

# The Good News

July, 2020

## Christ Episcopal Church

### Keeping our Faith Alive

### In-Person Services

The Bishop has allowed In-Person services to start again provided a number of precautions are taken and a plan be submitted and approved by the Bishop's Office. The requirements are a maximum of 50 people inside the Chicago City limits or 100 people outside the Chicago City limits with a maximum of 25% the normal maximum seating capacity of the Church whichever is less. We also need to keep the six foot social distancing spacing between family units. Christ Church has a normal maximum capacity of 300 people in the main church so the allowable reduced capacity is 75 people. This six foot spacing allows for 36 family units which allows for two family units in each row per side using every other row.

Other requirements are everyone must wear face coverings, there is no singing, and everyone stays in their spot for the peace. The offering plate is left in the back of the church for donations and is not passed. Communion is just the body of Christ (bread) which Father drops the host into your hands and is consumed when you get back to your pew. All books in the pews have been removed. There is also no coffee hour after the service.

We started in-person services on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am with 9 people present and on July 5<sup>th</sup> with 10 people present.



Pam and I attended the July 5<sup>th</sup> service and it was great to be in the Church again with others to share communion. It is anticipated that the 9:00am service on July 12<sup>th</sup> will be an outdoor service and done in conjunction with our Zoom service. After that Sunday we hope to have both the 7:30am and 9:00am services in the main Church. The 9:00am service will also continue using Zoom as a safer option to in-service worship.

John Moore Editor

Seeking ✝ Serving ✝ Sharing Christ



## An Historical Proclamation: “Something Must Change”

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

“Something must change” are three words with historical and human significance. They are the object and the verb that call us as Christian to be alert and active in our community. Change is what Jesus tells us is necessary; and it is a biblical invitation to cooperate with God for the transformation of the world.

When I was nine years old, growing up in Haiti, it was the first and I believe the only time that a Pope, an authority of the Roman Catholic Church, visited the territory of Haiti. It was around 3:30 in the afternoon when I heard John Paul II on Haitian’s National Radio and Television, say these words “Something must change” to both the political and religious leaders of the nation. John Paul II was in Haiti facing President Jean Claude Duvalier. With his eyes in the dictator’s eyes and his heart in the heart of the poor, he said with Christian authority: “Something must change here!” Three years later, a decades-old dictatorial system fell. The lives of these people took another direction. Throughout my youth I heard the people and the religious leaders calling for the same. Even now, forty years later with the death of George Floyd the cry for change, for justice for all echoes across the United States. Change is what the people always ask for, and the promise they receive from their local and national authorities. Sometimes we do see political systems change, but human’s hearts do not; as a result the system remains the same. Change is an invitation to a new life, and it must start inside.

Now in this time of pandemic, of fear, of violence, of people losing their jobs in our community, searching an alternative way to all the problems, it is the time for us to make a stop: to see, listen, and act. First let us stop to take time to see those who cry and take time to listen to their cry and take time to act. We must start asking ourselves what we have seen and heard. What have we seen around us? What are we choosing not to see? What is the one thing that you see and hear that makes you feel uncomfortable? What must I do, what have I not done? Now what must I do to participate in God’s plan? If the hearts, our interior hearts, do not change, it is not worth changing the exterior, the system! We all know that very well. It’s not just the system that needs to change. It is you and I deep in our hearts, who knows. We are the human beings that create the system. The system must be a product of a heart that comes from a new birth. States, cities, elected officials, candidates, the people are crying in the streets, demanding inclusion, not exclusion; the homeless knock on the doors asking for something to eat, a place to sleep; the unemployment rate is getting higher and higher, more death in the African American community. All of them demand your attention, your action. They want to be heard by actions and decisions that come from inside, from the heart, not outside with the mouth.

The word change implies a spiritual exercise. Richard Rohr in his daily meditation last Sunday said something that can help us to be open for change, especially in this time. He said: “The word change normally refers to new beginnings. But the mystery of transformation more often happens not when something new begins, but when something old falls apart. The pain of something old falling apart—chaos—invites the soul to listen at a deeper level, and sometimes forces the soul to go to a new place. Most of us would never go to new places in any other way. The mystics use many words to describe this chaos: fire, dark night, death, emptiness, abandonment, trial, the Evil One...”. What John Paul II said in Haiti applies to us today “Something Must Change”. The poor of all kinds must start to hope again.

The Church has a prophetic mission in this area. In the past couple days, I have heard a mayor say, “We have reduced the police budget so they will stop their violence against citizens.” The cutting of the police budget and others is not generating the interior change. It is us, we must make a decision to stop. This

change should start in our heart. It is me, you, him/ her. Just make the decision to change your heart, see Christ in the figures of people living in border situations. I am sure you are just waiting for that. And me too, because I know that YOU, today, can change your heart and help other people to take this same path. Look at the bottom of your heart, you will find the treasure that God deposited there, not so long ago. Something Must Change! As the Church let us respond to our prophetic ministry of being witnesses of Christ in this challenging world, love one another, open to dialogue to one another. Something Must Change! That "Something" is us!

Fr. Jean+

### Abigail Alexandria Shanley-Roberts



This week we learned of the unexpected passing of Abigail "Abbe" Shanley-Roberts. She spent 10 years in Christ Church helping make it a welcoming place. She had a love for Community Meal and serving as well as a passion for baking. She was a remarkable student at LFA. Abbe was also a compassionate loving friend. She made sure everyone felt welcomed and helped those that didn't have a voice find their voice. She was outspoken about youth representation within the Church and served on the vestry at St. Elisabeth's in Glencoe. Whether she was playing an instrument or singing - she loved music!

She was an avid sailor and knitter. She had an amazing love of keeping the waterways safe and her life goal was to be in the US Coast Guard

studying naval architecture.

Visitation will be at Peterson & Patch Funeral Home 408 N. Sheridan Rd Waukegan from 5:00 to 8:00 PM on July 10. Funeral service will take place at 2:30 PM on July 11 at Church of the Holy Spirit 400 E. Westminster Ave. Lake Forest. Burial will follow at Northshore Garden of Memories.

Izzy Winston

### Christ Church Vestry Meeting minutes 6/14/2020

Matt called the meeting to order at 10:38 am, Father Beniste opened the meeting with prayer.

Attendance was taken by Cindy: Fr. Jean Beniste, Rector, Matt Nordigian, Warden, Walter Smith, Al Nelson, Sandy Dalgaard, Greg Thompson, Jeff Tippet, Henedris Grenier, John Moore, Building Manager, and Don Craig, Treasurer were in attendance. We had a quorum. Ben Hale was not in attendance.

A motion to approve the May minutes was made and approved.

John Moore presented a Use Agreement for Waukegan to College. John explained The agreement is for 3 years and allows Waukegan to College to install air conditioning on the third floor. The area up there is very warm in the summer and the windows do not open. W2C has money to purchase and install the air conditioning but work must start by July 1st or the money will be unavailable. We had an estimate from Mark Dalgaard 3-4 years ago and the cost to replace the windows was upward of \$25,000. It would be

beneficial to everyone to have W2C install the air conditioners. The agreement includes a clause defining how the ownership of the air conditioners will be effected if either party terminates the lease.

John explained the use of 2 offices on the main floor of the Parish house would continue to be used by Waukegan to College until a space survey can be done by Waukegan to College to determine their space needs, with the goal of getting them all on one floor.

John recommended signing the agreement as soon as possible.

A discussion on the possibility of changing the verbiage followed. In the discussion a suggestion to add a description of the second floor areas, the offices and library, were available for use on a year to year basis, and that the library could be used as a calendar request. A letter of response would be given to Elyse as soon as possible. John felt that would jeopardize their ability to use money still in their budget from 2019-2020 to do the work required to install the air conditioning units. As the discussion continued Father Jean made a commitment to not allow Waukegan to College be turned out.

A Memorandum of Understanding was proposed with a legal document to follow allowing Waukegan to College to feel secure in our commitment to them.

Don motioned to send a letter of agreement to be followed up with a legal document at another date. The letter would contain a description of available areas and a year to year agreement on the offices based on the results of the space survey to be done by W2C.

The motion passed with 6 yes votes and 1 opposed vote.

It was determined Greg will write the letter and Sandy and Al will review the letter and the letter will be completed within 72 hours.

Return to in-person services was discussed.

The return to in-person services will happen in phases. Our Zoom services at 9:00 will continue for the foreseeable future.

Phase 2 will be having the 7:30 service with 10 people in the church. This service will not be broadcasted. The 9:00 service will be Zoom.

Phase 3 will be a return to church for the 9:00 service. Everyone must wear a mask and we will not sing or use books and bulletins. Communion will be bread only. No wine at this time.

Phase 4 will be a complete return with no limit on attendance. Zoom broadcasting will continue.

We are working on developing technology to continue broadcasting services. A short discussion on whether to move our meetings from Sunday was discussed. The discussion was tabled until a later date.

Our next vestry meeting is set for Sunday June 28th,

Walter asked for prayers for Anne's candidacy interview on Thursday.

Al closed with prayer.

Matt adjourned the meeting at 12:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Tippet  
Clerk of the Vestry

## A message From Anne Smith, Candidate to the Diaconate (Diocese of Chicago)

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow before God on high?  
He has told you, O mortal, what is good and what does the Lord require of you  
But *to do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.*

(Micah 6.6,8)

We are in distressing and promising times. We experience and see suffering. We see fear and anger in response to the Covid 19 pandemic and to racial injustices laid bare. We have been invited into a time of lamentation to cry out to God for healing, and to mourn with God for our world that is far from God's dream for us. I have cried and I have been angry over death, suffering, disregard for life, and stories of injustice. But I hope too. I can hope because I have laid my tears and anger before God. We have included psalms of lamentation in Wednesday Evening Prayer and conversation. We read Psalm 80 on Jun 24. We read powerful images of feeling abandoned by God and of many tears. But the psalm ends with hope and trust in God: "Restore us, O Lord of hosts: show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved."

Lamentation leads to hope, not despair. We hope because we can imagine a different world based in trust that the promises we make in our Baptismal Covenant are not made in vain: "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." Please focus on the word "strive." Please know that we are not called do this alone; we do this together as a church community and with the support of our church community. And, as we say, we strive "with God's help."

I find hope and energy in the words of the prophet Micah. I am not called to do great things or to save the world. I am called to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God, as I am able and "with God's help." I think the last command in Micah 6:8 is the most important: to walk humbly with God. During both Friday Morning Prayer and Wednesday Evening prayer we have had poignant reflections and conversations. And they are always surrounded by prayer. We begin with prayers and scripture from the daily office, and we end with the prayers from the daily office and from Prayers and Thanksgivings. Together, we walk humbly with our God.

I encourage everyone to attend either Friday Morning Prayer or Wednesday Evening Prayer. Friday morning prayer is a time to reflect on the psalms and reading of the day in an open and inviting space. Similarly, Wednesday Evening Prayer is a time for reflection, prayer and sharing with a focus on a theme. Our first theme was lamentation. Starting July 8, we will try to use the words from the prophet Micah and explore the question: "what does the Lord require of you."

In these difficult times, may you know deeply that God walks with you and holds you close.



## Church Yard Spring Cleanup



On Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon we had our annual Church Yard spring cleanup. The weather was great. We had 5 or 6 parishioners along with 7 or 8 Waukegan to College students and parents. We followed social distancing guidelines and wore masks. We have plenty of room to spread out and there is a lot of work to be done. We had two 6 cubic yard piles of mulch to spread. We also collected 10 containers or bags of weeds and trimmed up all the pine trees along Grand Avenue. Because of Covid-19 concerns we skipped the lunch we normally provide but did have bottled water to drink while we worked. It was a great time to work together making

the church and community beautiful. I would like to thank everyone who participated.



For those wishing to help throughout the year we have plastic yard waste cans next to the shed that can be filled with yard waste and taken out to the curb in front of the Rectory on Tuesday

evening. The City will pick up to 10 yard waste containers per week. Please contact me for guidance on what needs to be done.



This is a great opportunity for volunteers to be and work at the Church.

John Moore





## Christ Episcopal Church Monarch Waystation

Amelia and Wilber were released today.

I brought their eggs home from church on 6/6/20 (Grounds Clean-Up Day).

Sue Grisham



## Waukegan to College

You may have noticed that new HVAC air conditioning units are being installed around the Church. Waukegan to College is installing them to cool the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Parish House where most of their offices are located. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor does not have operable windows and it gets quite warm in the summer. We are very happy to have Waukegan to Collage sharing and using our facility for the last 11 years. We have entered into a building sharing agreement that will cover the next 3 years of their operation.

John Moore



CHRIST CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, *Bishop*

The Rev. Jean C. Beniste, *Rector*

Lisa Graves, *Music Director*



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*A Parish of the Diocese of Chicago*

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