



# The Signpost Weekly

October 26, 2014

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Miriam Acevedo, D.Min, M.Div., Vicar

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## Calendar

### Sunday, October 26

- Eucharist Service, 8 and 10:15
- Bible Study, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 10 a.m.
- Make A Difference Day food drive

### Monday, October 27

- Yoga with Miriam, 9 a.m.

### Tuesday, October 28

- Women's Bible Study, 10 a.m.; babysitting.
- Al-Anon, 5:30 p.m.
- Yoga with Miriam, 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, October 30

- Eucharist and Bible Study, 7 p.m.

### Saturday, November 1

- Crafters Fair and Luncheon, 9-3

name two] and to provide Sunday School that supplements the modeling and teaching already done by the parents. *Miriam*



### Update: The Annual Pledge Drive, (October 12 to November 16.)

To-date, as we enter the third week of the campaign, we have received pledges from 22% of the congregation. As we mentioned at the beginning, we are aiming for as close to 100% participation as possible by the time the campaign ends on November 16. We are heartened by the fact that 17 of the 24 pledges increased from last year; and there are two new donors. Additional copies of the pledge form are available in the vestibule table as you walk into the sanctuary. *The Stewardship Ministry Team*

### Craft's Fair

Join Us for Our Annual Craft Fair next Saturday, November 1, 9-3, where everything is hand and homemade. Lunch is available too. Some of our in-house cooks are preparing a great and inexpensive lunch. If you're hopping from fair to fair, STOP HERE FOR LUNCH and recharge and then keep shopping. Homemade soups, sandwiches, drinks, chips & a sweet treat to top it all off! See you on the first. *Christine Mason*

### A REMINDER - Make A Difference Day

St. Christopher's Outreach Group and Young Adult Group is holding a food drive today, to benefit the Owl's Pantry, a food pantry providing support to students in the Timberlane Regional School District on weekends when school is not in session. "Make a Difference Day" is the nation's largest day of community service. Millions of volunteers from across the nation will unite in a common mission to improve the lives of others. Anyone – regardless of age, location or resources – can accomplish amazing things when they take on the problems they see in their community.



### Sunday, Nov. 2 All Saints Sunday

It is our custom on All Saints Sunday to display pictures of our loved ones who have passed away. There will be a table set up, so remember to bring your pictures at both 8 and 10:15. *Miriam*

### Top Seven Influences That Lead Children to a Life of Faith - Children and Faith Formation

I came across an article about the top seven influences that lead children to a life of faith. In order they are:

1. Modeling of faith by the mother;
2. Modeling of faith by the father;
3. Conversations about faith with the mother;
4. Conversations about faith with the father;
5. Conversations about faith with another adult;
6. Service in the community; and
7. Family devotions.

The role of the church is to provide parents with support, pastoral care, encouragement, education in the faith [through bible study, online courses, just to

*Have you invited a friend to come to church with you?*

*A personal invitation is the best way, bar none, to grow a congregation and bless a friend's life.*

## International Dinner

The final count for the International Dinner is \$3,738.23. Although we did not totally fill our seats, the silent auction and Red Sox and Pats raffle tickets brought in an extra \$642. The food was delicious as always and we had many people from outside the church attend and an increased number of children this year, so it was a great success! Karen Groves, for the Fundraising Committee.

## Updates - Family Promise Host Week, November 9 – 16.

We will be posting the menu for the week ahead of time so families can decide if they have to purchase anything special for their children. Also, there is a request from one of our guests, when making a salad, please prepare a separate bowl of extra lettuce. They have food stamps and are being assisted in using them wisely so they eventually can be independent. We are very excited about the changes. They are all very positive and make them more responsible. On another note, to make it easier for our overnight volunteers, and with help from the Hampstead Congregational Church, we have purchased two new fancy and comfortable Aerobeds. They are 22" off the floor, and have multiple firmness settings. A soft headboard keeps pillows from falling on the floor. As the Family Promise board continues to fine tune policies and procedures, the program gets stronger, and families are provided more direction and support. Thanks again to all our wonderful volunteers. **Peggy Baker**

Guests are:  
5 adults,  
3 teenagers,  
5 children  
between  
ages 5 and  
12.

**Did Someone Say “Christmas?” “A Family Promise Christmas?”** As was done last year we are taking one day during Christmas week, the 23rd, which means we will need overnight people and a meal. This is done at the Day Center in Derry. Corinne Dodge and I did Xmas Eve there last year and it was very rewarding. **Peggy Baker**

**A New Online Resource for People Seeking a Deeper Life of Faith – “Following The Way”...** “by my colleague the Rev. Rich Nelson,” says Miriam. “Rich is one of the most sincere Christians I know. I've signed up. Check it out.” Following the Way™ is an innovative, holistic, integrative experience for people seeking a deeper



life of faith. It is a 32 week reflection (with options to expand or condense it), which includes: 1. Online weekly video reflections; 2. Downloadable weekly written reflections; 3. Questions to spark group discussions and/or individual journaling; 4. Practical tools to deepen your spirituality and explore your faith; and, 5. Further online links and discussion boards for those seeking more information and engagement.

**You'll notice that the ChIPs Collection Box is set up in the foyer.** Thank you to everyone who has brought in items already. The last day to bring in gifts or donate cash will be Sunday, Nov. 2. Info? See, **e-mail** or call Barbara Hughes at 382-8423.

## Prayers of the People.

Please pray for **Sue**, Madeleine Dionne-Svitak's sister who passed away this past week; **Arthur Mueller**, **Matty O'Leary**; **Greta and Jim**; **Nancy Hollinrake**; for **Linda**, who has been diagnosed with cancer; for **Ryan**; for Corinne Dodge's friend, **Mariellen**; for **William Friel**; for **Carol Sienkiewicz**; for Jeff and Katie Waymouth's daughter, **Ginny** and family; for **Jacqueline Parent**, for strength and peace; for Jean Porter's grand-nephew **Tyler**, for **Cheri** and her husband **Walt**, friends of Jennifer and Robert Aiken; for **Rosalie Papoutsy**; for Natalie Gallo's brother, **Lorin Bielski**; for Mark and Ingrid Chapman's son **Eric** who with God's grace is in safe hands.

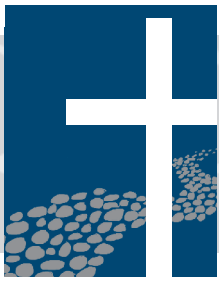
**Serving in the Military:** Please pray for **Michael Carr**; for Del Dooling's cousins, **Daniel Canfield**, **Matthew** and **Sandra Maloy**, and for **Paul Gagne**.

**Parish Cycle of Prayer:** **Joyce Kershaw**; **Sarah and Eric Lanseigne** and **Haley**, **Emma and Gabriel Graham**; **Brooke**, **Albert**, **Morgan**, and **Bradley LaMonica**; **Diane and Christian Kolbe**.

## Attendance

Tuesday, Oct. 14 - Women's Bible Study, 7  
Sunday, Oct. 19, 8 a.m., 23; 10:15, 51

*The Light of God surrounds me. The Love of God enfolds me. The Power of God protects me.  
The Presence of God watches over me. Wherever I am, God is. James Dillet Freeman*



# Walking the Way

Stewardship Narrative Series

Proper 25, Matthew 22: 34-46  
October 26, 2014

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. This is the first and greatest commandment.*

There is one simple thing we can do to grow closer to God: orient ourselves fully to God. Orient our hearts. Orient our souls. Orient our being. Moses received this commandment long ago, and Jesus reminded us of it when he named it as the greatest commandment. As we consider how to grow closer to God as stewards of God's world, we start again with the simple practice of finding our "true north." How do we orient our hearts, souls, and beings to God?

Jews have oriented themselves to God with this commandment for centuries. We hear this command in Deuteronomy, where it is followed by the clear direction to "teach them diligently to your children and talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise in the morning."

Because this commandment to love God with our full selves has been so important, Jews have long attached it to their front doors in a tiny scroll, called a mezuzah. As they see or touch it coming in and out of their homes, they are reminded to love God with their heart, soul and being and to teach this to their children.

For Christians, each time we make the sign of the cross, touching the top of our foreheads to below our hearts and from shoulder to shoulder, we orientate ourselves fully to God. In making the sign of the cross we embody the truth that we are united to the death and resurrection of Christ. Nothing can separate us from the love of God—that is God's promise to us made on the cross. When we cross ourselves before praying, we put God first, blessing the time to keep company with God. When we cross ourselves before eating, we put God first, blessing God for sustaining us from his bounty. When we cross ourselves as we enter church, we put God first, recognizing that we offer to God praise not only with our lips, but our lives. Stewardship is first and foremost a practice of orienting to God, putting God first.

Our spiritual ancestors taught us that the practice of the tithe is a tangible way to put God first, to love God with all our heart, body, mind, and strength. We give not to earn God's love, as there is nothing we can do to earn it. We give simply out of response to God's love, recognizing that when we put God first, our lives are blessed. Giving helps us to find our true North.



*Jennifer R. Kitt*  
Member, The Church of the Epiphany  
The Episcopal Diocese of California

### *Reflection Questions*

- What are the challenges of putting God first?
- How does proportional giving help you to put God first?
- What does loving God with your whole heart look like for you?

