



August / September 2019

### ***Reflection from Jane....***

I have been loving the beautiful drive to North Brookfield through the Quabbin these last several months. It gives me a chance to notice and reflect on the changing of the seasons. We are a little over a month away from the Autumn Equinox. Yet everything is still so green. Sometimes it is like driving through a green tunnel, then I emerge into sunny fields and wetlands. It is an amazing chiaroscuro of shadows and light. The farm where I pick up my weekly veggies now has “all the things” at once: corn, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, greens, and herbs. It is a time of abundance, yet also a time of endings and new beginnings. Just this morning there was a small yellow leaf on my car windshield. Soon the leaves will begin to turn.

In the Church year we celebrate Transfiguration Sunday at the end of Epiphany—that season when God’s Light in the world is revealed. However, in the Daily Lectionary, The Feast of the Transfiguration is observed on August 6. In this time of year when so much of God’s glory is manifest I thought back to a sermon I preached once on the Transfiguration. What had drawn me on the Gospel reading was this: “Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” (Mark 9:7) For some reason, it was not the transfiguration itself that struck me that time—not in any way to take away from the power and wonder of this powerfully iconic event. I was drawn to contemplate the overshadowing cloud. I

recently flew on a plane from here to Portland, Oregon. On the return home, the plane touched down in Burbank, California, Denver, and finally, Hartford, Connecticut. It was during the day, so I was particularly aware of the clouds: flying above the clouds, flying down through the clouds, and then emerging to a completely different terrain and climate each time. The few minutes the plane was completely enveloped in the clouds before landing seemed to heighten the effect of the changes in geography. The sensation of being closed in by the clouds was disorienting—and yet the experience caused me to wonder: what could this being

“overshadowed” by the clouds teach me? What was I meant to look for, to listen for?

The word “equinox” literally means “equal night.” At the equinox the length of the day is equal to the length of the night. In this season of shadows and light, endings and new beginnings, it may not be the glory we see only that points us to God’s presence with us. The clouds and the shadows may not only prepare our eyes for the Light, they may have something to teach us in themselves.

Blessings and peace to all –  
Jane+

## Senior Warden

In April's Mainspring, I spoke about joy. These feelings of caring and celebration continue to endure whether we are in the sanctuary, downstairs breaking bread, or sharing comradery and gastric delights at the annual Sunday School picnic.

Over the last few months there have been several requests for generous giving, and you indeed gave generously. We will soon have the new hymnals in our pews, necessary renovations are almost complete, and outreach continues. Your bequests have provided food, goods, and warmth to those who have gone without. One simple email and a few days later the table is laden with assorted diapers for Trinity's appeal.

Many parishioners have offered transportation, comfort and a sense of security to someone one another. Proverbs 11: 25 affirms that "a generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." We are continually being refreshed by reaching out to others with support.

As summer begins to melt away with a morning chill and dusk steals away our daylight, close your eyes (if just for a moment) to listen to August's bittersweet hum. Autumn's splendor will soon be upon us. "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" - Psalm 118:24.

In the spirit of Woodstock's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and words from Carlos Santana, "If you carry joy in your heart, you can heal any moment." So much healing happens when we are together sharing faith.

**Sue Lewandowski**  
Senior Warden

For the grace  
of God  
that bringeth  
salvation  
hath appeared  
to all.

Titus 2:11



## Financial Update

	January–July 2019
<b>Offerings</b>	<b>\$39,878.23</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$38,960.02</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$918.21</b>

Thank you for your very generous offerings. If you have any questions, please see Sandi Nurek.

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV



## Annual Chicken Barbecue 2019

We had a great day for our BBQ this year, with many people helping in the advertising, selling of tickets, biscuit making, cutting of strawberries, setting up and working (and clean up) the day of the BBQ. We kept the cost of our tickets low this year, as there seemed to be several other organizations also having BBQs around the same time. We cut back on the number of tickets and sold all of them. This also helped reduce the leftover chickens/potatoes, etc. that needed "homes". Cost of supplies needed was at a minimum and we had several donations along with one of our suppliers that donated the Cole Slaw. All of this contributed to a great, bottom line of profit of \$1,442.49!

Thank you to All who helped make this an All Around Great Day!!



Sandi

## Ham & Bean Supper

Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Details to follow

*"You can do what I cannot do.  
I can do what you cannot do.  
Together, we can do great things."*

—Mother Teresa



Begin September 8<sup>th</sup>



## From Jr Warden

### Church Improvements

This summer your Vestry authorized a number of Improvements to enhance our buildings. Some door and entrance changes at the Rectory basement and most important were the Church rest rooms and some face lifts in the kitchen. The mens and ladies rooms were most important due to age, condition and a need to have two rooms available for either sex during gatherings of any type. Both rest rooms are complete and appear to be well received. The kitchen should be complete this week by Aug 23. Our original plan for the mens room was modest to include a new toilet (raised) and safety bar. Unfortunately some rotted wall and floor area required repair and we decided to re do the complete room to match the ladies room.

The original costs were estimated around \$6,000 area with final totals a bit over \$8,000. The Vestry is adjusting financing to raise funds this fall and winter. There will be announcements for these activities. We are asking for any ideas, suggestions and resources to help raise \$2500 in the coming months. To date you have been very supportive as many people have asked:

Charlie "How Much"?

Now we know.

JR Warden Charles Haddock

## Choir News

Our new robes have arrived, and everyone agrees they are beautiful. We are proud to wear them. We are taking a long summer break. We are looking forward to start singing again in September after Labor Day. New members and suggestions for music are welcome.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Manning. Choir Member





**October 5, 2019**

**Save this date!** We need as many volunteers as possible. It is not necessary to stay all day. There are many "phases" of the tag sale.

The initial set up includes bringing out tables, chairs, and all the items that have been dropped off to sell. This begins around 7:00 a.m.

Next comes putting like items together on the designated tables. What can't fit is sorted and put in boxes on the ground.

Although we don't start until 9:00, the cashiers usually have sales prior to that. From 9:00 to 2:00, we move around from table to table, consolidating items to make room for more items from the boxes on the ground. Also, re-organizing items on the tables so they are visible and appealing to the Shoppers.

Around 1:30 – 1:45, we're usually slow and can begin to pick up. There is a gentleman from town that usually comes to pick up anything leftover. He pretty much picks up everything. We take the clothes to the Salvation Army in Spencer and blankets etc. are taken to Second Chance Animal Shelter, here in town.

Any time you can come, would be great! Even if you want to mingle, visit or just enjoy the day. If you are able to commit, please let me know. If not, just come when you can.

Thank you!!!

Sandi Nurek

508-867-3272

## Vestry News

Vestry has been working very hard for Christ Memorial Church.

Our outreach every month goes to local people. The Thank You notes are posted on the bulletin board in the Undercroft.

Everyone is excited about the new Rest Rooms. Soon the Kitchen work will start soon.

Bible study has new people coming. We meet every Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 4 pm. We are still in Old Testament. Anyone wishing to come are welcome.

Convention will be here before we know it. If you are a delegate and know you will not be attending please give us ample time for paperwork change and do not forget to forward any e-mail's you may have received from the Diocese.

I am on the Nominating Committee for the Diocese for Convention and we need lay people to pray and discern about maybe taking a position. I have a list and will post on the bulletin board in the Undercroft. Paper work has to be in by Sept the latest.

I was reading a lesson in a Book called Knowing God and in it was this prayer that I want to share with you all:

"Grace first inscribed my name, In God's eternal book:

Tw'as grace that gave me to the Lamb, Who all my sorrows took.

Grace taught my soul to pray, And pardoning love to know;

Tw'as grace that kept me to this day, And will not let me go."

Mary Martin, Clerk

## Altar Guild

This year is flying by. Summer is almost over and fall will soon be upon us. Our new members-in-training continue to do a great job!

This summer has been a hot one. We've struggled to keep our beautiful Altar flowers fresh for more than 1 week. Carnations can usually last up to 3 weeks but this hot weather literally takes the life out of them. It is sad but each Sunday after the service, if they are beginning to droop, we take them down and try to find a home for them, before they wilt away. We are so fortunate to have parishioners contribute throughout the year to have these flowers given in memory of loved ones. It would be great if we could brighten someone else's day with them. If anyone knows of someone that would enjoy receiving these flowers, please let me know.

A Big Thank You to Missy Seidler who has taken over decorating our window sills. What a nice touch!

They look great!!! 😊

As always, I am thankful to work with all of the wonderful, dedicated ladies of the Altar Guild.

Thank you everyone.

God Bless

Sandi Nurek  
Directress in process

Sow for yourselves  
righteousness,  
reap the fruit  
of unfailing  
love ...

Hosea 10:12, NIV



## Electronic Giving

If you wish to donate electronically, you can do so through:



**Tithe.ly**

You can do this by:

- visiting their website [get.Tithe.ly](https://get.Tithe.ly)
- get the Tithe.ly app for your phone
- go to our website [christmemorialnb.com](https://christmemorialnb.com) and click on the online giving button on the upper right corner of the website



## Fall / Winter 2019 Safe Church Trainings

Our Diocesan Safe Church Officer, the Rev. Tanya Wallace, has announced the following dates/locations for upcoming Safe Church workshops:

*Please register early to avoid workshop cancellation. All registrations close one week prior to the workshop date.*

**Tuesday, September 3, 6-9 p.m.,  
@ Atonement, Westfield**

**Saturday, September 21, 9-3 p.m.,  
@ St. Stephen's Westborough**

**Saturday, November 2, 9-3 p.m.,  
@ St. Francis' Church, Holden**

**Saturday, December 7, 9-3 p.m.,  
@ All Saints' Church, South Hadley**

For additional workshop information and both online and hard-copy registration:

<https://www.diocesewma.org/safe-church-policy-and-training>

The password for registration is: **safechurch**  
(no caps, one word)

### **HARVEST** \* Trail Mix \*

This portable snack combines favorite fall flavors.



#### **What you need:**

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2/3 cup pecan pieces
- 1/3 cup roasted pumpkin seeds
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 2/3 cup dried fruit (any)

#### **What you do:**

1. Microwave syrup, spices, seeds and nuts for 30 seconds at a time, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens.
2. Spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Let cool and harden.
3. Break the candied nuts into chunks. Combine with dried fruit.
4. Store in airtight container.

Christ Memorial Church  
Main & Spring Streets  
PO Box 43  
North Brookfield, MA 01535

508-867-2789

christmemorialnb@gmail.com

[www.christmemorialnbm.com](http://www.christmemorialnbm.com)

