tenets, practices, history and leading figures of major faith traditions—including their own.” Ignorance like this enhances bigotry. The less Christians know about other faiths, the more likely they will believe the ravings of Islamaphobes or Anti-Semites. The less you know about other people’s religions, the more cheerfully you may assert the superiority of your own.

Compline Service Completed

So many things have changed over these last couple years. We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve this community with the weekly Facebook Compline ministry. It has served its purpose and has now been discontinued.

There are several other churches which provide the daily office which you are invited to explore and deepen your faith life. For example, **Saint Mark’s**

Cathedral in Seattle has a weekly compline service every Sunday at 9:30 p.m. that includes the Compline Choir.

Watch on the cathedral's livestream page [here](#). For more information, please visit the [Compline Choir's website](#)

Vicki Lambert
Diaconal Intern

A Few Thoughts About Prayer from Vicki Lambert

One of the ways that we show and express to others that God loves them is by praying for them. There are many “right” ways to pray, and there really is no wrong way to pray.

When you genuinely pray for someone, your heart changes toward them. Jesus invites us to recognize that God’s love is made real in Him. Jesus is calling us all to oneness. Not sameness. Not homogenized single mindedness. But oneness.

...the thing about prayer is not about changing the other person, prayer is about changing you. About aligning your heart closer to God’s heart...

When we rely on God, we are naturally drawn together. We find a sense of belonging. God’s unity is not coercive or divisive, but invitational. Jesus came to establish an inclusive united community grounded in love and includes all of us. When we are all included, we can all thrive.

We are each called together to pray for

each other. Regardless of situation or circumstance, we are called to believe. With Jesus’ perfect love we can learn to pray and to know God. Prayer restores hope.

E. Stanley Jones wrote: *Prayer is surrender--surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out a boathook from the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God.*

Our challenge is to pray like Jesus prayed. Pray for those who love you and those who do not love you. Because the thing about prayer is not about changing the other person, prayer is about changing you. About aligning your heart closer to God’s heart and reminding not just yourself but others that God loves you deeply and truly. I pray that we all have the grace and courage to go out into the world and remind others that God loves them just as deeply and truly as we are deeply and truly loved.



Buddhists do not worship any gods or God. People outside of Buddhism often think that Buddhists worship the Buddha. However, the Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama) never claimed to be divine, but rather he is viewed by Buddhists as having attained what they are also striving to attain, spiritual enlightenment and, with it, freedom from the continuous cycle of life and death.

Community Engagement Team Notes

We are happy to report that the bin for underwear and socks for homeless vets is now full. Thank you for your generous contributions.

The Coat Shed is now emptied and locked for the summer. We are excited that Habitat for Humanity will be building a custom designed shed that will be closer to the sidewalk and easier for the public to access.

An extension of this committee is participation in Spiritual Care mentoring at the Minnesota Correctional Facility—Red Wing. This is presently their only volunteer program available to the community.

Please continue to drop off food in the Food Shelf bins in the Parish Hall entryway. Your items will be taken to the Red Wing Area Food Shelf monthly. Thanks.

Vestry Update from Senior Warden, Charles Brown

As your Senior Warden, I would like to introduce you to an important project that was voted a high priority in 2022 by your Vestry at our Vestry Retreat last February. It is going to be called 'RED WING AREA RESOURCE CENTER' and will be located in the undercroft room (basement) of our parish hall. We are just completing the exciting renovation of this room which you will be hearing more of in the near future from other vestry members working on the project. With this project we are building on the success from our past where we have previously housed community aid non-profit organizations and it has been a win/win situation as a home for the non-profit and a revenue generator for the Church.



Islam has two main denominations. They are Sunni Islam and Shia Islam. Sunni Islam follows the tradition that Muhammad did not name a successor. Instead, the Muslim community elected Abu Bakr as the first caliph. In contrast, Shia Islam follows the tradition that Muhammad designated a successor. This was his cousin and son-in-law Ali ibn Abi Talib. The disagreements between the two denominations have lasted to the present day.

Red Wing Area Resource Center

We at Christ Church were hosts to the Hope and Harbor Homeless Shelter, run by Liz Magill, this past winter. The Resource Center is her idea and included here are some of her thoughts about it. She has run a non-profit for many years and is very knowledgeable on how they work. She has already put together a startup budget and an annual operating budget for this project which were presented to the Vestry in February and it was unanimously passed that we continue exploring this as a priority for 2022.

It will provide a space during business hours where individuals can come to access all the Red Wing area community agencies and non-profit resources.

She is also in the process of applying for multiple grants for this project. It is important for you to know the proposed contribution of Christ Church would be limited to use of our building, with funding for set-

up and operating provided by grants. We will be asking her to be a speaker at a 9:00 Forum some Sunday and we hope you can attend to hear her speak in more detail.

Liz Magill: "The Red Wing Area Resource Center idea came about by conversations stemming from unmet needs of the guests of Hope and Harbor Homeless Shelter. Hope and Harbor is open 6 PM-8AM and provides overnight shelter, meals, access to resources, etc. The problem is Hope and Harbor is only open overnight, yet most of the resource's guests need to access in order to end their homeless situation are only open during the day. So, what is happening is guests would apply for programs such as health care, housing, etc. in the evenings with the help of the advocates of Hope and Harbor, but are not able to communicate with those for example at the county, etc. during the day for questions on their applications. We would like to change that.

The idea of the Resource Center is simple. It will be available to:

1. Provide a space during business hours where individuals can come to access all the Red Wing area community agencies and non-profit resources. To be a "one-stop shop" as it were in a centralized location in Red Wing.
2. Have advocates in place to assist guests in applying and accessing the resources.
3. Identify the barriers for the agencies providing the resources which individuals face when accessing their resources. For instance, an individual who needs food resources but works Tues-Sunday cannot access the local food shelf as they are open Tues/Thurs/Friday. This creates a barrier and elimi-

New Resource Center continued

nates that individual from accessing the food needed. The resource center would help that individual work with the food shelf to get the food resource.

4. Offer assistance in completing applications for resources. Often the applications themselves are daunting to an individual and they will not seek the resource simply because the paperwork involved seems to be overwhelming.

5. Help in building community. We were not meant to be solitary creatures but many of our community members spend a lot of their time alone. By building a community individuals will be empowered to fulfill their needs and find resources to improve their everyday lives.

6. The Resource Center is the 1st step to establishing a Hub Community. A Hub Community is a research proven way of providing multiple resources from community agencies in an unduplicated manner. It provides a way to connect with the right resources for long-term solutions vs short term fixes. An excellent model of a Hub Community is Winona, MN.

The Resource Center will offer assistance in seeking resources in:

- Mental Health
- Drug/Alcohol Counseling
- Health Care/Postpartum Care/
Dental Care
- Education for Employment
- Food Resources
- Domestic Violence
- Eviction Mitigation
- Homelessness/Housing Resources
- Financial Assistance
- Financial Literacy
- Transportation
- Other resource opportunities as they are identified as needed.”

Currently, there is nothing like this in the Red Wing Area. Please join us as we ‘open the doors’ to the underserved in our Red Wing area community.

To Him the glory,
Charles Brown
Senior Warden Christ Church



Hinduism is not a single religion. It is a collection of beliefs and philosophies sharing a common set of gods and concepts. The most significant of these common gods include Vishnu, Shiva, and Brahma. Shared concepts include karma, reincarnation, and the Vedas' guidance. There are about 1.2 billion Hindus in the world.

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Tips for a Healthy Summer



Christianity, Islam, and Judaism are the Abrahamic Religions. This is particularly ironic among religion facts. It comes from the fact that Christians, Muslims, and Jews, all claim descent from Abraham. For Christians, this descent is spiritual through Jesus Christ's New Covenant. In contrast, Jews and Muslims claim direct descent. Jews descend from Abraham's son Isaac. Muslims descend from Abraham's other son, Ishmael. The irony comes from the violence and war between the three religions over the centuries.

Below are some simple Tips to keep you healthy this summer from the CDC (Center for Disease Control)

Move more, sit less. You will sleep better, be less anxious and it will lower your blood pressure.



Wear Sunscreen and insect repellent:

Use shade, wide-brimmed hats, clothing that covers, and broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 15 for sun protection.

Use insect repellent and wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants to prevent mosquito bites and ticks.

If you use both sunscreen and insect repellent, apply sunscreen first. After you come indoors, check clothing, body, and pets for ticks.



Keep Cool in extreme heat

Extreme heat can be dangerous for everyone, but it may be especially dangerous for people with chronic medical conditions.

Eat a Health Diet. Delicious fruits and veggies make any summer meal healthier.



Rethink your Drink. Drink fluoridated water instead of sugary or alcoholic drinks to reduce calories and stay safe.



Have a safe, healthy summer!
Mary Heckman
Parish Nurse

We have a new way to sign up to bring the treats for coffee hour! Please go to our SignUpGenius page:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10cob4fada62fabff2-christ>

Young Adults

Hey, young adult, if you are reading this newsletter, thank you. This section is just for you. There are two things I would like to invite you to:

CONCERTS & CONVOS

Join me at Concerts in the Park **every Wednesday this summer**. The concerts start at **7pm**. This is a low to no cost outing where we will connect and chat while listening to music. Afterwards, we'll hang out at HomePlate Grill for some refreshment. Come alone or bring a friend.

HOLY HIKING

Join me for **Holy Hiking Saturday mornings at 7:30am - beginning June 11**. Come alone or bring a

friend. We will use a format called Gospel Based Discipleship. It is an opportunity to wonder, question, and talk about a specific gospel reading.

We will meet at the trailhead on Bluff and 8th St in Red Wing. We'll hike up to the Upper Quarry. Not a hiker? **NO WORRIES!!** We'll meet at the Trailhead, and you are invited to drive around and hang out at a picnic table in the upper quarry to meet up there.

Come when you can. I'm excited to hang out and get to know you better. -Vicki



Judaism has several different sects. There are three main branches within Judaism, Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Jews. In addition to these, there are some smaller denominations of Judaism as well, and each represents their own unique ways and practices. All of them are following what they understand and interpret as the real and authentic version of Judaism. The basics of their belief are the same as they all share the same origin.

Youth Group News from Vicki

Ready, Set, Summer!!

Congratulations on completing another school year! Christ Episcopal is excited to start youth activities again.

Youth group is designed for all young people from 6th to 12th grade (regardless of

confirmation status). I'll roll out an app for signups very soon. Until then, you are always invited to text (or call) me - 651-327-9209.

We have awesome opportunities coming up this summer!

First, let's pack meals for **Feed My Starving Children** in Eagan. Mark your calendars!

TUESDAY, JUNE 7 - 2-3:45pm

We meet at church at 12:30pm.

We'll hang out together at the last Aces Baseball Home game for the summer.

Sunday, July 17 - 2:00pm

We'll meet at the ball field at 1:30. I'll get tickets and bring snacks.

Other things in the works for this summer are making a meal at Ronald McDonald House, Rochester, and a Hok-Si-La swim/fish party, Lake City.

Please let me know your great ideas!



CALLING ALL YOUTH

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 Jamie Teele
 2 Catherine Johnson
 3 Kelsie Featherstone
 7 Charlene Friedrich
 9 Matt Shefveland
 11 Madelyn Miller
 17 Amelia Reintz
 20 Allison Johnson
 Sharon Hager

21 Barbara Anderson
 24 Sandra Richter
 25 Mary Brunner
 Phyllis Johnson
 27 Pat Kelly

Anniversaries

17 Brad and Babs Knudson
 19 Becky and Bill Foot



Human sacrifices in Mesoamerica offered themselves without resistance. The Spanish and the Roman Catholic Church, through propaganda, demonized what they did not understand and aimed to end native Mesoamerican religion. But to Mesoamericans at the time it was a great honor to be a sacrifice. They believed that the gods sacrificed themselves to give life to the world. Thus, it was their duty and obligation to repay the gods with sacrifices of their own. The chosen sacrifices accepted their fate. In turn, their people treated them as heroes as they walked to the altar.

Altar Flowers for June

June 5 Chapel **In memory of Sam and Barbara Blue**
John and Maureen Blue
 Church **In memory of my parents, Ralph and Lillian Bryan and my husband Robert Gustafson**
Marian Gustafson

June 12 Chapel **In thanksgiving for Sam and Nate**
Ernie and Mary Ann Valentine
 Church Open

June 19 Chapel Open
 Church **In thanksgiving for grandchildren: Nathan, Edward, John, Thomas, Reid, Clara, Jackie, Michael and Jay**
Char Friedrich

June 26 Chapel **In thanksgiving for Sonia, Dan, Charlotte and Elliot, Michael, Jackie, Caroline and Lauren**
Jon and Mary Heckman
 Church **In memory of Dr. George and Ibba Hawley**
Jane Hawley Cooper

Prayer Chain Notes

The prayer chain at our church is a ministry of a group of members who commit to praying regularly to God on behalf of others in need. If you, a friend, or loved one is struggling in mind, body, or spirit, you may request these prayers. Once a request for prayer is received, it will remain confidential within the prayer chain. You may share as little or as much information as you wish. These prayers are not limited to Christ Episcopal Church members or their families. We are working on having prayer cards in the pews for prayer requests.

If you would like the prayer chain to pray for you or someone you care about, please contact Prayer Chain Lead Arlene Beckwith at 651-388-4546.

June 2022 Calendar and Scheduled Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 <u>Chapel Service</u> 10:00 am <u>Bible Study</u> 11am <u>Hospitality</u> 5:30 pm <u>Choir</u> 6:30 pm	2	3	4
5 <u>Rite II</u> 10am	6 <u>Junior Guild</u> 12pm <u>Sewing Group</u> 1 pm	7	8 <u>Chapel Service</u> 10:00 am <u>Bible Study</u> 11am <u>Choir</u> 6:30 pm	9 <u>Suicide Prevention Group</u> 7 pm	10	11 <u>Community Engagement</u> 10:30 am
12 <u>Rite II</u> 10am	13 <u>Sewing Group</u> 1 pm	14 <u>Property</u> 5:30pm	15 <u>Chapel Service</u> 10am <u>Bible Study</u> 11am <u>Choir</u> 6:30pm	16 <u>MOPS</u> 6:30 pm	17	18
19 Father's Day <u>Rite II</u> 10am	20 <u>Vestry</u> 7pm	21	22 <u>Chapel Service</u> 10am <u>Bible Study</u> 11am <u>Sip, Pray, Paint</u> 5:30 pm <u>Choir</u> 6:30pm	23	24	26
29 <u>Rite II</u> 10am	27 Memorial Day	28 <u>Altar Guild</u> 4:45	29 <u>Chapel Service</u> 10am <u>Bible Study</u> 11am <u>Choir</u> 6:30pm	30	1	2

Wednesday Bible Study is at 11:00 a.m. We are studying Simon Peter. Please join us!

Junior Guild June 6, noon

Hospitality Meeting June 1, 5:30 pm

Choir Practice June 8, 15, 22, 29 6:30pm

Community Engement Team June 11, 10:30 am

Vestry Meeting, June 20, 7:00 pm

Sip, Pray, Paint, June 22, 5:30 pm

Altar Guild June 28, 4:45 pm

Mark Your Calendars!

The Community Engagement Team is planning a community BBQ following the jazz service on July 24. Details forthcoming!!

A Litany in the Aftermath of Gun Violence

Revised from prayers by the Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane, Episcopal Bishop of Maine (retired) <https://bishopsagainstgunviolence.org/resources/liturgical-resources/>

1. Giver of Life and Love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in peace. Surround us with your love as we face again the tragedy of gun violence. For the children and adults who were killed in Uvalde, Texas, those who were wounded and hospitalized, the traumatized, grieving survivors, and those known to you alone, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

2. God of Righteousness, you have granted our leaders, especially Joseph, our President, and Tim, our Governor, the members of Congress and of our courts and legislatures, power and responsibility to protect us, and to uphold our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Strengthen their devotion to our common life and give them clarity of purpose. For all who bear such responsibility, for all who struggle to discern what is right in the face of powerful political forces, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

3. God of Compassion, we give you thanks for first responders: teachers, police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and all those whose duties bring them to the streets, the schools, the malls and the homes where the carnage of gun violence takes place every day. Give them courage and sound judgment in the heat of the moment and grant them compassion for the victims. For our brothers and sisters who risk their lives and serenity as they rush to our aid, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

4. Merciful God, bind up the wounds of all who suffer from gun violence, those maimed and disfigured, those left alone and grieving, and those who struggle to get through one more day. Bless them with your presence and help them find hope. For all whose lives are forever changed and broken by the scourge of gun violence, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

5. God of Repentance and Forgiveness, we hold before you Salvador Ramos, the one who fired the weapon in Uvalde, and seek your grace for transformation. We cannot forgive - not yet - but we trust in

your power to make all things new. For those who from malice or illness are the instruments of violence and death, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

6. God Who Remembers, may we not forget those who have died, more than 17,000 already this year, in the gun violence that we have allowed to become routine. Receive them into your heart and comfort us with your promise of eternal love and care. For all who have died, those who die today, and those who will die tomorrow, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

7. God of Tender Mercy, be with those who are overwhelmed, enraged, frustrated and demoralized by the plague of gun violence. Give them a sense of your presence and plant in them the seed of hope. For those whose hope for life in this world is shattered and broken, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

8. God of Justice, help us, your church, find our voice. Turn us from the worship of power. Give us courage to confront our false gods and to protest the needless deaths caused by gun violence. Help us rise above our dread that nothing can be done and grant us the conviction to advocate for change. For your dream of a world where children are safe and all of us live together without fear, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

All this we pray

