



The Episcopal Church of Our Saviour

Proclaiming the presence and love of God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit who transform and give meaning to our lives.

Dear all,

Life has been a whirlwind of endless activity, deep emotions, and constant prayer every day since August 17. The Caldor Fire that began in Grizzly Flats swept and continued to burn 212,907 acres and is 29% contained (as of Sept. 3, 2021). Roughly 45,000 people have been evacuated from their homes in El Dorado County. Many are in Red Cross shelters, community centers, or large churches. Some have to stay in their cars for a variety of reasons.



Every morning I bring coffee and pastries (thanks to a very generous Starbucks manager at the Coach Lane Starbucks in Cameron Park) to about 100 people each who have slept in their cars.

Many have too many animals to bring inside the shelter. I am able to help them with some immediate and necessary needs that aren't covered by an insurance company or the Red Cross. For example, one elderly disabled dropped her cell phone, which is a necessary lifeline for her. People donated specifically for that and I was able to give her money to get another one.

Horses who are displaced needed both alfalfa and grass hay and 100 gallon water troughs. Rescued chickens needed coops for their rescuers. These are tangible needs I have been able to help with due to the astounding generosity of people and our



diocese. Mostly I just listen and try to help people navigate their way through the rollercoaster emotions as new news comes in.





*Truck packed
full of donations*

We are still in the midst of an emergency situation but will soon transition into longer term support. There are two ways to help:

1. Help needed at the D'Agostini Ranch. The image below shows the kinds of things they need help with and the link will let you go to their site to sign up.

It would be nice to get teams of people to go together.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4fa8ad2ba6f8c70-dagostini>

09/01/2021 (Wed.)	Breakfast Food Service 8:30am - 11:30am (4)	Sign Up
	Donation Organization 11:00am- 1:00pm (2)	Sign Up
	Lunch Preparation 12:30pm- 3:30pm (4)	Sign Up
	Dinner Food Service 5:00-8:00pm (4)	2 of 4 slots filled CA Cindy Anderson (2) Susie Clark and I will be there to serve st 5.
		Sign Up
09/02/2021 (Thu.)	Breakfast Food Service 8:30am - 11:30am (4)	Sign Up
	Children's Activity/ Yard Duty 11:00am- 1:00pm (4)	3 of 4 slots filled Jennifer McKim-Hibbard (3) My mother, sister, and I are planning on coming.

Note regarding option 2 (below): The first week of the Assistance Center is coming to a close. The information below will help you to see if you might be able to contribute your time if/and when they activate the Center in the future.

2. El Dorado County extended the invitation for non-profit and faith-based organizations to participate in the Caldor Fire Local Assistance Center (LAC). People at the Center were matching the needs of evacuees with the resources that are available.

They asked for 3-hour shifts of two people each shift (that way one could interact and the other record).

LAC Location:

El Dorado Center of Folsom Lake College

6699 Campus Dr.

Placerville, CA 95667

The hours of operation were:

Monday 10:00am to 5:00pm

Thursday 10:00am to 5:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am to 5:00pm

Friday 10:00am to 5:00pm

Wednesday 1:00pm to 7:00pm

Please let me know if you are able to help the D'Agostini Ranch now and if you feel you might help at the Caldor Fire Local Assistance Center if they reopen in the future.

Blessings,

Rev Deb

Morning and Evening Reflections ~

Some people asked me to post the evening reflection questions that I use after evening compline. They are taken from the book by poet John O'Donohue called "At the End of the Day: A Mirror of Questions".

What dreams did I create last night?

Where did my eyes linger today?

Where was I blind?

Where was I hurt without anyone noticing?

What did I learn today?

What did I read?

What new thoughts visited me?
What differences did I notice in those closest to me?
Whom did I neglect?
Where did I neglect myself?
What did I begin today that might endure?
How were my conversations?
What did I do today for the poor and the excluded?
Did I remember the dead today?
When could I have exposed myself to the risk of something different?
Where did I allow myself to receive love?
With whom today did I feel most myself?
What reached me today? How did it imprint?
Who saw me today?
What visitations had I from the past and from the future?
What did I avoid today?
From the evidence – why was I given this day?

And, in case you are interested, I start my day with this reflection from Padraig O'Tuama:

I believe God greets us as we greet our days. Neither I nor the poets I love have found the keys to the kingdom of prayer, and we cannot force God to stumble over us where we sit, but I know that it's a good idea to sit anyway. So every morning, I sit, I kneel, waiting, making friends with the habit of listening, hoping that I am being listened to.

There, I greet God and my own disorder.

I say Hello

to my chaos,

my unmade decisions,

my unmade bed,

my desire and my trouble.

I say Hello

to distraction and privilege.

I greet the day, and I greet my beloved and bewildering Jesus.

I recognize and greet

my burdens,

my luck,
my controlled and uncontrollable story.
I greet
my untold stories,
my unfolding story,
my unloved body,
my own love,
my own body.
I greet
the things I think will happen,
and I say Hello to everything I do not know about the day.
I greet
my own small world,
and I hope that I can meet the bigger world that day.
I greet
my story,
and hope that I can forget my story during the day,
and hope that I can hear some stories,
and greet some surprising stories during the long day ahead.
I greet God,
and I greet the God Who is More God than the God I greet,
Hello to you all, I say,
as the sun rises above the chimneys of North Belfast.
Hello.

Parish News and Events

Rev. Deb's Vacation and Sabbatical

Rev. Deb postponed her sabbatical departure due to the Caldor Fire effort. She will leave later in September and will be back with us in December (date to be determined). Pastor Christine, the Rev. Mike Kerrick, and the Rev. Mary Hauck will be with us on the Sundays that Rev. Deb is away.

The Order of the Daughters of the King

Several women in our church have expressed an interest in learning more about The Order of The Daughters of The King. The mission of this international order is the extension of Christ's kingdom through Prayer, Service, and Evangelism.

Our President, Yvonna Giordano, would like to offer a period of study and discernment for those who would like to find out more about the Order. For more information please call her at (530) 642-2311 or talk with her at church. If you feel led to learn more and discern whether you are called to become a member, a three-month study and discernment period will be offered.

For your Calendar: The Daughters of the King meet monthly, on the first Thursday of each month, at 10:00 am in the Library.

Invite • Welcome • Connect ~ Town Hall Meeting Status

Over a period of two Sundays, Dona Adams did a fabulous job soliciting ideas from a nice representation of both the 8:00 and 10:30 service congregations. (We even had a few comments from visitors, who chimed in with their thoughts.) The next step in the process is to organize three committees, let the committees select a chairperson, and start a process to continually enhance how we invite, welcome, and connect with both new and current parishioners. We have a few volunteers, but we need more, as many hands make light work. For more information on what's happening, call Cherie Raffety at (530) 626-8020.

Solemn Vigil of Remembrance and Prayers for the Future

There will be a special hour of music, prayer, and meditation on Saturday, September 11, at 10:00 am in the church sanctuary to remember those who died in the terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001 and in the many other acts of terrorism since then. We will also honor first responders and include prayers for peace and reconciliation. Invite your family and friends to join us and members of the community for this special time. We will gather for refreshments afterward. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Weikert at (530) 391-4588 or eklktcwe@earthlink.net or Cherie Raffety at (530) 626-8020.



CalTrans announces the "Trip to Green" program for September and October

On these dates, Sept. 17-19 and again Oct. 15-17, 2021, CalTrans will initiate the "Trip to Green" program on Highway 50 through Placerville. No cross traffic or left turns will be allowed and all lights will be set to green for Apple Hill traffic. We will provide a map soon of alternate routes to and from the church that will be distributed to our parishioners prior to those dates. [Click here](#) to read the article in the Mountain Democrat.

Walk the Stations of the Cross

Tom and Lee Weikert have a path with the Stations that follow Jesus from his condemnation to his death on the cross and on to the empty tomb. There are 14 stops (stations) along this journey with 14 plaques depicting the events similar to the painted Stations of the Cross in our church sanctuary.

This year we will be walking the Stations at the Weikerts' on Saturday, **September 25, at 11:00 am.** We stop for a reading and a prayer at each tree where a plaque is hung. We will be using the very personal "Everyone's Stations of the Cross" instead of the more familiar Holy Week "The Way of the Cross". Previous participants describe this as a very moving experience. We hope it touches your heart as well. Our path is a moderate climb, eased by a zigzag pattern, up the hill behind our home. Sturdy shoes are a must.



This event is suitable for all ages. Please join us and bring a bag lunch. It's lovely on the back deck in the fall. The Weikerts will provide beverages. If you have any questions, please call Tom or Lee at (530) 644-0382 or email Lee at eklktcwe@earthlink.net. The address is 4110 Sierra Springs Drive, Pollock Pines. Directions are available in the Parish Hall or you can request them by email. If the weather turns rainy we will move indoors. We expect to be back in our home by this time so will be especially thankful. If we are still evacuees, we will hold this event elsewhere. Please keep in touch for updates.

Fixes and Flourishes August Report

Just as our meeting was starting we met with a representative from Straight Line Construction regarding the library windows. The next step is a joint meeting with the manufacturer and Straight Line. There is general agreement that the windows should not have cracked in three years but no consensus on who is responsible, manufacturer, installer or weather. The fix could be complex as the arched portion and the windows below are all of one piece.

The bids for the kitchen repairs and improvements were reviewed. The bulk of the costs, approximately \$6,500, will come out of the Building and Grounds Restricted Fund. There is money to complete this work now but we will eventually need to do some fund raising to replenish the account and to complete further work. A small portion, the semiannual service of the on-demand water heater, will come from the annual maintenance fund.

Vestry approved the expenditures at their August 22 meeting. Work will not be completed until the beginning of November. The countertop installer's first available date is November 5. The new faucet and sink will be installed immediately after that.

The committee requested additional bids for the repair of the brickwork on the stairs leading from the street to the church.

The sprinkler system has been a problem as it was not working. Marcia Goodrich has been dealing with the current grounds man to the point where most of the plantings and lawn are being watered. We will need to replace the sprinkler system at some time. The committee ranked this need as a #3 of 5 in priority.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2021.

News from the Diocese

A Letter From Bishop Megan ~ August 25

Dear Friends in Christ:

As I write, The Dixie and Caldor fires continue their destructive march across our beautiful landscape. Thousands of residents have been displaced, not knowing if they will have homes to return to. Likewise, thousands of brave firefighters and first responders are working non-stop in treacherous conditions to save communities.

For over a month, they have waged a war—first against the Dixie, now the Caldor, the Monument, the McFadden, The Beckwourth, The Tamarack, the Cache fire and others in what is likely to become the most destructive fire season in our state's history.

The speed and ferocity of these fires is unprecedented, and the response has left our resources depleted and stretched thin. It is no wonder that communities would feel abandoned by their government's seemingly glacial pace to declare the area a federal disaster, and trigger the aid that so many communities need.

I have been in close contact with Mark Dibelka, our new Missioner for Disaster Resilience about this very issue, and have directed him to convey to legislators and government agencies the dire circumstances our

communities are in. For those on the ground, and those closest to the firefight, the delay for the declaration seems absurd.

As I understand, Federal Aid is based upon direct confirmation of a certain number of residences lost. The extreme conditions have made it extremely difficult for the inspectors to determine the actual loss. Once a certain threshold is reached, the Federal Disaster Declaration can occur.

It saddens me that such a threshold exists, and I can assure you that, for me and my staff, there is no such target number to trigger a response. When one house or community is threatened, we are actively working to provide direct support in the form of cash grants, gift cards, and prayers. Simply put, we have a threshold of one.

My staff and I feel the grief of these fires. We work under the looming smoke, and we carry you closely in our hearts with prayer. I know that we are joined by the prayers of the saints across our diocese, state, and the wider church.

We are actively pursuing opportunities to convince government leaders of the urgent need, while continuing to provide direct assistance to congregations and individuals. Many congregations have opened their doors, and even their parking lots, to their neighbors and provided safe housing for individuals and animals alike. Rest assured, we are committed to supporting you through prayer and financial support.

May God continue to protect those impacted by these terrible fires.

Yours In Christ,

Note: as of September 1, President Joe Biden declared an emergency in California and ordered federal assistance to boost local responders' efforts to battle the Caldor fire.

Diocese leads the way in service to fire victims

As the Dixie and Caldor Fires continue their destructive march across the Sierras, Mark Dibelka, Missioner for Disaster Resilience, and Kati Braak, Operations Director for the Office of the Bishop, have travelled across the diocese to deliver gift cards and checks to the parishes impacted by the fires.

To date, the Office of the Bishop has provided gift cards and funds totaling over \$38,000.

Wildfire Relief Update

Thanks to your generosity, we have received **\$11,890.00** through online giving and checks to purchase gift cards for fire victims!

If you would like to give to fire relief, please visit the [GIVE](#) link on our web site. Your contribution helps us both to offer immediate, direct aid to those in need, and to sustain a long-term commitment to heal and restore devastated communities.

A related experience from the Rev. Julie Wakelee, Interim Canon to the Ordinary —

“Last week, I stopped into a Sav-Mor market in Red Bluff to purchase gift cards for fire victims. Megan, the young woman who was working as a checker asked why I was buying so many cards. When I told her it was for fire victims, she reached into her own bag and gave me \$5. I later learned that she had lost her own home in the 2018 Camp Fire...”

Welcome the Refugee:

Episcopal Ministries in Northern California Respond to the Afghan Crisis

According to census data, the highest concentrations of Afghans in the nation live in two zip codes in the Arden Arcade area of Sacramento County. One of these is 95825, where the Office of the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California (EDNC) is located. The other is 95821, where the diocesan Center at St. Matthew's has been serving Afghan refugees for several years.

Click here to read a new article that highlights all of the work the diocese is doing to support Afghan Refugees.

Faith in Action Near the Frontline

The Office of the Bishop received an update from the Rev. Debra Warwick-Sabino on the work being done by Our Savior, Placerville to support victims of nearby fires.

(Read some updates and see photos [here](#).)

111th Diocesan Convention Update

Convention REGISTRATION is now open. Click [here](#) to visit the registration page and to get more information for Convocations, Certificate of Lay Delegates, Nominations, Resolutions, Releases, FAQs, Booklets, and Pre-Convention Workshop information.

Are you interested in serving as a member of the Standing Committee or Board of Trustees? Deadline to submit nominations for Board of Trustees and Standing Committee is Friday, September 10.

Deanery Convocation takes place Saturday, October 9.

Virtual Town Hall Meetings about Resolutions will be Wednesday, October 13 and Saturday, October 16.

Diocesan Convention is the primary legislative body of the Diocese of Northern California. Clergy and lay delegates from each parish meet once a year. The number of lay delegates is determined by identifying

in which congregational range the congregation belongs. A list of congregations and which congregational range they belong to can be found in the [2021 Congregational Range Sheet](#). Each congregation must properly complete a [Certificate Of Lay Delegate](#) form.

August 9, 2021 – [Certificate Of Lay Delegate Form due](#)

July 17, 2021 – Registration opens

September 10, 2021 – [Nominations Due](#)

October 9, 2021 – Deanery Convocations

October 13, 2021 – Second filing for Nominations (if needed) due

November 5-6, 2021 – Diocesan Convention

Links to Diocesan Commissions and Committees

- [Commission for Intercultural Ministries](#)
- [Commission on Ministry](#)
- [Christian Formation Committee](#)
- [Episcopal Community Services](#)
- [Ministries of Health Committee](#)
- [Investment Fund Committee](#)
- [Disaster Preparedness](#)
- [Recovery Ministries](#)
- [Episcopal Foundation of Northern California](#)

And a very Happy 36th Wedding Anniversary to Bishop Megan and Philip Traquair!

News from ECUSA

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry offers a prayer for the people of Afghanistan

August 16, 2021

Office of Public Affairs

Eternal God, hear our prayer for the peoples of Afghanistan. There is a profound humanitarian crisis. Countless people, mostly women and children, are now fleeing and vulnerable. The lives of many are now endangered. The hopes of many are forgone. Send your Spirit, Lord, to rally the resolve of the nations of the earth to find pathways to save human lives, protect human rights, and to resolve the hardships of

those seeking refuge, asylum, and safety. Hear our prayer for the peoples of Afghanistan. This we pray as followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry

Presiding Bishop and Primate

The Episcopal Church

NOTE: For the many people who have asked how they can support The Episcopal Church's efforts to resettle and provide direct assistance to Afghans seeking special immigrant visas, please visit episcopalmigrationministries.org/give.

Support Our Afghan Allies

The deteriorating situation in Afghanistan is a humanitarian crisis that has left upwards of 550,000 Afghans internally displaced in the country since the beginning of the year, in addition to 2.9 million Afghans already internally displaced at the end of 2020. Episcopal Migration Ministries, the refugee resettlement and migration ministry of The Episcopal Church, is currently working in partnership with the U.S. government to assist our Afghan allies with resettlement and direct services through a network of 12 affiliates across the U.S.

Donate

As we continue to welcome and resettle Afghan allies to the U.S. through our affiliate network, the greatest need continues to be assistance with housing. Your financial donation will directly support providing basic services and assistance with housing to newly arrived Afghan allies and assist EMM expanding its work in developing sponsorships for Afghan allies. Make a donation online here or donate by mail and send checks to:

DFMS-Protestant Episcopal Church US

P.O. Box 958983

St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

(Include Episcopal Migration Ministries and Afghan allies in the memo line.)

Volunteer or Sponsor

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities or community sponsorship in support of our Afghan allies, please fill out this [interest form](#).

Advocate

Action Alert: Advocate to Evacuate and Resettle our Afghan Allies

Social Justice Policies of The Episcopal Church

The social justice policies of The Episcopal Church are formed in a number of ways. For one thing, almost all dioceses of The Episcopal Church are actively engaged in companion diocese relationships across the Anglican Communion, which lends the church a broader perspective. Also, Episcopal seminaries enroll and generally fund students from around the Anglican Communion. And the Episcopal Partnership for Global Mission, a network of more than 70 independent and churchwide agencies focused on mission in the larger Anglican Communion, is partially funded by the General Convention.

Mission Partners: 105 individuals in 35 countries in 21 provinces of the Anglican Communion. (About 95 individuals are in the field in any given year.) Mission partners include appointed missionaries, Volunteers for Mission, and the Young Adult Service Corps. Most individuals serve from one to three years, at the invitation and under the supervision of the local bishop.

Mission Funding: More than \$23 million in 20 provinces of the Anglican Communion. Mission funding includes the total triennial budget of the General Convention for the Office of Anglican & Global Relations and for overseas partnerships and covenants. Staff costs account for 11% of the total. Grants to overseas jurisdictions of The Episcopal Church and to provinces in the Philippines, Mexico, Central America, and West Africa account for 58% of the total.

Capital Funding for Mission: More than \$3 million in 28 provinces of the Anglican Communion, from grants from the United Thank Offering, a spiritual and missionary discipline of the women of The Episcopal Church, overseen by a national board and staffed by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

Relief and Development: Episcopal Relief & Development partners with local churches and organizations throughout the 38 provinces of the Anglican Communion, as well as ecumenically, to reach more than 3 million people annually in over 40 countries. The organization's programs support the Millennium Development Goals by alleviating hunger, creating economic opportunities, responding to disasters and fighting diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria.

Refugee Resettlement: Nearly 2,000 refugees from 14 countries. Refugees are received and resettled by Episcopal Migration Ministries, in cooperation with parishes throughout The Episcopal Church.

Advocacy for Human Rights, Justice, and Peace: The Office of Government Relations of The Episcopal Church, in Washington, D.C., spends about 40% of its time and budget on international matters. The Office of Government Relations works directly with the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government, as well as with the diplomatic community and organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Through the Episcopal Public Policy Network, Episcopalians across the country are engaged in grassroots advocacy work.

Of particular relevance has been the Office of Government Relations' recent work in debt relief, the global AIDS pandemic, and conflict resolution in Congo, Liberia, Sudan, Uganda, Sierra Leone, and the Middle East. Other areas of work include women's rights, religious freedom and development assistance (the Millennium Development Goals). The Office of Government Relations arranges for visitors from the Anglican Communion – often without fanfare and with great discretion – to meet with government officials and Congressional committees.

The Office of Peace and Justice Ministries, of which the Office of Government Relations is a part, has worked with a number of provinces in support of regional conflict resolution and a host of other issues, notably the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the crisis on the Korean Peninsula, and development of a peace program in the Philippines.

Be involved

Action Alerts

Posts from the Hill

Episcopal Church Foundation - Vital Practices

Watching the Weather

Sandy Webb

“What’s going on in the news?” my father asked a shopkeeper on a beautiful summer’s day in my childhood. “Well,” the shopkeeper replied, “not much aside from the hurricane that’s going to hit us tomorrow.”

There was no sarcasm in the shopkeeper’s response. We were staying on a rural island off the coast of Maine in the days before internet and cable news. It was easy to become disconnected. In fact, disconnection was part of the attraction to island life. We received our news through the original social network: Neighbors telling neighbors what they needed to know.

I returned to that same island this summer as part of my sabbatical in the hope of finding another weather report – this time for the church.

According to the Pew Research Forum, more than half of adults in each of the four states that comprise central and northern New England – Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont – report being unaffiliated with a religious tradition or being of no particular religious tradition at all. Almost half of adults in each of these states report attending religious services seldomly or never.

As the rector of a large Episcopal parish in a place where the traditional model of “doing church” is still doing fine, I wonder: Will this be our future? Will our buildings ultimately become restaurants and art

museums, offices and apartments like the ones I saw driving through the villages of Mid-Coast Maine?

At Church of the Holy Communion in Memphis, we have strong attendance at worship and formation, good financial support, and meaningful community engagement. My sabbatical follows a successful capital campaign and facility restoration project.

The weather is fine for us, but storm clouds are beginning to gather. In the eight years that I have served in

Memphis: Our local newspaper has stopped publishing its weekly religion section. Sunday morning sports have worked their way into our kids' schedules. Our diocese closed two of its 31 congregations.

Again, I wonder: What can churches that currently find themselves in positions of strength do now to prepare ourselves for a future that may look very different from our past?

I approach this question as a practitioner and an institutionalist, as the full-time rector of a strong congregation and as one who sees continuing value in the traditions and structures that have defined our experience of the church for centuries. But, I also approach this question as a pragmatist, as one who is willing to look at our inheritance with a critical eye and acknowledge the reality of our changing circumstances.

The hurricane that snuck up on us in my childhood was the first full-fledged hurricane to hit New England in six years and only the sixth in forty years. Even though we lacked experience with this type of storm, we knew there was nothing we could do to stop it. We had to prepare. So it is for congregations that currently find themselves in positions of strength: Cultural secularism is coming, even in places that have never had to deal with it before.

Better programming will not be enough to weather this storm. Attracting more young families will not be enough. The church needs to adopt an entirely new mindset.

The time to prepare for a storm is before the weather changes. These are the questions that congregations like mine need to be asking now:

- In the future, people's expectations of the church will be different. Do we know what those expectations are and are we ready to respond to them?



- In the future, people's understanding of power will be different. Have we started incorporating "new power" into our largely "old power" systems?
- In the future, people's relationship with their money will be different. How can we respond to diverse motivations for giving?
- In the future, people's engagement with the church will be different. What can we learn from the experience of church leaders in now-secular ministry contexts?

I will address each of these questions in a subsequent essay, but here's the bottom line: The truth of the Gospel does not change, but people do and the church must.

Thinking too deeply about the future of denominational Christianity can feel a lot like visiting with the Ghost of Christmas Future. None of the projections are good. But, like Ebenezer Scrooge, we can reject the future that seems inevitable and build the future that we would rather see. "Are these the shadows of the things that Will be," Scrooge asks his third visitor, "or are they shadows of things that May be, only?"

Our new, secular age still needs what the church has to offer – faith, hope, love, grace, forgiveness, selflessness, transcendence, structure – perhaps now more than ever. The church's only challenge is figuring out how to share its treasure in an unfamiliar environment.

Church of the Holy Communion's vestry and I will reflect on these questions in the year ahead, and I hope that other vestries and rectors will do the same. Let's take this journey together. Let's be motivated and intentional, courageous and bold. Let's be resurrection people and find our way to vibrancy and relevance in this new, more secular era.

The Reverend Sandy Webb has served as rector of Church of the Holy Communion and trustee of St. Mary's Episcopal School, both in Memphis, since 2013. He has experience with congregational and staff development, annual and capital fundraising, facility renewal, and maintaining healthy church/school relationships.

Episcopal News Service

COVID-19 vaccine mandates spread across The Episcopal Church

By Egan Millard

Posted Aug 26, 2021

[Episcopal News Service] COVID-19 vaccination mandates are gaining steam across The Episcopal Church, with two dioceses now requiring vaccination for all clergy and staff, and others issuing similar requirements as the delta variant spreads rapidly among the unvaccinated population.

On Aug. 26, the Diocese of Long Island [announced](#) that all clergy and diocesan staff must be vaccinated, the second diocese this week to issue such a requirement [after the Diocese of Maine](#).

In the Diocese of Long Island – which includes the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens – all clergy and diocesan staff must show proof of vaccination, effective Sept. 15. The only possible exemption is for anyone who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons, in which case they would have to wear a mask at all indoor gatherings and be tested every 10 days.



The Rev. Sean Slack gets a flu shot during the Diocese of Pennsylvania's 2020 diocesan vaccine clinic. Dioceses have been encouraging clergy and parishioners to get the COVID-19 vaccine, but some are now making it mandatory. Photo: Diocese of Pennsylvania

“We have an obligation as the church to do everything in our power to ensure the safety and well-being of the people we are called to serve,” Long Island Bishop Lawrence Provenzano wrote in the diocesan announcement. “Getting vaccinated is a way to express our love of God and our love of neighbor in the midst of this crisis.”

St. John’s Episcopal Hospital in Queens, which is affiliated with the diocese, will provide the vaccine to any member of the diocesan staff or clergy who has not received it yet, Provenzano said.

Maine Bishop Thomas Brown enacted the same requirement in his diocese on Aug. 23. In his announcement, he quoted Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s [early August appeal](#) to Episcopalians to protect themselves and their vulnerable neighbors by getting vaccinated.

The U.S. now has [more than 100,000 people hospitalized with COVID-19](#) for the first time since January, with some state reporting their highest case counts ever. The [vast majority](#) of COVID-19 patients in intensive care units are unvaccinated people, who are 29 times more likely to be hospitalized than vaccinated people, [according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. Just over half of Americans](#) have been fully vaccinated.

In response, [dioceses and congregations are reinstating indoor mask requirements and other restrictions](#), and promoting vaccination campaigns, especially in states with increasing infection rates due to higher numbers of unvaccinated people. The Diocese of Oklahoma, for example, [has now launched](#) a video

series featuring members of the dioceses – [including Bishop Poulson Reed](#) – explaining why they got vaccinated and encouraging others to do the same.

Workplace vaccine mandates are also [becoming more common nationwide](#), which Brown referenced in his [letter announcing the requirement](#) for the Diocese of Maine.

“Public health agencies, governments, corporations, schools, and not-for-profits are also announcing mandatory vaccinations,” Brown wrote. “We are not all doing this because we are heavy-handed, but because vaccinations are the best tool we have to curb the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Other dioceses have enacted more limited vaccine requirements. On Aug. 11, Oregon Bishop Diana Akiyama [announced](#) that all of her diocesan staff were required to get vaccinated, adding that she “strongly recommends parish clergy and lay leaders to have conversations about vaccination requirements with their staff.”

On Aug. 16, the Diocese of Massachusetts announced it would require vaccination for all clergy and lay people who work with vulnerable people, including children, homebound or immunocompromised people and those in hospitals and care facilities.

“We strongly urge vaccination against the coronavirus for all our members as soon as they are eligible,” [Suffragan Bishop Gayle Harris wrote](#). “We reiterate, however, that our congregations must not require vaccination, nor documentation thereof, for attendance at worship services.”

At least one Episcopal church, however, [is doing just that: Grace Cathedral](#) in San Francisco, seat of the Diocese of California. Starting Aug. 29, anyone entering the cathedral to attend services or events must provide proof of vaccination, either by uploading a photo of their vaccine card through an online form in advance or showing it in person.

Some dioceses are considering vaccine mandates but have not enacted any yet, like the Diocese of Hawaii, which is [experiencing the worst surge in hospitalizations](#) since the pandemic began.

“Can the church require vaccinations of clergy and employees? The chancellor is considering guidelines, but generally the answer is ‘yes,’” Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick [wrote to the diocese](#) on Aug. 4. “I do believe this is a pastoral situation. I am not inclined to move to ‘requiring’ vaccination of the clergy and lay employees. I trust those of us serving in God’s church are morally responsible people and are willing to do the right thing for the common good, and have already been or will soon be vaccinated.”

The Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations has developed a toolkit for individuals, congregations and ministries to facilitate and promote COVID-19 vaccine distribution in the United States. [It is available in English and Spanish here](#).

– Egan Millard is an assistant editor and reporter for Episcopal News Service. He can be reached at emillard@episcopalchurch.org.

Long-standing partnerships helped Episcopalians quickly respond to the Haiti quake

By Mary Frances

Schjonberg

Posted Aug 26, 2021



The St. Sauveur des Cayes school in Les Cayes was so damaged beyond repair by the Aug. 14 earthquake and will have to be demolished and rebuilt. Photo: Education Equals Hope

[Episcopal News Service] In the 12 days since a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti on Aug. 14, and the subsequent drenching rains of Tropical Storm Grace, Episcopalians there and their ministry partners across The Episcopal Church continue to help devastated communities.

As of Aug. 24, more than 2,200 have died and some 12,300 have been injured. Over 1.2 million people have been affected, with nearly 650,000 in need of emergency humanitarian assistance in the three most affected departments (Sud, Grand'Anse and Nippes), where an estimated 130,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed, according to the United Nations. (A U.N.-generated map shows the scope of the damage and ensuing needs.)

Many roads and bridges of the region's already fragile infrastructure have been rendered unusable, making access for relief workers and supplies even more challenging. Many hospitals and clinics were also severely damaged.

Episcopalians with long-standing partnerships in Haiti responded quickly after the earthquake. For example, the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, with 40 years of partnerships in Haiti, sent money donated by parishes and individuals to Haiti by way of Partners in Health, a health-care organization that has historic connections to the diocese. Much of the diocese's work in Haiti now supports Zanmi Lasante, the Haitian branch of Partners in Health.

Upper South Carolina has built more than 15 schools in Cange and over the years has provided scholarships to area children to help their families cover school-related costs. Some of those students

grew up to become doctors and nurses and are now treating people injured in the quake who were evacuated to Partners in Health's hospital in Mirebalais, according to the Rev. Susan Louttit-Hardaway



Partners In Health on Tuesday

Now 10 days after the horrific 7.2-magnitude earthquake that devastated Haiti's southern peninsula Aug. 14, the support of this community is making a difference—and giving responders hope for the long, long haul that is still to come.

A plane arrived in Haiti over the weekend, carrying everything from vital medical equipment to clinicians. And another plane is expected to leave soon, with orthopedic supplies that are essential for treating the severe injuries that result from collapsing buildings.

Partners In Health is responding with its signature 5 "S" approach: Staff, Stuff, Space, Systems, and Social Support.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3meckOZ>

📷 : Photo by Nadia Todres for PIH

who chairs the diocese's Commission on Mission and International Concerns.

"Forty or so years of partnership with Cange and perhaps we are looking at what God had in mind all along," she told Episcopal News Service.

Education

Equals Hope, a South Carolina-based nonprofit supported by the Diocese of Upper South Carolina as well as individual Episcopalians, recently sent financial assistance to its partner schools in Haiti, according to Executive Director Celest Bundy.

Locally Haiti, a 33-year-old partnership formerly known as the Colorado Haiti Project, immediately sent money to its colleagues in Petit Trou de Nippes, a town about 8 miles from the quake's epicenter. Wynn Walent, Locally Haiti's executive director, told Colorado Public Radio that right after the quake their partners began building "provisional structures" to temporarily house displaced residents.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing violence, Walent traveled to Haiti after the quake, bringing with him supplies requested by ministry partners in Petit Trou de Nippes. Those include medical and school supplies, hygiene kits and tents to be used as classrooms and clinics. A school supported by Locally Haiti is being used as a shelter, he said.



“We’ve been in this community for 33 years and these relationships are very personal so just to be there in person and to listen to people” is as important as the assistance he brought, Walent told Colorado Public Radio.

Episcopal Relief & Development responded within days with an initial grant to provide direct assistance to 400 families in hard-to-reach areas and on Aug. 24, it announced a partnership with Church World Service to enable the local health care center in Pestel, a coastal community due north of Les Cayes to provide primary medical care to over 10,000 people. Children and adults in the area will also receive community-based psychosocial support through existing Wozo clubs. These clubs were established by a local

organization, Wozo Haiti, after the 2010 earthquake, and later expanded through a partnership with Episcopal Relief & Development.

Grey Dove Inc., a medical ministry founded after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti by Episcopal deacon the Rev. Clelia Garrity, last week sent medical surgical supplies to the Rev. Kesner Ajax in Les Cayes. The supplies included many vials of injectable antibiotics, which Garrity said are needed for wound care. Grey Dove’s mission is to provide sustainable healthcare in developing communities in Haiti and elsewhere.

- The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg retired in July 2019 as senior editor and reporter for Episcopal News Service.



Episcopal Café

Inverness

By David Alexander

August 15, 2021

The windswept leaves of Autumn drifted and tumbled through the air.

It still could have been fall, by all accounts, but the crocuses and daffodils that poked through the muddy flower beds said otherwise. April in Inverness is seldom warm, and I pulled my light jacket around me as I walked briskly past the river Ness. I was under-dressed for the cold Scottish Spring.

I looked up from the path.

Across the river, the stones of Inverness castle beckoned. I still had an hour left, should I want to visit, and the brochure in the lobby of my bed and breakfast had said it was open until 5. But I didn't fancy a walk across the river and up the hill. I was still too tired from my long drive from Edinburgh to the Gaeltacht. So I opted instead for a riverside walk to stretch my legs.



As the grey skies became darker with the threat of rain, I heard the bells nearby. It was Sunday, after all, so I wasn't surprised, but I was curious about the source. I crossed the street to a park I saw to find the bells. They continued to toll. I walked through the park, hoping with each step that the skies wouldn't baptize me with the expected downpour. I had left my umbrella in Perth a week ago.

I finally found the bells' source, the cathedral a few hundred yards away, its doors open. I was a stranger in this city, I was cold, and my curiosity was piqued. The sign outside declared 'Cathedral Church of St. Andrew's – The Scottish Episcopal Church – Sung Vespers, 5 pm, All Welcome'. It was impossible to resist. I walked up the stairs, drawn by curiosity, my growing fatigue, and an invisible hand into the darkened cathedral.

I stood in the vestibule, my eyes adjusting to the candlelight. I wasn't sure if I should genuflect, but I didn't want to take a chance at offending the other worshippers, so I went down slightly on one knee, crossed myself, and made my way to an inconspicuous seat near the back.

I began taking in my surroundings. It was similar to the dozens of Catholic churches I had known but much older, even older than those I had visited in the desert southwest built by Franciscan missionaries. I had been in only one Anglican church before, five thousand miles away, on a brief visit mainly made out of curiosity two decades earlier. On that afternoon, I didn't stay long enough for a service, but on this Sunday evening, I was tired, and the cathedral offered a warm respite from the chill of the early Spring.



I yawned from the fatigue of the jet lag. I found a seat in a wooden pew and, within a minute, began to nod.

I yawned again, embarrassed. The service finally began. I took a Book of Common Prayer from the pew-back in front of me and fumbled through its pages. Unable to locate where the service started, I put the book back and listened.

The sunlight pierced the clouds of incense.

Dostoyevsky once said, 'Beauty will save the world,' and on that evening, I began to understand what he meant.

I had never heard such singing in my life. I had sung in a dozen church choirs over my four decades, had heard hundreds of great and equally not-so-great liturgies, and had cringed at the banality of guitar masses, but this sung Vespers echoed in the rafters even after the last notes of the organ died.



For those few moments, I thought I was in heaven.

On that grey afternoon of the 28th of April 2002, I had found something that I hadn't known existed except between the dusty covers of my university English Literature textbooks. I felt something I had never felt before: I had come home to the home I had never known.

By Grace or sheer accident, I had just walked into the heart and soul of Anglicanism and, quite unexpectedly, had fallen in love.

David Alexander is the Communications Coordinator for St. Francis Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas. He is a two-time Lone Star Emmy Award-Winning Producer/Editor/Motion Graphic Artist / Sound Engineer. He and his wife Eleni have been married for 6 ½ years. David is an avid bagpiper, accordionist, and poet.

Vestry News

August 22, 2021 meeting notes

Ed Mathews, Treasurer, reported that our year-to-date expenses versus income shows that we currently have a year-to-date deficit of \$13,000. We have received some funds from the diocese that will mitigate a portion of this but everyone is encouraged to review their pledge and, if possible, make sure payments are current.

Rev. Debra announced that she will postpone the start of her sabbatical by two weeks so that she may continue her work with the fire evacuees.

Boyd Roberts was elected to complete the vacant vestry term and will serve until the annual meeting in January, 2022.

Senior Warden Becky Leighton commended Rev. Debra for her rapid and wholehearted response to the crisis created by the Caldor Fire and her continuing efforts to reach out to the community. Kudos Rev. Deb!

The Fixes and Flourishes Committee recommendation for the repair, improvement, and maintenance in the Parish Hall kitchen was approved.

The next step in Invite Welcome Connect will be formalizing a committee for each of the three stages.

The date of the next meeting was changed to September 12 at noon.

See the next page for July Finances information.

2021 FINANCES FOR JULY

Actual July Revenue	5,792.37
Budgeted July Revenue	13,176.26
Actual July Expenses	10,715.62
Budgeted July Expenses	12,617.84
July Net	<4,923.25>
Total Revenue (Jan - July)	86,240.12
Total Expenses (Jan - July)	95,505.50
Year-To-Date Net (Jan - July)	<9,265.38>

Ministry and Hospitality Schedules

Date	Time	Readers	Ushers	EMS	Prayers of the People	Hospitality
	8:00 AM					
Sept. 5		S. Bert	S. Bert	T. Weikert	B. Leighton	B. Hill
Sept. 12		L. Perpall	N. Lawson	D. Zelinsky	TBD	L. Weikert
Sept. 19		J. Griffin	C. Griffin	S. Bert	K. Aguilar	M. Goodrich
Sept. 26		B. Leighton	S. Bert	D. Zelinsky	L. Weikert	K. Aguilar
	10:30					
Sept. 5		T. Fritschi	M. Berkery, T. Berkery	Y. Giordano	K. Fritschi	L. Bettencourt
Sept. 12		B. Leighton	D. Adams, B. Roberts	T. Weikert	TBD	K. Fritschi
Sept. 19		Y. Giordano	TBD	T. Berkery	Y. Giordano	T. Naylor
Sept. 26		B. Roberts	M. Berkery, T. Berkery	M. Muetz	T. Naylor	C. and M. Raffety

September Calendar

See the Calendar on our website for more details: www.oursaviourplacerville.org.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Rite I - Holy Eucharist (8:00 AM) Rite II-Holy Eucharist: Livestreamed on Facebook (10:30 AM to 11:30 AM)	30 The Diet Group (5:45 PM)	31	1 Meditation with Pastor Christine (9:30 AM)	2 Daughters of the King (10:00 AM)	3	4
5 Rite I - Holy Eucharist (8:00 AM) Rite II-Holy Eucharist: Livestreamed on Facebook (10:30 AM to 11:30 AM)	6 Labor Day The Diet Group (5:45 PM)	7	8 Meditation with Pastor Christine (9:30 AM) Women's Bible Study (11:00 AM)	9	10	11 Solemn Vigil of Remembrance and Prayers for Peace (10:00 AM)
12 Grandparents Day Rite I - Holy Eucharist (8:00 AM) Rite II-Holy Eucharist: Livestreamed on Facebook (10:30 AM to 11:30 AM) Vestry Meeting (12:00 PM to 2:00 PM)	13 The Diet Group (5:45 PM)	14	15 Meditation with Pastor Christine (9:30 AM) Women's Bible Study (11:00 AM)	16 Altar Guild (10:00 AM)	17 Constitution and Citizenship Day	18
19 Rite I - Holy Eucharist (8:00 AM) Rite II-Holy Eucharist: Livestreamed on Facebook (10:30 AM to 11:30 AM)	20 The Diet Group (5:45 PM)	21 Fixes and Flourishes Committee (10:00 AM)	22 First Day of Fall (September Equinox) Meditation with Pastor Christine (9:30 AM) Women's Bible Study (11:00 AM)	23	24	25 Walk the Stations of the Cross (11:00 AM)
26 Rite I - Holy Eucharist (8:00 AM) Rite II-Holy Eucharist: Livestreamed on Facebook (10:30 AM to 11:30 AM)	27 The Diet Group (5:45 PM)	28	29 Meditation with Pastor Christine (9:30 AM) Women's Bible Study (11:00 AM)	30	1	2

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

<i>Birthdays:</i>		<i>Anniversaries:</i>	
Tom Fritschi	9/4	Allen & Ree Ann Wyly	9/6/69
Joseph Piazza	9/4	Tim & Angela Sullivan	9/11/04
Armin Filsinger	9/14		
Janice McDonald	9/16		
LeAnn Bettencourt	9/17		
Kathy Ames	9/25		
Bruce Ebbe	9/28		
Bob Ridgeway	9/29		

If you have an article you would like to include in the newsletter please send it to cornellkl@me.com.

And be sure to check out our website at www.oursaviourplacerville.org.

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TIME DATE MATERIAL. PLEASE EXPEDITE