

THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

November 2023

A letter from . . .



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Dear Friends in Christ,

We've turned the calendar over to November and the beginning of the holiday season. It's a lovely time of year, but I always find myself dreading the approach of that dark, icy desert called "January" and "February" that follows Christmas. So my prayer practice this month centers on keeping a Gratitude Journal. And I'm always surprised both by how keeping that journal focuses my spirit on an "attitude of gratitude" - and how that attitude influences my experience of the world and helps me better see all the ways God is gracing my life.

I've been doing some reading recently around "faith formation". Faith formation is a critical topic, because it's fundamental to our discipleship. Reason is an important source of authority for Episcopalians, and so we look for truths in the world around us. Biology teaches one truth: that things that are not growing and changing are dying or dead. The same thing is true for our faith. We're either nurturing it so that it grows and flourishes in ways that promote our growth as disciples, or else

Sometimes we equate "faith formation" with the things we learn in Sunday School or youth group or Confirmation class. Topics like Scripture, or doctrine, or the prayer. And while those things provide the soil and the seeds, faith formation is a lot more than that.

In her book *Journeying in the Wilderness*, Teri Elton, a professor at Luther Seminary, provides one useful definition of faith formation: "the ways faith shapes people as they encounter God, others, and the world." This definition is interesting because it doesn't treat faith as some sort of academic topic that we pull off the shelf, read about, and then put back. It's not static and unchanging. Instead, faith is alive, and we develop it through experience - as we enter into relationships with others, God, and the world. Our faith grows and deepens as we connect our actions to loving God with all our heart, soul and mind; and to loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Continued . . .



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Continued from . . .

Pastor Aaron Twait

So how do we create a culture where faith formation is experiential, and not just academic? Where nurturing and growing our faith is woven into the fabric of our lives? There's no simple, easy answer, but I want to suggest one thing we can do that can start to transform us.

And that thing, my friends, is to develop deep listening as a faith practice. Jesus models this for us in the Gospels. He never acts on his own, but gains confidence over and over again by listening to the Father through prayer and discernment. So as we follow Jesus on The Way, we also need to listen to God as God speaks to us through Scripture, through the people and the world around us, and through our prayer.

Listening is hard work. It requires us to stop our politely disguised debates where we listen just enough to formulate our counter-argument – a practice we often call “discussion”. Instead, it calls us into the practice of “dialogue” – where we listen with the openness of possibly being changed by the Other's idea, or opinion, or story. But the reality is that it's practices like dialogue that provide the sunlight and fertilizer that make the soil and seeds of faith we're given as children grow and flourish into the life-giving plants of discipleship.

Peace,

Pastor Aaron

*Happy
Thanksgiving*





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Honoring our Vets . . .



by Kris Blaney

The month of November is considered the start of the “holiday” season. It’s filled with decorating, cooking, and baking to prepare for Thanksgiving and future holidays to come. It’s also a time where we reflect on the things we are thankful for and we soon fall asleep on the couch after eating way too much food on this holiday.

While most individuals discuss Thanksgiving, I’m going to shift your focus to another holiday that occurs in November, **Veterans Day**. Most people blow past this holiday because it means very little to them or they are focused on future holidays. For me it carries a whole lifetime of seeing the effects of war on a veteran through the eyes of my father. As I get older, I see the effects more and more. You see, my father is a Vietnam Veteran, a Marine. And although he survived the battle, the war still goes on inside his mind and affects him daily. We all know someone who has served and have heard their stories. I would like to share my father’s story.

My father chose to serve his country when others had the choice made for them. He enlisted right out of high school and was served draft papers the next day. The decision was made for him regardless. Eager to find his place in life, he chose the Marine Corp and embraced their lifestyle and discipline. After boot camp, he was sent over to Vietnam, 19 and a rifle in hand. While out searching for the enemy a land mine ignited next to him sending members of his platoon in different directions. He watched his best friend die that day. Realizing he was hurt; he had to follow his training and get himself out of the area to a helicopter. In order to get himself to the hospital on base, he had to hang out the side of the helicopter bleeding during enemy fire, making room for others that were more severely injured. He had suffered a significant wound in his right arm, his right leg, and his body was covered in shrapnel. At the infirmary, the doctors had to pull a large piece of shrapnel out of him while he was still awake as it was dangerously close to his heart, and they needed to get it out right away.

He spent 6 months in a hospital in Michigan healing from his wounds, he almost lost his arm. When the doctors discharged him, they told him two important things. Do not leave in your uniform, leave in your civilian clothes. There were plenty of protestors outside the VA that were not afraid to throw, curse, or even assault military personnel. The other was he wouldn’t have pain now but would later in life. The injuries my father suffered damaged many nerves in his arm and leg. They would eventually catch up to him. My father left the VA hospital after 6 months, in his civilian clothes and the next chapter in his life.

Continued . . .



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While he was out of the battle, the war in his head began. For many months after coming home, our mother would wake him up by throwing something at him from the foot of the bed. He would come up swinging. To help deal with his trauma, he found a job and buried himself in his work, he also buried what happened in Vietnam.

Fast forward 50+ years, the battle in my father's head continues. The "later" doctors talked about has come to fruition. Lots of pain and more nerve damage from his injuries. The pain has also brought up the trauma. He can no longer forget what happened and it has sent him into an emotional rollercoaster filled with anxiety, panic attacks, and depression. No longer able to deal on his own, he finally stepped back into the VA, a place he had avoided for many years because it reminded him of what he wanted to forget.

My father was exhibiting all the signs for PTSD. The VA didn't acknowledge it for many years because "he didn't represent a threat to himself or others". It took many years for the VA to finally acknowledge his mental health. He has a hard time in large groups and has "episodes" that send him down a rabbit hole and bring up memories of that horrible day. It's hard to understand what my father goes through, but I know that he has been brave for many years, even after he left the hospital.

I know this is a long story, but I felt it was necessary to hear a veterans story. My purpose was two things, to instill some compassion for our veterans, and to educate you that not every veteran's story is a good one or a bad one, everyone is unique and needs to be heard.

When this holiday comes, I invite you to reach out to a veteran and not only thank them for their "sacrifice" but engage them in conversation to learn about their journey and their challenges from coming back from the war. Support programs that give veterans resources to help with their challenges and come up with ways to make them feel heard and validated with those challenges.





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Homade Cranberry Sauce From Kris Blaney



Ingredients

1-12 oz bag Cranberries

1 cup Sugar

**1 cup freshly squeezed
Orang Juice**

Instructions

Dissolve sugar and juice. Stir in cranberries and cook 10 minutes. The sauce will thicken as it cooks. Cook to desired consistency, stirring to prevent burning. Let cool before serving. Will store in fridge up to a week.



Ooey-Goopy Popcorn!

This is great on a wintry night. Kids love it because you eat with your fingers. Makes you smile!

Large Bowel of Popped Corn
2 to 4 TBL Butter
1 Bag of Marshmallows
1 Heaping TBL of Brown Sugar
1 tsp of Vanilla

Melt the butter in a saucepan. Add the bag of marshmallows, stirring constantly while it melts on a medium heat. When melted, add the brown sugar and raise the temp a bit so it will be a better pouring consistency. Remove from heat and add vanilla.
Pour over popcorn and stir.

Have lots of wet paper towels and enjoy!

From Dawne





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Community Engagement Notes



Pat Martin

Thank you for your generosity!

Minneapolis Veteran's Hospital:

The homeless vets are in need of new underwear, T-shirts, warm socks, long underwear, sweatpants and sweatshirts for both men and women in all sizes. Please keep the tags on. These may be dropped off in the labeled bin in the Parish Hall.

Food Shelf:

Fortunately I had help lugging all the bags of food to my car! We totally filled the large bin outside the food shelf. Please keep these generous amounts of food coming. They are also in need of plastic bags, which they would like flattened.

Coat Shed:

We are well stocked for now, but as cold weather approaches warm clothing will be in demand. Clothing may be dropped off in the church office or on the bench outside the office.

CROP Hunger Walk:

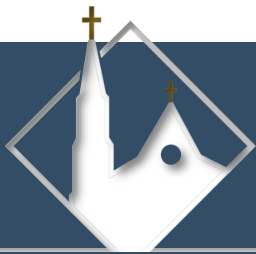
There were six of us, plus one dog, walking to all the participating churches and reading their prayers together. Thank you to both walkers and donators!



Dawne's Notes ...

If you have something in the fridge, check it to make sure it's not turning green!!

**Coat Shed needs men's socks and men's hats!!!
You can bring them to the office.**



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Coming up this month at Christ Church!



Christian Conversations Join us at 9 AM on Sundays – between the services – for Christian Conversations about spirituality, faith, wellness, and our community. Our topics this month are:

- Nov. 5** – join the Rev. Dr. Richard Eick for a discussion about grief as part of our First Sunday programming
- Nov. 12** – interested in our stained glass windows? Steve Maxe and Bill Hoyt will present on the windows and their history.
- Nov. 19** – To be determined....
- Nov. 26** – join Pastor Aaron for another round of **"Stump the Priest!"** – bring your biggest questions! Time permitting, we'll start a multi-series presentation on prayer.

Game Night Our Third **Fun Fridays** continue with a **Game Night** on November 17th in the Parish Hall. The Education Committee will be providing a free dinner of soup, bread, and fruit. Bring your favorite board or card games, come play a game that's new to you, or just have some dinner and good conversation in a welcoming environment. This intergenerational event is open to everyone!

Holiday Stroll Christ Church will be participating in Red Wing's Holiday Stroll again this year on November 24th (the day after Thanksgiving). Vestry and other volunteers will be manning the Prayer Wall on the front lawn, as we deepen our relationships with our neighbors and learn more about the needs and concerns of our community. We'll also be hosting a Carol Sing in the church with cookies and hot cider. Doors open at 5:30, with singing from 6-7 PM. IF you'd like to volunteer, please contact the church office.

Our Partners in God's Work: Goodhue County Resource Center



Helping families and individuals access resources in our community.

NEW HOURS:

Monday 11am—4pm
Tuesday 12pm—7pm
Thursday 11am—4pm
Friday 11am—4pm

- Housing
- Physical & Mental Health
- Chemical Dependency
- Legal Services

Education
Employment
Pregnancy
Food



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Junior Guild



Sandy Richter

The Pumpkin Carving was amazing! Check out the fun below!



Blessing
of the
Animals

Just makes you smile . . .





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Bazaar and Bake Sale !

Junior Guild

It's Here! It's here!



The Junior Guild Presents All Church Bazaar & Bake Sale!



When: November 11th

Time: 9:00am to 2:00pm

Where: Christ Episcopal Church,

Parish Hall

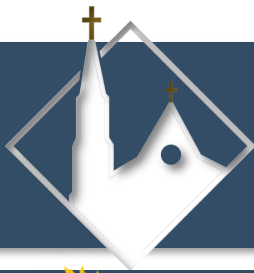
*Lots of wonderful treats and crafts to choose from.
Come join the fun and do a little holiday shopping.*

The fellowship is no charge!

*This is such an amazing event.
We hope everyone can attend!*

*To reserve pecans, please contact Marilyn Potswald at 651
- 385-8025.*





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November 2023 Scheduled Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 5:30 pm Hospitality Meeting 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30 pm MOPS	3	4 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
5 First Sunday Celebration! All Saints Day 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 	6	7 1:00 pm Sewing Group 	8 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10 All Day ~ Junior Guild Bazaar Setup  ECMN Convention 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room	11 All Day ~ Church Bazaar & Bake Sale!!!
12 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Recovery Worship @ Colvill Park 	13	14 5:30 pm Property Committee	15 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 6:30 pm MOPS	17 5:00 to 7:00 pm 3rd Fun Friday! Board Games 	18 9:30 am ECW Meeting 10 am - Visitation, 11 am Funeral, 12 pm Luncheon for Ernie Valentine 7:00 pm NA Youth
19 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist	20	21 5:00 pm Vestry Meeting	22 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	23  Happy Thanksgiving!	24 Holiday Stroll 	25 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
26 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist	27 4:30 pm Altar Guild	28	29	30		



12/3- First Sunday Celebration

12/10- Recovery Worship ~ Colvill Park Pavilion

12/15- Fun Friday! ~ Cookie Decorating



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November Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

8 Michael Stelton
9 Amanda Johnson
17 Brianna Dressen
24 Lynn Brown
24 Caleb Dressen
24 Suzanne Simonson
25 Johnny Johnson

Anniversaries

11 Joyce & Nicholas Koerner



Altar Memorial Flowers for November

November 5

Chapel In loving memory of husband Larry & Karl & Gracie Anderson
Barb Anderson

Church In memory of Richard & Mabel Peterson, Brother Richard & Sister Jenny
Suzanne Simonson

November 12

Chapel In memory of Clyde & Marge Mabin
Tari Carpenter

Church In loving memory of Bob Richter
Sandy Richter



November 19

Chapel In loving memory of Fran & John Friedrich
Char Friedrich

Church In loving memory of husband, Joe
Pat Welke

November 26

Chapel In loving memory of deceased Altar Guild members
Christ Church Altar Guild

Church In memory of Mom & Dad, & Grandmother
Jessica Severson

Please contact Dawne to sign up for altar flowers for any time of the year.
Call Office or email:
office@christchurchrw.org