

Episcopal Church of Our Saviour
Newsletter No. 16 *Season after Pentecost Issue* May 27, 2021

Moving Forward Joyfully

Thank goodness we are now able to gather together for in-person worship, congregational singing and fellowship after our services. It's been a long time of patient waiting and it's so wonderful to be resuming many of the things that we've all missed. We're also conscience of the fact that our world has changed in big and small ways and will continue to change. We'll not be going back entirely to the way things were before the pandemic. Instead, we are entering in a new "normal" that is continuing to take shape as we move forward.

One of the blessings of the pandemic is that it required us to embrace digital technology sooner than we might have otherwise done. Many churches have been using digital technology to broadcast their worship services for years and they have grown substantially. We have an opportunity to embrace what is being called "hybrid ministry" in which we preserve the best of our traditional in-person worship and at the same time introduce new ways of sharing the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. There are so many exciting ways in which we can use new technology to reach more people and reach people, who we might not otherwise meet or be engaged with. In the last 18 months, we've enhanced our Web site, shared more information on our Facebook page, and established a church YouTube Channel. This has allowed more people to connect with us and learn about our wonderful ministry.

The Church has evolved and changed dramatically over more than 2,000 years. Holy Scripture has been shared on sheets of papyrus paper, ancient manuscripts were hand copied by monks in the Middle Ages, printed copies of the King James Version of the Holy Bible became available in the 1500s, radio and TV broadcasts of worship services were introduced, and now worship services can be viewed on Facebook and YouTube. What has not changed is our mission to share the Good News of the Gospel and our commitment to love God, one another, and our neighbor.

As we return to in-person worship and church meetings, it will be important that we consider two questions. **During the pandemic, what have you missed the most and why? What new things that have been introduced have you liked and why?** I encourage all of you to think about this and share your responses to these two important why questions? Your responses will guide us in deciding how best we can worship together, evangelize, nurture discipleship, share the Good News of the Gospel, and carry out the many wonderful ministries of our church.



Jesus said: "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved" (Matt. 9:16–17).

Image credit: www.jesusfilm.org/blog-and-stories/what-did-jesus-mean---putting-new-wine-new-wineskins.html

Let us join together as we discern how best to pour new wine into new

wineskins. Be safe, be blessed and know that you are loved by God. **Mother Carol+**

Many Hands Make Light Work

We are making significant progress in improving the grounds of our property and completing some necessary repairs of the Parish Mission House. We have new windows, gutters, and soffits. We're renovating the kitchen and bathroom and replacing some of the flooring. This is being done to allow us to host meetings and events to build our ministry in serving Madison County.

There are many small and big tasks that still need to be done. If you want to help, please contact our Jr. Warden Leslie Farris. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Mother Carol+

Assistance in the Parish Office

As we discern what our staffing requirements will be in this transition to some form of hybrid ministry, we need some assistance in our parish office. If you can volunteer a few hours to help in the office, it would be really appreciated. No special skills are needed. Thank you. **Mother Carol+**

Fellowship Time Is Back!

As we gradually return to a more normal Sunday morning, we have begun a modified version of our after-church fellowship time. Individuals, families, groups, and committees are encouraged to sign up to host fellowship time. There is a sign-up calendar on the table in the corner of the Narthex.

In addition to providing an incentive for folks to hang around and chat after the service, this a great opportunity for groups or committees to include publicity to let old-timers, along with visitors and newcomers, know what you are doing and/or to recruit others to join your activity. (Bring a poster or some handouts with contact information and information about that you are doing.)

If you sign up, plan to bring some type or types of snacks and juice or tea. *Snacks do not have to be homemade!*

Please label any item that contains peanuts or tree nuts and try to put it out of reach of small children who can't read. And please also provide an equally yummy nut-free alternative. You are NOT required to make coffee. There is a separate sign-up for coffee.

Temporary guidelines

Until further notice, we are required to provide snacks (such as granola bars or cookies) in wrapped format or in plastic bags (please recycle!) Drinks should be in disposable cups.

Please set up separate tables in the Narthex for snacks and drinks so as to help keep people spread out while indoors. Then people should be encouraged to move outside to socialize.

(Think about what works well in a plastic bag for ready eating —probably no chocolate icings (alas) or juicy fruity items—particularly if we are outside in the hot sun!)

UPDATES WILL BE PROVIDED WHEN THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE RELAXED! Submitted by **Jane Raine**

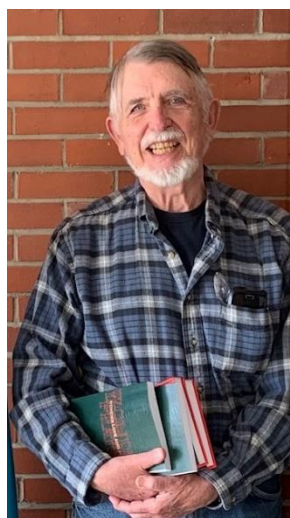
The Circuitous Journey of the Pinkerton Family

My family is sort of mongrel Christian. One of my mother's grandfathers was an ordained Methodist pastor. My mother was a Methodist until she met my father. She met him at a church dance. It was in an

Episcopal Church parish hall. My dad was not an Episcopalian at the time, but was just new in town from a distant state, a bachelor, alone and wanting some good enjoyable company. Evidently, my mom found him attractive, but found it difficult to explain to the Methodist hierarchy where she met him and, including everything else, what a good dancer he was.

My dad grew up in the Appalachian area of southeastern Ohio and staked his heritage with the Scotch-Irish, and, as such, was at least a nominal Presbyterian. He was studying to be a doctor at Ohio State University when the Depression hit. Instead, he had to find work. The Danforth's Purina Feed division gave him his first job, training him as a salesman, using a pamphlet authored by Danforth himself, "I Dare You!"

My parents were married in an Episcopal Church. My Mother felt it was in her character to be very active in that parish and every one of them thereafter. My dad was used to churches where the congregation was supposed to be passive with very little standing, kneeling, just sitting, with communion brought to the pews in trays. Later in life he recalled it was possible in his former church life he could fall asleep and wake up having not missed a thing, but then dress hats he owned went missing from coat rooms in Episcopal churches three times. It's a wonder he ever attended an Episcopal Church service except the rest of us were so intently involved.



That he became a confirmed faithful Episcopalian recognized nationally as an outstanding one is the result of something of a business deal. For those who understand this, it was the culmination of a whole lot of "prevenient grace" My mother had been an Episcopalian and married to him for over 30 years.

My dad belonged to a Kiwanis Club in the town where we attended the Episcopal Church when I was in grade and high school. It was small, but it suited the Rector well; he was an author of the history of various surrounding areas that incorporated their folktales, while at the same time covering all his pastoral and sacramental duties. He also wrote similar articles for a nearby Sunday newspaper. The Club had a vacancy in its membership for a minister. The president of the club asked my father to approach the Rector to be a club member.

My father gave the Rector the best sales pitch of his life up until that point. The Rector knew my father's business person's mind. He said to my father, "I'll become a Kiwanian, if you'll become an Episcopalian". That was the deal. Sometimes, that's all it takes. The rest is history.

P.S. My father went on to serve as a deputy to several diocesan conventions in two dioceses and as a deputy to several general conventions. He served on commissions on ministry in both dioceses. He enjoyed singing in parish choirs on Sundays, but stopped later in life to join my mother in a nave pew. His voice in the congregation would encourage the rest to join him with a bit more boldness.

My mother did not have a voice for singing but did have a voice in church work, serving on every altar guild, taught Sunday School, was active at every level with the Episcopal Churchwomen and would have served on a vestry had that been canonically possible at the time.

They gave very generously, personally and financially to a Church they had not been physically born into.

Unfortunately, their last parish before they died, to which they donated a parish hall and beautifully appointed altar area, failed to recruit enough members to maintain the church property and support a typical Episcopalian ministry.

An Evangelical ministry bought the property and the Episcopal diocese there sent the proceeds to Episcopal congregations elsewhere in that diocese that were intent and working on growing its membership.

In July I am going back there to retrieve and bring back here a plaque that had been erected in their honor for their financial charity in building the parish hall and appointing the Altar area. Had they been younger I'm sure they would have been active in recruiting members as well. It will serve to remind me, and anyone else who cares, how sad it is that some of our congregations find some reason not to grow its membership when polls do show that so few people in the USA are church members and that they would be if only seriously and personally invited to be a part of a church's congregation. Submitted by **Hank Pinkerton**

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



After a year of being masked and silenced, this is your chance to sing—unmasked—but only (for now) if you join the choir! We have not resumed weekly rehearsals yet but I let choir members know in advance what the music will be, and we meet on Sunday mornings before the service to go over it. You do not have to be able to read music! We work hard but we have fun and enjoy each other's fellowship. And we sing different types of joyful music!

But don't take my word for it. Go to Google and type "Why should I join my church choir?" and you'll find lots of reasons. Here is just one sample from Prospect Methodist Church in Harrington, Delaware:

20 Reasons to Join Your Church Choir!

1. Participate in a different type of worship
2. Praise God in a new and fun way
3. You don't have to know how to read music – I'm serious!
4. Learn something new – why wouldn't you want to?
5. There are techniques to help people sing on key, even if you think you can't!
6. Singing lowers your stress levels (!!!)
7. Singing is a natural anti-depressant
8. Singing easily increases your oxygen intake and improves circulation
9. Singing improves your posture
10. Singing improves mental-alertness
11. Choir is a confidence booster
12. Singing strengthens your throat muscles which can reduce snoring (you know who you are)
13. Improve your ability to communicate
14. Connect with other church members (AND get to know your friendly neighborhood musician)
15. Singing increases your appreciation of music
16. You will learn more about hymns which are the foundation of all Christian worship music
17. Represent your church and proclaim your faith!
18. Read the Bible through music
19. More people equal a stronger choir which broadens our song choices
20. Help make our Sunday mornings joyful!



<https://prospectumcde.org/2018/05/22/20-reasons-to-join-your-church-choir/>

Are you convinced? Give us a try and if you decide it's not for you, we will let you return to the congregation with our blessing! Submitted by **Jane Rainey**, organist and choir director

Birthdays and Celebrations!

Angie Rice	May 29 th
Elizabeth Woodruff-Tait	May 31 st
Sharon Arthur	June 6 th
Emily Anderson	June 7 th
Sally Evans	June 10 th
James Anderson	June 11 th



Anniversaries

Bob and Leslie Berger	May 23 rd
Dan and Sally Evans	May 28 th
David and Michele Gore	May 30 th

If you would like to add any additional celebratory information for all to share, please contact **Linda Myers**.

Let's Keep Krogering

We have 21 households in our parish participating in the Kroger Rewards Program. From November 29, 2000 to February 27, 2021 our church received \$74.76 in donations from Kroger. It does not cost you anything to participate and there are no strings attached. You simply need to sign up online using our church account number (**VP655** - Episcopal Church of Our Savior-Richmond) to join the Kroger Rewards program (<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>). Or you can ask someone at the service desk to help you. Anytime you buy anything at Kroger, including prescriptions and gas, Kroger donates a percentage of what you spend to our church. It's that easy to help our church!



Mark Your Calendar



May 28 to June 4: Mother Carol and Alan on vacation

May 30: Guest Preacher, The Rev. Mary Kilbourn-Huey (Bob Kilbourn's sister)

June 20: Father's Day

October 10: Bishop Mark's Annual Visit to our parish

Ancient Joke of the Week

A mother went to wake up her son for church one Sunday morning. When she knocked on the door he said "I'm not going!" "Why not?" asked his mother. "I'll give you two reasons. One, they don't like me. Two, I don't like them." His mother replied, "I'll give your two reasons that YOU WILL GO TO CHURCH! One, you are 47 years old. Two, you are the Pastor!"

An Atheist scientist came to God and said: "We've figured out a way to make a man without you!" God said, "Ok, let me see you do it!" So, the scientist bent down to the ground and scooped up a handful of dirt. But God stopped him and said, "Oh, no you don't! Get your own dirt!"

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the Newsletter. We welcome submissions from everyone!