

THE HARVEST – JANUARY 2019

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH LOCKPORT, NY 14094

Broken Yet Healed

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”
Charles Dickens

Dickens seems to have envisioned our own times when he penned those lines in his 1859 work of *The Tale of Two Cities*. And this Christmas his words seemed to be truer than ever. The world seems less safe and more threatening, our own country less welcoming and more divided, and the economy less secure and more foreboding. And health seemed less sure and more precarious. And I thought to myself our times really ARE bad in many ways: spiritually, individually, socially, nationally, globally. Yet, I am equally sure that almost every generation has felt that to be true for its times, which is what gives Dickens' words eternal value and relativity. But in spite of our troubles and challenges, there is also the joy of Christmas and in particular the joy of family, friends, neighbors – and even, this Christmas, the poor. People helping total strangers, neighbors checking on neighbors. And I thought to myself ‘what does this all mean? For it seems as if Christmas is a ‘spiritual bi-polar’ season:

And I mused that in healthcare we have terms which seem contradictory at first glance - like Dickens' description of his (our) times - but are not. For example: ‘health’ and ‘illness’. Most would agree that these are opposites. The *World Health Organization* (WHO) defines health as ‘the state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity’. That means that one can have a terminal disease, yet still be healthy; or have no disease and still be ill. You might ask ‘how is that possible?’ Here’s how it works: one’s ATTITUDE determines one’s WELL-BEING. An individual with a physical challenge or incurable disease yet who is emotionally able to deal with it in a positive outlook is judged to be ‘well’ even though they are physically ‘ill’. I think that the same is true for us spiritually. No matter how buffeted we are by the evils in the world around us or even individually within us, if we have faith and hope, we can be at peace. We, as with our world, are never perfect, but we are good - and we do good in spite of our being not perfect. Truth is, we - one and all - are flawed and weak, and yet are at the same time made whole and healed. As followers of the Christ, we are spiritually ‘healthy’ and ‘whole’, while still ‘ill’ and ‘broken’. We need not be overwhelmed by the times in which we live, for we know that through the love of God we – one and all - will be fine. And for that we rejoice and give thanks. The coming new year will be one filled with blessings and disappointments. May you remain constant in the Lord through it all. And

remember that though we are broken, we are also healed. It is a mystery, a wonderful mystery.

God has laid his hand upon you and blessed you. Rejoice!

Fr. Thomas

Martha's Vineyard

Recently we “stepped” into a new church year, have journeyed through Advent, and we now find ourselves walking into 2019 as a brand-new calendar year begins.

Will our footsteps help prepare a way of peace? It's by no means an easy path but you and I, if we choose to be Jesus followers, can walk in His ways and be guided into the way of peace. His footsteps on ancient dusty roads as he traveled the way, eating with sinners, sipping cold water with a woman of questionable moral character, healing “those people”, working on the Sabbath...sending people on their way, forgiven, healed, restored, this is the inherited example. Each time you and I perform an act of kindness, expecting nothing in return, when we put another's need and concern ahead of our own, when we refuse to engage in bigotry, gossip, spiteful retribution, when we level the playing field or give a hand up not a hand out...these are steps on the path of peace.

Frederick Buechner said...if you want to know who you are, watch your feet. Because where your feet take you, that is who you are. Have you and I, do you and I, follow a “rebel way” where rather than the weapons of destruction, we employ, we become instruments of love, kindness, gentleness, justice and righteousness to help pave the way for peace as we follow in the footsteps of the Prince of Peace?

Let us pray for the Light of Christ to shine upon us all and all of creation, guiding us into the way of peace.

Watch your step!
Deacon Martha

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be January 13, 2019. We will have just on service at 9:00 am that day. Following the service we will have the meeting, and then we will be treated to a special taco lunch that Fr. Sam is organizing.

All reports will be due January 6th. If you are interested in running for an office please see Judy Pauley or Sue Bauer by the 2nd. This year all candidates for all offices must submit short biographies that will be available January 6th so that everyone can know the candidates they are voting for. Give your bio to Joyce or leave it on the desk in the office.

Earthly Matters

There are some who would probably call me a “tree hugger” and maybe overzealous in my love of and concern for Mother Earth, nature, and all of God’s creation. Truth be told, that’s okay; in fact, I’d consider it a compliment. My belief is that you and I have much to learn from nature.

Advice from a Tree-Ilan Shamir
 Stand Tall and Proud
 Sink your roots deeply into the Earth
 Reflect the light of a greater source
 Think long term
 Go out on a limb
 Remember your place among all living beings
 Embrace with joy the changing of the seasons
 For each yields its own abundance
 The Energy and Birth of Spring
 The Growth and Contentment of Summer
 The Wisdom to let go of leaves in the Fall
 The Rest and Quiet Renewal of Winter
 Feel the wind and the sun
 And delight in their presence
 Look up at the moon that shines down upon you
 And the mystery of the stars at night.
 Seek nourishment from the good things in life
 Simple pleasures
 Earth, fresh air, light
 Be content with your natural beauty
 Drink plenty of water
 Let your limbs sway and dance in the breezes
 Be flexible
 Remember your roots
 Enjoy the view!

Wise advice? For me, yes. I pray so for you,

Deacon Martha

Worship Planning Needs Your Creativity

Pat Few has retired as the “hands on” sewing and craft person for liturgical decorations. We are seeking volunteers from the parish who enjoy working with fabrics and other creative materials to step into Pat’s shoes for the “hands on” work. Pat will continue to bring her ideas to the Group and will gladly guide others in the actual work of making decorations and other items for our worship space (words for Hymn Boards, banners, items for children’s participation). Pat will continue to make the Baptism banners. We

will soon be discussing the Lenten season and need to know that we have people available to create whatever is planned for our worship space. Pat will be with you to help with ideas and methods for assembling the items. *Please talk with Fr. Thomas or Deacon Martha about the opportunity to share the gift of your “craftiness” as soon as possible.* Thank you.

Our parish family owes Pat a great debt of gratitude for the generous gift of her creative talents over the years. Thank you Pat!!!

Robin Kozlowski

IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

In lieu of purchasing ornaments for the adults and small items for the children as gifts given to them at the Christmas services this year, the Worship Planning Group asked the children of our parish to select items from the Episcopal Relief and Development Christmas catalog to give to people in need as a gift from the parish family of Christ Church. The children selected a goat, two “shares” toward a flock of chickens, and one “share” toward a pig. Our young people were excited about selecting and giving these gifts instead of receiving gifts from the parish on Christmas Eve. Thank you to Cheryl Urtel and Martha Buchanan for guiding the children.

Robin Kozlowski

This Month at Christ Church

Sunday, Jan 13th – Annual Meeting: one service at 9:00 am followed by the meeting and lunch.

Monday, Jan 21st – Vestry meets at 7:00 pm.

Sunday, Jan 27th – Thank You Brunch: there will be a brunch between the services at 9:00 am so attendees at both services can attend.

Weekly Events and Meetings:

Mondays, 7:00 pm – Lock City Glee Club

Tuesdays, 6:30 pm – Girl Scouts

Tuesdays – 7:00 pm – Lockport Chorale

Wednesdays, 10:00 am – Morning Prayer

Wednesdays, 8:00 pm – NA

Thursdays, 7:00 pm – Choir

Fridays, 8:00 pm – AA

Saturdays, 8:30 am – T.O.P.S.

January Birthdays

1 Evan Wirth
Ron Steen
3 Cynthia Brant
Rob Jasinski
4 Patrick Heal
9 Ken Brant
Gail Urtel
10 Sandey Goodman
James Joseph U'Ren
11 Robert Strassel
12 Jacob Lepkyj
14 Martha Farone
Cindy Shaw
16 Christine Wirth
Seth Lamar
Angela Sammarco
17 Peter Slobodzian
Anna Michaud
18 Cindy Theurer
20 Gary Few
21 Barbara McHenry
Donna Richards
22 Debbie Bronschidle
Laura Baker
Taylor High
23 Ian Porth
24 Jim Goodrich
27 Katelyn Heal
28 Brenda Pichy
Amanda Milan
29 Linda Few
Marshall Taylor
Robin Kozlowski
Susan Morrison

January Anniversaries

6 Joe & Janice Fly

February Birthdays

1 Lowdyn Michaud
Crystal Jasinski
3 Bud Whitmore
4 Ken Miller
5 Allison Hinton
8 Jason Shaw
9 Pat O. Few
Kevin Buchanan
10 Gloriann Hutchins
12 Rick Few
Lindsey Michaud
13 Cheryl Urtel
17 Kevin Few
Melissa McClain
Greg Bohneberg
20 Bill Farone
John Goetz
21 Brian Few
23 Amy Pauley
24 Ryan Todd Shears
25 Bill Few
29 Simon Few

February Anniversaries

6 Dave & Karen DeYoung
14 Richard & Gretchen Lang

**For New Years, the office will be closed:
December 31st and January 1st**



Epiphany – Sunday, January 6th at 8:00 am & 10:30 am

**Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 13th at 9:00 am
(Meeting and Taco Lunch to Follow)**

Thank You Brunch – Sunday, January 27th at 9:00 am

Christ Episcopal Church
7145 Fieldcrest Drive
Lockport, NY 14094