

Reach Out!

Spring 2021

*Christ Episcopal Church
Waukegan, Illinois*

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Seeking ✚ Serving ✚ Sharing Christ

Dear Readers,

Welcome to **Reach Out!**

Reach Out! is the new quarterly magazine of Christ Episcopal Church Waukegan, which replaces our traditional newsletter. In this magazine, you will find biblical topics and articles on various issues related to our faith, doctrine, Christian life, ethics, history, education about our church's mission and our place in the community.

Reach Out! as a church magazine is a place for us to come to learn together, share our familiar life stories, and build together a community. It will open new ways to participate and expand our Christian understanding and commitment to the global church and the community. Our goal is to help church members and our readers learn about faith and practice, become a healthier and more cohesive parish, relate more to our Diocesan and National Church organizations, and to extend our ministry into the community in which we live.

It also reminds us that Christ Episcopal Church is a church in the community and for the community who has the mission to Seek, Share, and Serve Christ in all creatures. Through **Reach Out!** we want to extend our invitation to ALL without exception.

Quarterly Readers, whether you have confident faith, shaky faith, or no faith at all - no matter where you come from, your race, color, gender, social class, and language - let us embrace this opportunity to build together.

Let us finish these introductory words by expressing our gratitude and acknowledgment to John Moore, MaryFran Troha, Gregory Thompson, Monica Beniste, Mary Neely, Pam Moore, Lisa Graves, our staff, and contributors. Thanks to their persistence and dedication, this new edition of Reach Out! has become a reality.

Your Reach Out! Team

A Message from Fr. Jean



Dear brothers and sisters,

The Christian community's joy is to hear and receive the Good News and announce this Good News to all the people. This year we are approaching a Lent that is unlike any other. Never in our lives have we experienced anything like we have in the past year. As I remember, people who like to socialize using social media would often put their Facebook page on hold for the period of Lent and seek other activities that can bring them closer to God. But since last March we have not

been able to socialize in person, so the opposite has occurred. Social media has become the vehicle for spreading the Lenten message and the Good News.

God again grants us a time and a means to prepare ourselves to celebrate with a renewed heart the great Paschal Mystery, the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of all personal and communal faith and all subsequent Christian activities. Looking at how God is walking with us these days gives us one more reason to constantly return to this Mystery with all that we have and all that we are. The mystery is a call to go into a deep discernment and to have a commitment to God and your community. It is also a time for spiritual growth and Christian maturity. Let us not close the door in this Lent; let it be open to receive God's grace. As a church community, we are called to walk with Christ and be Christ's presence in the community in a more conscious way for these forty days. Beyond the temptations we experience, let us join Christ in his invitation to create a welcoming and inclusive Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven."

The time of Lent we have entered is a time of conversion. Therefore, I invite you to ponder some specific questions:

- What was your very first experience of Christ Church like?
- What ministries have you participated in, and what drew you to them?
- What ministries are you now involved in and which would you like to pass on to others?
- What new ministries would you like to see us begin in the next five years?

This Lent let us make our Lenten discipline to reflect on these questions as a church community. You may want to write your thoughts down, share them with others or brainstorm thoughts and ideas. There are no wrong answers. Let them percolate in you. Note your feelings too.

Being a Christian requires a commitment and an engagement. Christian commitment and engagement are saying, "Yes! I want to follow Christ and be engaged with Christ in our community's struggles and joys." We want to engage in this challenge because we are part of the Body of Christ, and we want to draw others in as well. Let us make this Lent an occasion for reflecting on our Christian mission in the community and renew our hope in God's love and mercy.

May God's grace, love, and mercy bless and be with you all during this Lent.

Fr. Jean+

The Season of Lent

Dr. Amy Dyer

Lent is determined by the date of Easter, and comes six weeks before the Celebration of Easter. The color of Lent is purple.

The first day of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the day we receive the imposition of ashes to remind us that “we are dust and to dust we shall return.” Lent is truly a time of self-reflection, a time of atonement. The forty days remind us of the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness before beginning his ministry. During Lent we fast, refrain from food and drink in various ways, make efforts to change behaviors which draw us away from God. Sometimes, individuals take on a new discipline of prayer, self-giving or meditation.

A Voice of the Church From Forward Movement



The Revd. Canon Scott Gunn
Executive Director of Forward Movement

Forward Movement is an Episcopal Church Organization based in Cincinnati, Ohio to support churches in discipleship and evangelism. A quick word about Scott Gunn, according to his biography from the Episcopal Dioceses in Delaware. For the past six years, the Rev. Canon Scott A. Gunn has enjoyed a fruitful ministry leading Forward Movement as its executive director. As

you may know, Forward Movement produces Forward Day by Day, digital offerings, and online resources. Serving in a church-wide ministry, he has preached and taught across the church, and he has witnessed congregations and dioceses of all kinds and sizes thriving with effective leadership focused on following Jesus. Before his call to Forward Movement, Scott was a parish priest in the Diocese of Rhode Island, where he was curate in one congregation and rector of another. In both congregations, he saw growth and transformation when scriptures were opened, liturgies were transcendent, joy was nurtured, and mission sent people out. Prior to ordination, Scott worked in technology for a nonprofit, a media company, and a university. He was educated at Luther College, Yale Divinity School, and Brown University. Scott is married to Sherilyn Pearce, also a priest who serves at Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati, where they live. They both enjoy traveling and dog walks. Scott loves photography, writing, and seriously good coffee. Scott's leadership and ministry are driven by broad vision, along with a passion for discipleship and evangelism. Reach Out Quarterly Lenten Series met with him and here is what he says:

“An Invitation to a Holy Lent”

I used to dislike Lent. It seemed unduly somber, and I found the liturgical music to be a bit too subdued for my taste. But then some years ago, my outlook changed. I realized that Lent is a much-needed invitation to remember what is important and to reorient our lives. It is the invitation I need to repent, in other words.

“Forward Movement” (cont.)

At the start of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, the celebrant reads out a bidding to enter the Lenten season. It includes some direction:

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

This is a pretty good set of directions for how we might reorient our lives toward Jesus and away from those things that tempt us to wander away from Christ.



Of course, we begin by self-examination. How can I do better if I don't acknowledge my failures and shortcomings? Where am I close to Jesus? Where have I strayed? But self-examination isn't the end.

The next step is repentance. This is one of those church words that we sometimes overthink. It means to start over, to turn in a new direction. With Jesus, it's never too late! No matter how long we've been heading in the wrong direction, or no matter how wrong we are, there's always time to turn to him.

Lent is a time for prayer. If you're not a person who prays every day, give it a try in Lent. Say grace at mealtime. Say a quick word to God in the morning or just before bed. Try some of the prayers from our beloved Book of Common Prayer. But if you can manage to say a quick prayer every day of Lent, you may just end up with a lifetime habit.

Fasting and self-denial aren't very fashionable these days, but they can be immensely helpful. Sometimes when we yearn for something, we grow in appreciation of it and of our dependence on God. The point isn't misery! Rather, the point is to help us become more aware of what is truly important and unimportant in our lives.

Lastly, Lent is a time to immerse ourselves in the scriptures. Maybe you'll read one of the Gospels over the course of Lent. Or maybe you'll read the psalms. One good way to savor scripture each day is with *Forward Day by Day*, published by Forward Movement, where I serve.

Forward Day by Day has been offering daily scripture, meditations, and prayer time since 1935. You can read it online for free or sign up for free emails. Of course, it's also available as a small, printed book, if that's what you prefer. There's even a podcast!

I hope you'll join me in savoring Lent as a time to turn to Jesus. In the midst of a challenging time, I know. I need this more than ever. Maybe you do, too.



Our New Bishop

02.10.2021 This article is printed from the Diocese web page



The Rev. Paula Clark officially became bishop-elect of the Diocese of Chicago on February 10, when the diocese's standing committee received word that the required majority of bishops with jurisdiction and standing committees in dioceses across the church had consented to her election.

"The Diocese of Chicago is thrilled that the Rev. Paula Clark is our bishop-elect. Her deep grounding in faith, passion for justice, delightful sense of humor and tremendous skills in leadership equip her to lead our church in today's world. Getting to know Bishop-elect Paula has given me great joy, and I can't wait for the people of the diocese and the state to get to know her as well!" said the Rev. Anne Jolly, president of the Standing Committee.

"I am honored and humbled to have been elected as the 13th Bishop of Chicago and thank the people of the diocese for affording me the opportunity to minister among them," Clark said. "The people of the Diocese of Chicago have exhibited faithful and creative ministry, passion for justice and resilience. I am excited to learn more about the diocese, its people, parishes and communities. I look forward to diving in and beginning our journey together."

Bishop-elect Clark plans to join the staff of the diocese on March 15 in advance of her ordination and consecration on April 24. More information about that event, which will be held in keeping with public health restrictions in place at the time, will be published in upcoming issues of the [diocesan newsletter](#).

Consent to the election of bishops, which dates to the earliest days of the Episcopal Church, is mandated by Article II Section 2 of the church's Constitution and Canons. The process of consenting to Bishop-elect Clark's election, outlined in [Canon III.11.3](#), began shortly after her election, when Jolly notified the Presiding Bishop's office and standing committees across the church that she had received proof of Clark's ordinations as deacon and priest, a testimonial signed by convention delegates and clergy that she was "duly and lawfully elected," and certificates from a medical doctor and psychiatrist who had performed required examinations. After receiving the certification, bishops and standing committees had 120 days to provide their consent.

In cases where a majority of bishops or standing committees do not provide consent within 120 days, the election is declared null and void. Although failure to gain consents is rare, in 1875, the Diocese of Illinois, precursor of the Diocese of Chicago, was denied the consents of standing committees when it elected the Rev. James DeKoven as bishop due to controversy over his Eucharistic theology and practice. During the 21st century, only two bishop elections have failed to gain consents: Northern Michigan in 2009 and Haiti in 2019.

Talk of the Church

“Love and Serve the Lord” by Deacon Anne

“Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.” or “Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.”

These are the words deacons say at the end of our Holy Eucharist celebration when they dismiss the congregation. The congregation then responds “Thanks be to God.” This is my favorite part of the service – sending us out. Together, we have prayed, we have been forgiven, we have been fed by the Word and by the Body of Christ, and we have been blessed. Then we are sent out, to go forth as disciples of Christ. What are we to do as disciples of Christ? We are to love and serve.

The Gospel reading over the last few Sundays give us some hints about what this means. Two Sundays in a row in February, we heard in the Gospel the voice of God saying of Jesus Christ, “This is my Son, the Beloved.” We heard this, first, at his baptism at the beginning of his ministry, and second, at The Transfiguration, when we also hear, “listen to him.” We are also the beloved. We are called to go out and love and serve God’s people, the beloved children of God.

Jesus does not promise that going forth as his disciples will be easy. The Last Sunday in February, the Second Sunday of Lent, Jesus tells his disciples that, if they want to follow him, they must deny themselves and take up their cross.

There are many ways we, as individuals and as a congregation, follow the call to go out and serve the Lord. Making a commitment to look after a loved one or a friend or someone who is alone can be an easy promise to make, but, sometimes, it is not an easy one to keep. It can mean sacrifices of time or enjoyable activities.

I know members of Christ Church are doing this. Choosing to help out with a ministry at church can be easily promised but sometimes not so easy to follow. For example, I have seen Altar Guild members and acolytes at church on snowy or bitter cold Sundays. Members of Christ Church, Waukegan 2 College, and our partner churches, have given up time on Sundays, and sometimes on snowy, cold Sundays, to serve at Community Meal.

In the Gospel from the last Sunday in February we heard Jesus say:” For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” Our lives are really not ours; they are God’s. I think “losing our lives” can mean making the sacrifices that come with loving and caring for others. When we say, “Thanks be to God” as we are dismissed to go forth to love and serve God, we might just be losing a little of our lives that really belong to God anyway.

May we journey together as God’s beloved, rejoicing as we go forth to love and serve the Lord. I am excited to journey with Christ Church as we live as Christ’s disciples. God Bless you.



Talk of the Church (cont.)

“Lenten Music” by Lisa Graves (Music Director)



If you perform a Google search for Lenten Music on the internet, one of the first articles you will find is an article from Catholiceducation.org by a music director named Eric Johnson. He starts his article, "Few people today would think of Lent as a season for liturgical music because Christmas has almost cornered the market." Not very often do we go around humming "O Sacred Head Sore Wounded" or "Sing, my tongue, the Glorious Battle." So much more joyful is "Joy to the World."

Indeed, Lenten music calls for more inner reflection-reflection of the soul and the need to reflect on the most painful part of the gospel story. We see the most horrible things people do and wonder how any good can come of it. Songs like, "Were you There When they Crucified My Lord" call out very personal and powerful emotions like anger and compassion that relate us to how the disciples and Jesus's family must have felt at the time of the crucifixion. Yet, these emotions can strike our heart and turn into a path of hope and a call for action. "Take Up the Cross and Follow Me" calls us to the lead a path to the resurrection-to make a difference in the world today.

We hope for a time when we might gather once more together, and a time when the poor are able to rise above poverty. We hope that there will be happiness and peace in the world. Yet, we must prepare our hearts for this journey just as we prepare the dinner table for a meal. Through prayer and reflective song, we walk the journey of Lent.

As we reflect on this Lenten journey, let us remember through music and prayer that Lent is about hope and paving a path to a better tomorrow. I wish everyone a holy and peaceful Lent with the love and hope of the resurrection in your heart.

“The Women’s Christ Care Group”

The Women’s Christ Care Group is a new group that has just started meeting in the fall. They meet on the 2nd Tuesday evening of the month at 7:00pm. One of the tasks they have taken on is making Valentines and sending them out to the parishioners. In March they are planning a Women’s retreat day. Looking forward to seeing this group expand.



Parish People

“Spotlight on... Charles Schaller”



Many of us here at Christ Church know Charlie Schaller because of his beautiful bass singing voice during the 9:00 service, but there's much more to learn about this accomplished parishioner.

A cradle Episcopalian and native of Janesville, Wisconsin, he discovered the love of singing while performing as the Sergeant of Police in his high school's rendering of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance." Ironically, his future wife was also in the operetta, and they later acted together in the senior class play, but it was years before they would meet again.

Charlie attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and received a Rotary scholarship to the University of Freiburg in Germany. He then joined the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service, in which he served for 26 years. Now retired, as a Foreign Service officer he spoke French, German, and Romanian for his work, although he says now he's most comfortable in English and German. Some of the places he was stationed include England, Austria, Germany, Romania, Washington D.C., and Ireland. One highlight in his career was translating for the President of the U.S. during his meeting with the Romanian prime minister.

He was visiting Wisconsin on a break from work when his father suggested he attend his 25th high school reunion. The lovely girl he'd known in high school had turned into a beautiful woman, Patricia. They fell in love, and got married in the Lady Chapel in January 3, 1984. Patty had been teaching at CLC in Grayslake, and they settled in Waukegan in 1985. Patty passed away, too soon, in 2012.

Through the years, Charlie has continued to sing. He and fellow parishioner Quentin Schwarz have been singing Evensong with Church of the Holy Spirit choir in Lake Forest for twelve years (until this year, of course), and with the Christ Church choir for much longer. They went with the Holy Spirit choir to England in 2012 to be the Choir-in-Residence at Salisbury Cathedral. A highlight for Charlie was, as a member of the Waukegan Concert Chorus Chamber Group, to perform with the Chicago Symphony Chorus in presenting Mahler's 8th Symphony.

He enjoys reading, boating, and fishing, and is a devoted fan of the Green Bay Packers and U of W Badgers.

Charlie Schaller is the proud stepfather of sons Andy, Tim, and Peter, and daughter Leslie. He has three grandchildren, Zooey, Madeline, and Dustin, and a great-grandson, Liam. We are so glad he is a member of Christ Church!

FYI...

“Today the church remembers”

Brigid (Bride), 523



¹ Born out of wedlock on a sunny morning, Brigid’s life and work brought light out of the darkness of early medieval Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. She grew up a milkmaid and cowherd in bondage to the Druids. So many apocryphal fancies have been used to embellish her life story that it is impossible to reconstruct an accurate biography. She was converted to Christianity and she did found a religious order which was mixed, men and women, after the fashion of the Celtic Church. Like Hilda of Whitby she served as abbess of this order in Kildare. Tradition has it that she was consecrated bishop in order to serve in this capacity. Such consecrations of females were not unheard of among the Celtic Christians of the British Isles.

She was renowned for her virtue, piety, and charity and came to be so loved and honored among the Gaelic people that she was called “Mary of the Gael.” Churches were named for her throughout the British Isles before the coming of the Anglo-Saxons and the Roman Catholic missionaries. A medieval hagiography of Lismore idealized her, saying, “She was abstinent, she was innocent, she was prayerful, she was patient, she was glad in God’s commandments, she was firm, she was humble, she was forgiving...she was a Temple of God. Her heart and mind were a Throne of Rest for the Holy Ghost.”

May we, like Brigid, build up our bodies and our minds as temples for the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ever living God, we rejoice today in the fellowship of your blessed servant Brigid, and we give you thanks for her life of devoted service. Inspire us with life and light, and give us perseverance to serve you all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Absalom Jones, Priest, 1818.



²Pastor Absalom Jones was reared a domestic slave on a plantation in Delaware. His charm, wit, and sincerity gained for him the affection of all who knew him. He was able to save enough pennies, given to him as tips, to purchase for himself a primer, a spelling book, and a New Testament. This was the beginning of an insatiable quest for knowledge which was to occupy much of his life.

When he was sixteen years old his mother, five brothers, and one sister were sold, and he was taken to Philadelphia with his master. The more stimulating environment of the city, added to a desire to correspond with his mother, resulted in an intensified effort to learn. He went to night school and also studied theology under Bishop William White (see July 17), from whom he eventually received holy orders. He married, bought a house and land, and finally, at age thirty-seven, he was granted his freedom. Finding that Philadelphia’s

¹ Saint Brigid as depicted in Saint Non's chapel, [St Davids](#), Wales.

² From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

“white” churches were not truly open to him or his people, he founded the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.

He was an exemplary pastor and an able student of Holy Scripture and human nature. He had found Our Lord and, in his Name, had overcome seemingly insurmountable odds. Jones bore witness, with his life, to the truth that all people are bearers of God’s image.

Give us strength to overcome those things that separate us, Lord Christ, that we may see your likeness in all people. Amen.

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Martin Luther, Theologian, 1546.



³The catalyst for change in the life of Martin Luther was, of all things, a trip to Rome. There he saw the excesses of the church. As he studied the scriptures, Luther came to believe that the church was not preaching the fullness of the gospel. In 1517, he nailed a set of debating points (*95 Theses*) to the church door in Whittenburg. Not only did Luther strike a nerve with his proposals for church reform, but new printing technology made his ideas the talk of Europe.

Luther did not set out to found a new church. But it was not long until he found himself at odds with church leaders. Summoned to explain himself and invited to recant, Luther is said to have declared, “Here I stand, I can do no other.” Within a short time, Luther was excommunicated. By then, his critiques of the church had taken hold, and many people embraced Lutheran ideas. Originally a term of derision, soon “Lutheran” described a church.

Most of the world’s Christians owe Luther a great debt: he popularized the idea of reading scriptures in one’s own language, so that any Christian could read the Bible, not just scholars. Luther himself translated the entire Bible into German. Throughout Europe, others were inspired to translate the Bible into many other languages.

Luther’s passion was that people might know the gospel of love which frees us from the tyranny of sin.

Give us a zeal for the gospel and a desire continually to reform the church that Christ’s love may be known by all people. Amen.

O God, our refuge and our strength: You raised up your servant Martin Luther to reform and renew your Church in the light of your word. Defend and purify the Church in our own day and grant that, through faith, we may boldly proclaim the riches of your grace which you have made known in Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

³ From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Note: All texts are resources from forward movement.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO: THE REVD. CANON SCOTT GUNN



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