

THE HARVEST – MARCH 2019

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LOCKPORT, NY 14094

The Grace to Be Transformed

Another day, another storm; another Lent, another year. Same old, same old. What was old, is new; what was new is old. Same old, same old! Does nothing ever change? This past Sunday, Deacon Martha reflected on the challenge of the gospel to “love our enemies, to do good to those who hate you, to pray for those who abuse you, to give to those who beg. If you do this then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; for the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” That gospel passage, like much of the gospel of Jesus, doesn’t square well with our contemporary society. But what if...?

Deacon Martha referenced Mahatma Gandhi and a quote that is widely attributed to him: “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” His actual words were slightly different, but the meaning is virtually the same: “We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change.”

He was directing us much deeper. He was guiding us to do the inner work that we often shy away from; the inner change beyond simply wishing or visualizing. **The real change comes when we go within and do the work of inner transformation.** To examine ourselves openly, honestly, vulnerably and to purge out any resemblance of selfishness, depravity or insecurity.

Soon we will enter the season of Lent and we will begin, as we always do, by each of us receiving ashes on our forehead, an outward sign that we wish to be better people. Unfortunately, that can occur only if we examine ourselves honestly and are open to do the personal work required for transformation. Matthew in his gospel reminds us that ‘the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.’ But we have the means to be better: Love. **Love is the Grace to transform the world.** Love is not easy, but it is effective. “Love,” Paul says, “is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”

This Lent I invite you to resolve to embrace the divine ‘what if’. What if we resolve to embrace the gospel more perfectly, more enthusiastically, more practically to see how each of us can be opened to transforming ourselves and becoming more Christ-like, more what God is calling us to be. By aligning our will and life with that of God’s will and life

we will become more truly who we are and whose we are – and possibly even make the world more closely what God had and has in mind.

May your Lenten journey be one of prayerful self-reflection and rededication to a life of love for and service to those you meet on the road. May you be transformed that you may be all God intends for you.

*Blessings,
Fr. Thomas*

Martha's Vineyard

A good friend recently gave me newspaper articles-yes-there are those of us who still get newsprint on our fingers! Both stories shared in the clippings involved “weaving” of sorts. One article was about the work done by Mats for Mission, a group of volunteers who crochet colored plastic bags from a variety of stores into unique patterns, creating sleep mats for the homeless. Not only does this project benefit the person receiving the mat, it also helps the environment, keeping thousands of bags out of landfills.

The second article, written by David Brooks, addressed something he started called Weave: The Social Fabric Project. The primary idea is that social isolation is the problem underlying many other problems. The second idea is that this problem is being resolved by folks around the country, at local levels, “who are building community and weaving the social fabric.” David and his group from Aspen Institute traveled the country and discovered them everywhere. The bottom line of David's story is that you and I can be weavers – or maybe we are but just don't realize it. He uses the term, “radical mutuality”, a trait that is evident in all the people (weavers) they've met. Relationship building is key and it does take time. Drawing together those on the fringes of society, incorporating them, helping them find a better way to live, providing solidarity and support, doing things with people, not to or for people – this is how positive change happens and expands.

When I was much younger, my sisters and I would weave pot holders. We used a small, square metal frame with prongs around the top edge and wove loops of material in various hues over and under, fastening them to the prongs, creating a colorful design and useful gift for the kitchen. And it was fun to work together!

While potholders are fun to make and useful in the kitchen, how much more important it is to create a personal connection. Seeking the different hues and textures of our sisters and brothers in Christ, allowing “We” to precede “me”, and together, helping to weave the lost and broken into God's kingdom. What a beautiful, colorful pattern!

In Christ,
Deacon Martha

Earthly Matters – from Deacon Martha



WHAT IS THE THEME?

The theme for World Water Day 2019 is 'Leaving no one behind'. This is an adaptation of the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: as sustainable development progresses, everyone must benefit.

HOW DOES IT RELATE TO WATER?

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) includes a target to ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all by 2030. By definition, this means leaving no one behind.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Today, billions of people are still living without safe water – their households, schools, workplaces, farms and factories struggling to survive and thrive.

Marginalized groups – women, children, refugees, indigenous peoples, disabled people and many others – are often overlooked, and sometimes face discrimination, as they try to access and manage the safe water they need.

More info:

<http://www.worldwaterday.org/>

Dear People of God at Christ Church,

Thank you! The lunch we had on Sunday February 3, you had for me was wonderful. I know I make fun of titles and do not find them very important but take very serious the love and respect every one gives to me. Being a priest is such a gift it is difficult for me to understand why God allowed it for me. I remember on July 8, 1972, in Calvary Church, Williamsville, one of my school teachers said to Bishop Robinson shortly before I was ordained a priest, "I am so surprised that Albert is being made a priest, he was such a challenge in school." Bishop Robinson responded by putting his arm around me and saying, " God often chooses men like that as God is able to work through any one of us if we submit and let it happen."

Only God gets more into peoples lives then their priest. It is such a blessing and also so very difficult to be faithful. But the struggle is worth it. And to be able to share each others sorrow and joys, struggles and victory's is a gift one is given not some thing we deserve. When Hannah died I was kneeling at her casket at one point and one of our grand kids came and kneeled by me. He said, "Papa, what do you say when you pray?" I told him I, for the past 50 years begin all my prayers in the morning with the words, "Thank you Lord Jesus for not giving me today what I deserve." He laughed and ask if I really say that. I said I do and I am no worse or better then you or any one else. It just reminds me to try to know my "place."

Once again, Thank you for letting me be your priest.

Much love, Father A. Sam+

Girl Scout Sunday

We welcome Girl Scouts and their Leaders from several area Troops as they celebrate Girl Scout Sunday during the 10:30 Service on March 10, 2019. The Scouts will participate in greeting, ushering, reading, music and at Coffee Hour. We look forward to this celebration and extend our warmest welcome to all!





Let's Build a Home for Dixon

As you have already heard, during these 40 days of Lent I have identified two goals for us as a faith community:

1. Undergo an inner transformation molding our hearts and minds to be more in line with God's
2. To have that inner transformation reach out and transform our world by helping to build a home for the Dixons of the world.

To the first point, we will be examining the question of Christian identity and its call to us as followers of Jesus. Who are we and whose are we?? Part of that question is an awareness of both individual identity and corporate or community identity. God saves us both as an individual but also as a People – His People!

To the second point, we will be raising funds. Our goal is to raise as much as we can with a minimum goal of \$1800.00. To help us get there we have several things planned:

An Italian dinner. We will ask for a free will offering AND you can bring your own wine, if you would like.

A Raffle for a Weber gas grill with a side burner! Tickets will be \$5.00 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20.00 (that gives you one free chance!). Drawing tentatively set for EASTER Sunday.

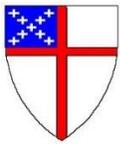
Food for the poor envelopes in the bulletin each week for cash or checks (Make your check(s) payable to Christ Episcopal Church with 'Home' on the memo line).

As we raise money for Dixon's home, our children will be constructing one week-by-week to visually follow the transformation our efforts will have for Dixon and his family.

With our recent weather we have all appreciated our own homes and the security and warmth that they provided. Let's provide that same experience for Dixon and all our brothers and sisters who do not have that experience. So let's get our hammers, saws, nails, and hardhats and begin to build a better world both for us and Dixon!!



*Blessings,
Fr. Thomas*



From Around the Episcopal Church...

Haiti's Bishop-elect *Not* Approved

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry announced Jan. 4, 2019 that Bishop-elect Joseph Kerwin Délicat of Haiti has not been approved by the bishops or standing committees of the Episcopal Church.

The canonically mandated 120 days for gathering consents elapsed on Jan 3, according to Curry, without achieving sufficient numbers to advance Délicat's election to the episcopate. He said that "a majority of the bishops with jurisdiction in the Episcopal Church did not consent to the ordination and consecration, nor did the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Haiti provide evidence of consent from a majority of the Standing Committees of the dioceses of the Episcopal Church."

Curry added that he would consult the Diocese of Haiti and others within the Episcopal Church about next steps.

"The Diocese of Haiti is an important part of the Episcopal Church. Please continue to pray for the people, clergy, and bishop of Haiti as we seek to follow the Spirit of the living God."

Technology Update at Christ Church

Christ Church is updating some of its technology. The first step is to change from Verizon DSL to the much faster and more reliable Spectrum Business phone and Internet access. With the high speed Internet, we now have password-protected WiFi that is available to anyone at the church. It's ChristChurch-Guest and you'll need a password – get the password from Sue Bauer when you are ready to use the WiFi. While the password limits who is sharing the WiFi, it does *not* have parental controls – all parents need to supervise their children when using the Internet.

Outreach for March – Thanks for Helping!

For our ***Christmas Outreach*** this month we need: spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, and other pasta (such as elbows or penne). Please put it in the baskets by the kiosk.

Brother's Keeper needs feminine hygiene products – please leave them in the box under the table.

This Month at Christ Church

3/6 – Ash Wednesday: services at noon and 7:00 pm

3/10 – Daylight Savings Starts

3/10 – 10:30 Girl Scout Sunday

3/13 – 6:00 pm women’s dinner at the Fieldstone

3/13 – 6:30 pm men’s group will have dinner at Lock 34

3/17 – 3:00 pm Farewell to Bp. Franklin & potluck in Batavia

3/18 – 7:00 pm Vestry

3/28 – Life Lock Screening at Christ Church (must sign up ahead)

3/30 – 4:30 Italian dinner to benefit our Food for the Poor Let’s Build a Home fund

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, 8:00 pm – NA

Thursdays, 7:00 pm – Choir

Fridays, 8:00 pm – AA

Saturdays, 8:30 am – T.O.P.S.

March Birthdays

2 Heidi U’Ren
 4 Jim Glaser
 Allison Taylor
 5 Joan Bohneberg
 7 Melissa Bernaer
 8 Christopher Heal
 9 Viviana Faust
 10 Lauren Wager
 13 Rhonda Porth
 15 Allen Miskell
 Roger Rozon
 18 Elizabeth Stuckey
 Emily Steen
 Kristen Smith
 Patricia Blundy

20 Sue Lerch
 21 John Easton Few
 Beau L Faust
 22 Jerry Krikpatrick
 23 Lisa Edmister
 26 Janice Beitelshes
 29 Brittany Few
 Rachael Herbst
 Lilly Goodman
 30 Kim Sammarco
 Shannon Perry
 31 Michael Porth

March Anniversaries

15 Joe & Beth LaForme
 20 Jennifer & Scott Leveroni

New Email Address for Christ Church

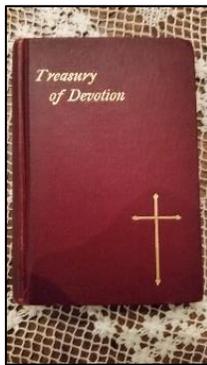
As part of the technology upgrade, we now have a new email address:

Office@ChristLockport.info

Italian Dinner to Benefit Food for the Poor

On Saturday, March 30th at 4:30 pm, we will have an Italian dinner to benefit our Food for the Poor Let's Build a Home fund. The main course has been taken care of. We will need appetizers, salads, bread and desserts. You're welcome to bring a bottle of wine if you wish. Please be sure to sign up so we know how many to plan for. It will be a fun evening of food and fellowship. There will be a free will offering for Food for the Poor.

This year our Lenten project is Food for the Poor. There is a desperate lack of safe housing in the Caribbean, and our goal is to raise enough to build at least one home for a family who doesn't have an adequate one.



Can You Help Solve the Mystery?

Sue Lerch recently received a *Treasury of Devotions*. It was given to Marjory Bary when she was confirmed February 25, 1913 at our church. Do you know of the Bary family or current descendants/relatives who might be interested in the book?



Christ Episcopal Church
 7145 Fieldcrest Drive
 Lockport, NY 14094