



Cross Current

October—November 2019



Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV

Christ Episcopal Church

35350 E. Division Road, St. Helens, OR 97051
(503) 397-1033

find us on



A FIRM FOUNDATION



Jesus said, “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.” Mt.7:24-25

As a member of the Stewardship Committee this year, I’ve been invited to share some thoughts about giving and the ways we think about money in preparation for our annual pledge drive.

I have heard plenty of discussion about money (and the giving of it) in my years of attending various churches, as I’m sure each of you have. It’s one of those topics the authors of the Bible did not shy away from. There are over 800 verses in the Bible where money, wealth, or possessions are discussed. (As a comparison, love is referenced in roughly 600 verses.) Christ himself mentions these topics in 16 of his recorded parables – an indication that issues surrounding money are of great importance to Him. Why does money receive so much attention in Scripture? I believe it is likely because money is frequently tied to attitudes of the heart. I hope you will continue reading and explore this concept with me.

For some, possessions can be an issue of great personal pride:

Look at all I have made.

Look at how much money I give to the church and other charities.

Look at my house.

For some, money is a perceived path to greater closeness to God:

If you give to this preacher, you will be blessed.

If you give to this church or this other church, your child will be healed.

If you give, God will reward you with even more riches.
I give 10%, therefore God is pleased with me.

For others, wealth is a source of comfort:

My 401k is well funded, so I sleep well at night.
I have so much money in my checking account, so I feel
comfortable interacting with my peers.
I have no needs and can provide for myself.

Unfortunately, for others their lack of material wealth may be a source of embarrassment:

If only I made as much money as my friends, then I would be
comfortable talking with them.
I am so stupid for not buying those stocks of Apple.
If only I was smarter I would not be in this position.

I can read through this list and find several statements that cut a little closer than I'd like to admit. But even if we are not consciously thinking these things on a regular basis, they can reside in the backs of our minds. Something we were told as a child. Possibly a belief we have developed over time. Potentially a coping mechanism we use for our current state of affairs. It is also possible we have adopted some bad spiritual teaching concerning these issues.

I encourage each of us to consider whether we are holding on to any of these fallacies, and if we are, to ask ourselves what these beliefs reveal about our hearts, and our dependence on and trust in God. All of Christ's teachings were given in order to teach us how to love him with our entire heart, mind, and soul (Matthew 22:37). If we only sleep well at night because of the size of our bank account, it may be possible that our trust is not in Christ alone. If we are gripped by continual fear because of our lack of wealth, this too, may be an area we can learn to lean more on Christ.

To be clear, I am NOT trying to make a case that we should blindly disregard saving, budgeting, and financial planning. I am simply asking that as we consider the pledges of our treasures for the upcoming year, we take some time to examine our own hearts on these issues.

A Firm Foundation *continued*

As the time comes again for us to make our pledge to participate financially in the work of this church, I ask you to consider the words of Paul, in 2 Corinthians 8:1-3,7. He recognized the challenges we face in regards to giving and encouraged us that we are not alone in the struggle. God, he tells us, gives first, and pours out his grace so we might be able to be rich in generosity.

And now, brother, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. But just as you excel in everything- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

May each of us experience the riches of God's grace in this coming season.

*Mark Peckover
September 2019*



Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

Book of Common Prayer, page 836

College of Congregational Development

Mother Jaime started me down this path. She announced that it was possible for Christ Church members to attend the College of Congregational Development. From my teacher training I was interested in group dynamics and I understood that the same issues that challenge a congregation apply to my two riding clubs: declining membership, lack of participation, physical distance between members. So I committed to attend. Christ Church secured a grant from the Episcopal Bishop of Oregon Foundation which paid my tuition.

The College for Congregational Development curriculum was developed in the Diocese of Olympia in Washington. The College is now in its 11th year of offering a two year course in a week long intensive or classes over several weekends. They know what they are doing! The trainers are knowledgeable, dynamic and funny.

The classes are held at the Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way, Washington on property that was once a nunnery sitting on the edge of the Hood Canal. The participants, a mixture of clergy, lay leader, and professional church staff from all over the country, meet in large group “plenary” sessions and in small groups. Morning Prayer and Compline are read each day. The experience of reading Morning Prayer, a very old service, with 90 participants was so different from other worship experiences I have had.

In the large group they taught us ways of looking at how people worship and work together. Here at Christ Church we have some of the models such as “Gather, Transform, Send”. In the small groups participants shared their own congregations and we all applied the model and everyone got to practice being a facilitator of the discussion. The group gave feedback to the facilitator to hone their skill and awareness.

Second year students reviewed the models along with the first year students AND they had an examination on all the material AND they had a reading list to complete for their graduation.

Actually I am still working on the reading list and am finding the books by Paul Steinke absolutely fascinating, for my own wisdom, and for my understanding of interaction in my groups.

I hope knowing about the College of Congregational Development will open a door so more members of our congregation will want to go. Registration is open for 2020 at www.cdcolllege.org. There is money from the grant to pay for tuition.

God only knows where this path will lead.

Susan Wellington



...From the Treasurer

Financial Facts—August 2019

	August Actual	2019 YTD Actual	2019 YTD Budget
Income			
Contributions	\$4,201.00	\$53,564.52	\$51,306.66
Other Income	\$77.90	\$1,406.09	\$1,466.67
Total Income	\$4,278.90	\$54,970.61	\$52,773.33
Expenses	\$7,681.01	\$50,558.36	\$59,061.99
Net (Deficit)	(\$3,042.11)	\$4,412.25	(\$6,288.66)

Blessing of the Animals

On October 4, the Episcopal Church commemorates Francis of Assisi. In a first for Christ Church St. Helens, we are going to mark this commemoration by extending our worship to the non-human animals with which we share this “one fragile earth, our island home.”

If you want to share in this worship experience, please come to the church parking lot on **Saturday, October 5, at 2 pm.**

Bring any of your pets or companion animals who are okay with travelling! Dogs should be on leashes, horses and similar animals should be on a lead, snakes and spiders should be in a good secure cage. They will receive a blessing, and, if they are a species that we anticipate, a treat! We will also say a blessing for the wild creatures like deer and birds with which we share our land.



Parish Health Ministry Activities

Some people dream of Jeannie, at Christ Episcopal we dream of zucchini. We had a zucchini feast! Recipes are available upon request. Our cool summer lunch turned out to be held on a very cool summer's day when soup would have been a fine choice, but with our cool summer, it was probably predictable.

The November class on CBD oil and medical marijuana will focus on the usefulness of these products for pain, especially back pain. I plan to do some in-depth research of CBD and medical marijuana products that claim to be effective and see what the evidence has to tell us. The class will be held Saturday November 16 from 1:00pm—2:30 pm in the parish hall.

Following this class, I will hold another on prescription medications and their interaction with over-the-counter medicines and herbals. In the meantime, if you are taking a prescription medication and you want to know if it is safe to take something that is in your local store, feel free to ask! You might be surprised by the answer.

Come join any of the classes whenever the spirits moves you to do so. It's always a good time.

Carol Craig

Church Picnic and Cider Pressing Party

On Sunday September 8 after the service, the congregation gathered in the parish hall for the annual church picnic and cider pressing party. The BAC provided hamburgers and hot dogs grilled on the BBQ and everyone else brought salads and desserts. Steve Sanders set up the cider press on the front porch since there was a threat of rain. It was a wonderful way to visit with everyone.



Habitat for Humanity



Pastors : Jared Maddox, David Hutchinson, Jaimie Sanders, Justin Bruner, Randy Sinn

Columbia County Habitat for Humanity has always had the support of Christian volunteers motivated by their faith. For the first time ever, a group of area churches have stepped forward in faith to sponsor our next project. Pastor Justin Bruner from Christian Church in St. Helens explained, “As Christians, one of our central callings is to love the people around us. This partnership between Habitat for Humanity and these churches in St. Helens is a real-life expression of that love and our Christian mission.” Special thanks to First United Methodist Church, Christ Episcopal Church, First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Plymouth Presbyterian Church and Christian Church of St Helens for their commitment to helping families attain affordable home ownership. These churches have committed to raising money to help fund the project, provide volunteers and lunches several times a month. Saturday, October 12th, 4:30-6:30 First Lutheran in St. Helens will host the group’s Chili Cook-off fundraiser. Bring your appetite and help support affordable housing.

*Excerpt from
Columbia County Habitat for Humanity Newsletter
Summer 2019*

Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

“With a little help from my friends”

If you are my generation, you probably recognize this as a line from a Beatles song. “I get by with a little help from my friends . . . gonna try with a little help from my friends.”

The Habitat Faith Build project is a beautiful example of the wisdom in these simplistic lyrics. When the BAC first considered making a commitment to build a house with Habitat for Humanity, we were overwhelmed with the size of the project. The congregation’s conversation included a lot along the lines of, “we are old.” “We are not rich.”

Now take a look at where we are in fundraising, after only a few months! We just sent to Habitat a check for \$1,880!



Together, when we are working in faith and hope with the Holy Spirit, we can do more than we think.

Vicar Jaime

5-Church Chili Cook-Off

Watch for this ad in The Chronicle Halloweentown supplement:

5-Church Chili Cook-Off

Saturday October 12 4:30-6:30 pm

First Lutheran Church 360 Wyeth St.

(6 blocks from Courthouse; parking)

Chili, Cornbread, Cookies

Vegetarian & GF Options

\$4 child; \$8 adult

Wear a costume & get candy!



Thank you to the 16+ people at Christ Church and all the volunteers from the four other churches who are baking cookies, making chili, finding costumes, planning to show up to clean up, helping publicize this, and otherwise pulling this off!

If you volunteered, and haven't yet received an assignment, please check with Vicar Jaime.



Meet Vivian Heitzman



Although Vivian was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, her childhood was filled with many moves as her father was in the Air Force. Her mother was a homemaker and she has an older brother. After many stops, including Japan and Germany, the family settled in Camden, Delaware, where Vivian graduated from high school. Then the family moved back to the gulf coast of Mississippi, where she attended Perkinston Gulf Coast Community College and earned an Associate Degree in Science. From there, she went on to Oxford, MS and the University of Mississippi where she received her BS Degree. She married in 1965 and while her husband did his residency, Vivian worked as a lab technician in the neurology department of the U of Mississippi (Jackson) medical center.

Following a divorce, Vivian moved to Pascagoula, MS where she worked in the naval shipyards as a junior draftsman, logistic analyst and finally as an engineering technical librarian which entailed a secret clearance. In 1986, she moved to Colorado and worked part-time and raised her three children: Brandy, Hunter and Lauren.

Then Mississippi beckoned again and she worked for the Gulf Coast Marine Laboratory which was part of the Univ. of Southern Mississippi and earned her certification to be a Histo-technologist and was part of a five year study for cancer with the NIH.

Golden, Colorado was her next stop and she became a screener for private companies at the airport in Denver. After September 11, 2001, she worked for TSA for ten years. After retiring from the TSA, she moved to Portland where daughter Lauren lives. She has lived in St. Helens for almost three years.

While Vivian is an Episcopalian, and had not been involved with the church for some time, she ventured out one Christmas Eve to attend our service. She reports that she was welcomed warmly and felt at

home here. She decided to get involved with church activities and did she ever! She participates in the Tuesday morning class, helps with the Arts and Crafts Faire, is on the Altar Guild, and is often found working in the kitchen.

We are glad that she has found a home with us and hope she will be with us for many years to come.

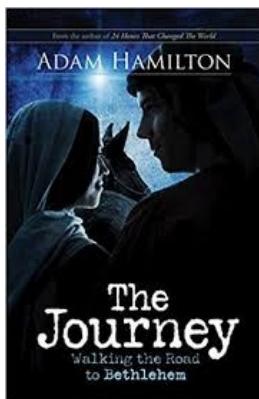
Kathy King



Tuesday Morning Religious Study Class

We had a change in our schedule as to what we were going to start as our study this fall. I am hoping that we can see the movie “The Shoes of the Fisherman” as part of our Lenten study this year when Joan Heidi is feeling better.

So, we started this year with a study that would be good for advent called “The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem”, by Adam Hamilton. It is about Mary and Joseph and the events that lead to the birth of Jesus. It is five lessons that shows areas of the Holy Land today.



While we are studying “The Journey” we are checking into a lot of different resources to find an Advent study and a study for the rest of the year.

Kathryn Brittain

UTO Fall Ingathering



The ingathering at Christ Episcopal Church will be All Saints Day, November 3rd. It is the first of two ingatherings in this church year. The next ingathering will be in early spring.

At this time of year starting September 10, the UTO organization is now encouraging

churches and providences to come up with a new ministry for a grant. The focus for the 2020 grants is *Bless: share faith, practice generosity and compassion, and proclaim the good news of God in Christ with hope and humility*. Our involvement with other churches in the habitat house is a good example.

Churches and providences are encouraged to come up with projects and write a grant. Information and forms are available online through UTO. To help with the writing of these grants UTO provides informational webinars that are offered online on two dates. October 15 and January 14 are the dates for this year. The deadline for a grant application is March 6. Grant applications must represent startup cost of a new ministry and seed money to start for positions. The United thank offering will not fund the continuation of ongoing ministries. Once the grant is written it is submitted to that diocese that the church belongs to. Each diocese can submit one grant to the UTO organization. There is a committee in our diocese that include laymen as well as church clergy who decide on what grant will be sent from our diocese. After the spring ingathering, when it is known how much our donations add up to a committee chosen by the UTO will study investigate and decide who gets the grants. This committee also includes laymen and clergy. Also, there are UTO Young Adult Seminarian grants that individuals can write grants to receive.

In past articles I have given you only a few examples of some of the grants that were given out. There are a lot more grants that fill a booklet and would be too much to put in to our newsletter.

I'd like having the UTO box as a reminder of my blessings and to give thanks for them. Some years have been difficult and stressful, and in those times is hard to remember that I am so fortunate. The blue box helps me keep my perspective. And with all the trouble in the world it's nice to know that that little bit of extra change added to others donations ends up doing something really good to help those less fortunate in the name of the Episcopal Church and that is the good news of God in Christ.

Kathryn Brittain

Community Meals Pantry Shower

Kathy Bauska from Community Meals asked me to say to the Christ Church congregation " Merci Merci" for the 13 quarts of olive oil that we gave to community meals in August. The day I delivered it they were down to just a few drops. The cooks for very happy that they had olive oil.

As of September 19th, we have a little over 15 quarts of Bar-B-Q Sauce for our gift in September. Community Meals is serving a pulled pork meal on October 29th. Kathy said all are welcome and serving starts at 5:30 PM. Community Meals is at the First Lutheran Church on Wyeth in St. Helens.

For our gift in October Kathy has requested canned fruit. Any fruit any size can will be welcomed and appreciated. And for November the request is for bottled Ranch Dressing. As someone who cooked there for eight years, I can tell you that Ranch Dressing is a favorite.

Kathryn Brittain



Item for October: Canned Fruit



Item for November: Bottled Ranch Dressing

47th Annual Arts & Crafts Faire

The 47th Annual Arts & Crafts Faire will be held November 8 and 9 this year. The theme this year is ***“Make the Holiday Magical.”***

The wonderful Pie Quilt banner that was made will be displayed in the Narthex. Thank you to June Dodson for making many of the squares. Vicar Jaime's daughter Carolyn Brooks sewed the first square and assembled and quilted the banner. The hope is that people will associate it with our Arts & Crafts Faire each year.



Look for sign-ups to help out with manning the Bake Sale Table, Kitchen, Children's Activity Table, set-up and take down. If you are able, please put your apron on and make something yummy to sell at the Bake Table. There are small boxes available for your baked goods if you are interested.

Abby Burgbacher is again running the kitchen this year. She did a wonderful job of taking over the kitchen last year. She will need kitchen help as well as people baking pies, soups and chili for sale. Due to kitchen food safety requirements, if you are going to provide soup or chili, you will need to make it in our kitchen. Contact Abby about availability of the kitchen before the Faire. In addition, cream pies or custard pies are not allowed to be baked at home due to kitchen food safety reasons. Other types of pies are ok to bake at home.

The BAC voted to direct half of the Outreach part of the money from the Faire to the Habitat project. Let's make this year successful!

Come join us at the 47th Annual

Arts & Crafts Faire

Make the Holiday Magical

Friday November 8th
Saturday November 9th
9 am to 4 pm

At
Christ Episcopal Church
35350 E. Division Road (off Hwy 30)
St. Helens

Featuring unique
handcrafted items!



- * Jewelry
- * Greeting cards & paper creations
- * Raffle Basket
- * Quilted, embroidered and hand sewn items
- * Woodwork
- * Free Children's Activity
- * Handmade soaps
- * Fancy Scarves
- * And more!
- * Pottery
- * Artwork and carvings

Enjoy a bowl of soup or chili and browse the bake table while you shop: cookies, pies, breads and more!

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to a local Habitat for Humanity Build



give thanks



Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday November 24

6:00 pm

Plymouth Presbyterian Church
2615 Sykes Rd, St. Helens

Children's Activity Table at the Arts & Crafts Faire Needs Rocks



You may have heard about “Love Rocks”, where you paint designs on rocks and leave them around the community for other to find. This year, at the Arts & Crafts Faire, children or anyone can stop by and paint a rock to take home or leave around in the community. For any rocks that are left over, we will leave them around the outside of the church for others to find.

I am collecting small flat rocks that we can paint. If you have any available and would like to part with them, please let me know.

If you are interested in manning the Activity Table at the Arts & Crafts Faire, please sign up for a shift! Thank you!

Karen Van Winkle

Prayers of the People

Who writes the Prayers of the People that we use in the Sunday Eucharist service? Sometimes we use the forms provided in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Sometimes Vicar Jaime borrows from another prayer book, such as the New Zealand Prayer Book. Sometimes she writes prayers, using the list of general intercessory categories on page 383 of the BCP.

For our Christmas services this year, Vicar Jaime hopes that the Prayers of the People will be written by YOU. In Advent Adult Education classes on December 1 and 15, we will examine the forms of prayers of the people, share prayer concerns, and draft prayers that reflect the faith and concerns of this community of believers.

Bishop Hanley to Visit Christ Church



**Bishop Michael Hanley
Visitation**

Sunday, January 19, 2020

Bishop Michael is retiring in 2020. I am grateful that he will be visiting St. Helens once more before he turns over the responsibility to the new Bishop of Oregon we will elect this spring. If you are considering being received or confirmed in The Episcopal Church, please let me know.

Vicar Jaime

Garden News



The garden is almost through for the year. The total amount produced was only 453 lbs, mostly tomatoes as the squash all were infected with powdery mildew.

I have decided this will be my last year to be in charge of the garden. If anyone wants to take over the job I would continue to work in the garden.

Norman Keck

Prayer Requests

Send requests to Kathryn Brittain by email at kjbritt44@gmail.com or phone 503-543-6870 or cell phone 503-438-5908.

Mother Jaime Office Hours

- Wednesdays 2—5 pm
- Thursdays 9—11 am

For an appointment contact Mother Jaime at priest@christchurchsthelens.org. To arrange a home visit, please Call Joan Heide at 503-970-7078 or send her an email at jmheide@comcast.net

FYI

Our Website is: www.christchurchsthelens.org

Email: Office@christchurchsthelens.org

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Search Facebook: Christ Episcopal Church

To receive the Cross Current via email rather than printed or “snail mail” email crosscurrent@ChristChurchStHelens.org to be put on the list.



Other Important Dates

Tuesday Religious Study Class - The class resumes Tuesday September 10 from 10:00—11:30 am in the parish hall.

All Ages Sunday Service—Fourth Sunday of the Month—Bring your children/grandchildren/nieces/nephews/neighbors!

- **October 27 ● November 24**



Parish Health Ministries Cooking Club— Third Wednesday of the month 11:00 am—12:30 pm in the parish hall.

Parish Health Ministries Class on CBD and Medical Marijuana—November 16 1:00pm—2:30 pm in the parish hall.

St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals—Saturday October 5, 2 pm

5-Church Chili Cook-Off—Saturday October 12, 4:30 – 6:30 pm at First Lutheran Church, St. Helens.

Diocesan Convention—October 24-26 at the Salem Convention Center

Vicar Jaime on Vacation—October 25-November 13. Mother Anne Moore supply priest.

All Saints Day and UTO Ingathering—November 3

Stewardship—Pledges Gathered November 17; Dedication and celebratory Potluck November 24

Community Thanksgiving Service—November 24, 6:00 pm at Plymouth Presbyterian Church.

Advent Adult Education—December 1 and 15 after coffee hour

Bishop Hanley Visitation—January 19, 2020



Christ Episcopal Church
PO Box 478
St. Helens, OR 97051

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



welcomes you