

### **Love Your Church Day**



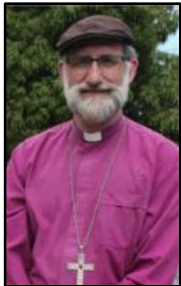
Our fall clean-up of the church buildings and grounds will be **Saturday, October 2**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The rain date will be Saturday, October 9. We will provide snacks, fresh fruit, coffee, cold beverages and bottled water. We have indoor and outdoor tasks for all levels of talent and skill. So, please join us and help us get ready for Bishop Mark's visit to our parish on Sunday, October 10. For more information, please contact our **Jr. Warden Leslie Farris**.

### **Annual Blessing of Animals**

We will once again celebrate the Feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals, with a blessing of our beloved animals. The blessing of animals will be on **Sunday, October 3** at 2 p.m. The rain date will be Monday, October 4 at 7 p.m.



### **Bishop Mark Van Koevering's Visit**



Be sure to mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 10** when Bishop Mark will be visiting with us. He has provided inspired and prophetic leadership in our diocese and has been a genuine blessing for all of us in our diocese. He always enjoys meeting and talking with parishioners in the fellowship after our worship service.

### **Diocese to hold 125th Convention on October 30, 2021**

The 125th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Lexington will take place Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Taylor Center at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Winchester (<https://www.eecwinchester.org>) Registration is now open. Information about the Convention and registration form are found at <https://diolink.org/diolex/index.php/125th-diocesan-convention/>.

### **Nominations Now Being Received for Diocesan Leadership Roles**

Are you called to serve as a leader in our diocese? Our diocesan nominating committee invites you to consider this question. We are seeking faithful leaders to help guide our

diocese as we follow God's call to "Be the Church and Be the Change." We seek nominees for the following officers:

**Standing Committee: 1 Clergy person (3-year term) and 1 Lay person (3-year term)**

Each Diocese of The Episcopal Church has a committee of lay and ordained members who serve as the Bishop's Council of Advice, and in the absence of a diocesan bishop, represent the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese. Pre-COVID, the Standing Committee typically met monthly, often on a weekday. Coming out of COVID, the schedule going forward is still under discussion. (Terms of office begin at the conclusion of the October 30 Diocesan Convention.)

**Executive Council: 2 Clergy persons (3-year term) and 4 Lay persons (3-year term)**

Each Diocese has a body of lay and clerical members who serve between annual diocesan conventions to oversee the mission and programs of the diocese. Pre-COVID, members typically attended 6 - 8 meetings per year, either on Saturdays or weeknights. Typically, there was an overnight retreat for all EC members within a few months of convention. During the pandemic, shorter, monthly meetings via Zoom were scheduled. Coming out of COVID, the schedule going forward is still under discussion. (Terms of office begin at the conclusion of the October 30 Diocesan Convention.)

**Sewanee Trustee: 1 Lay person (3-year term)**

Are you an alumnus of Sewanee? Maybe you have enjoyed Sewanee programs like Education for Ministry (EfM) or Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC). Or maybe you have an interest in higher education. As one of the owning dioceses of St. Luke's School of Theology at the University of the South, the Diocese of Lexington is privileged to elect members to the Board of Trustees for Sewanee. This year we will elect 1 lay trustee who will attend meetings, encourage the mission of the school, and participate in fundraising. (The term of office is July 2, 2022 – June 30, 2025.)

According to "The Rules of Order for the Conventions of the Diocese of Lexington," nominations received after September 30 would have to be presented from the floor of Convention on October 30.

**Our Voice in Washington  
(Part 2: Be informed – not disinformed)**

*Submitted by Jane Rainey*

In Part 1 I gave a brief overview of religious lobbying (aka advocacy) in Washington and in particular the presence of the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations (OGR <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/>). I concluded the article with the argument by some politicians that the religious offices exist "inside the beltway" in Washington, DC. and do not really represent "the people in the pews." The Episcopal Church has responded to that criticism by informing us folks back home about policies that the Church cares about and advocates for, and by encouraging us to get involved by contacting government officials to let them know our opinions. However, more recently the Church has recognized a prior need--to help parishioners to identify trustworthy news and information in the age of digital news and social media. Therefore, here in Part 2,

I will discuss what the OGR says about news we can trust. Later in Part 3 I will discuss how we can get involved in an *informed* way on topics our Church wants us to care about and act upon.

In spring of 2020, in response to “the prevalence of disinformation campaigns,” the Office of Government Relations posted a lengthy resource for parishioners entitled “Misinformation, Disinformation, Fake News: Why do we care?” It includes definitions, examples, a quiz to test your ability to spot fake news, and links to further analysis. Impetus for this was provided by a Resolution of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church in February 2020, relating specifically to disinformation in election campaigns.

According to the Director of the OGR, “This resource is designed not only to educate our audience about misinformation but also to offer concrete steps for individuals and organizations on how to identify and limit its spread... There are targeted disinformation campaigns designed to cause harm and to shut down important conversations about significant issues our society faces. We want our audience to have the knowledge and resources to recognize and respond to these damaging campaigns.” The site provides a link to an online First Draft News booklet, “Understanding Information Disorder” which in roughly 50 pages of text and examples covering degrees of disinformation ranging from satire and parody to 100% false fabrication. The OGR site itself also includes discussions of disinformation on specific topics including COVID-19, vaccines, climate change, and elections.



“Why is this the business of the Episcopal Church?”, you might ask. The OGR’s answer: “The Prayer Book also teaches that among our duties to our neighbors is “to be honest and fair in our dealings” and to “speak truth, and not mislead others by our silence.” (pg. 848) Let us therefore examine our own conduct to limit the spread of deceitful information and call upon our leaders to work towards the same.” Furthermore, the extent of disinformation today often impacts concerns of the Episcopal Church such as peace, social justice, and creation care. In Part 3 of this series, I will acquaint you with some of these topics, the Church’s position, and how you can become an advocate. Stay tuned...

Meanwhile, I urge my fellow parishioners, regardless of your ideological or political persuasion, to explore this wealth of information about *disinformation* provided by our Church’s Office of Government Relations. But if you don’t have time for that, the OGR offers three quick takeaways:

1. **“Where’s it from?** Look for the source and be careful of fake copycat websites.
2. **What’s missing?** Do the headline and article match? Are other news organizations talking about it?
3. **How do you feel?** If a headline or article sparks an intense emotion like fear, anger, or vindication, be watchful. That’s a common tactic from someone trying to manipulate you, not from someone trying to spread reputable news.”

Sources:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr/misinformation-disinformation-fake-news-why-do-we-care/>

[https://firstdraftnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Information\\_Disorder\\_Digital\\_AW.pdf?x80491](https://firstdraftnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Information_Disorder_Digital_AW.pdf?x80491)

[https://extranet.generalconvention.org/governing\\_and\\_interim\\_bodies/executive\\_council/resolution?id=150](https://extranet.generalconvention.org/governing_and_interim_bodies/executive_council/resolution?id=150)

## Birthdays and Celebrations



### Birthdays and Celebrations

Tom Bryan	October 2
Anna Gore	October 11
Ellen Suters	October 22
Jane Rainey	October 23
Angel Perriello	October 25
Carrie Kline	October 28

### Anniversaries

Jim and Leslie Farris	October 23
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### Parish Calendar

Sunday, September 26: Vestry meeting 12:45 PM

Wednesday, October 6: Monthly Holy Eucharist and Public Service of Healing

Sunday, October 10: Bishop Mark Van Kouvering Annual Visit to our Parish



*Thanks to all who contributed to this edition. If you would like to add a submission or an important date to share, please contact me. Linda Myers*