



October 2020

# The Harvest

## Our Fellow Creatures Great and Small

We encounter them every day and hardly give them a thought – those marvelous beings that share the planet with us. We see them in the trees, on the side of the road, peeking out from behind rocks, grazing in fields, and scurrying across our garage. Some of them have even moved into our homes and made themselves comfortable on our beds. They endear themselves to us and with them we share an unspoken bond of loyalty. When they die they leave huge holes in the fabric of our lives. In our house there is a plaque in the sun room which contains the line, *“If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die, I want to go where they went.”* The line is attributed to Will Rogers but it is one with which almost any child of the earth can identify. But that having been said, we might ask: What is their purpose?

I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that animals are yet another reminder of God's all-encompassing love for us. In the Book of Genesis we read the story of Creation and the vast variety of animals that God created as a sign of his love: “God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would name them (Gen 2:19a).” This would seem to imply there is the intent in the divine will that there be a relationship between animals and humans. Later Noah is instructed to take seven pairs of all animals on to the ark ‘to keep their kind alive on the face of the earth’ (Gen 7:2-3).

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## To Connect to Christ Church via Zoom

<https://christlockport.info/>

Compline – Thursday 7:00 pm  
Zoom Coffee Hour – Sunday 12:30  
Donate with PayPal

## Roof Repairs



The Vestry called Church Insurance for help with our leaking roof. They found that some of the shingles along the ridge were raised on the east side of the church which is how rain and snow were getting in. We have a \$1,000 deductible policy, but Church Insurance is paying almost \$32,000. Church Insurance offers a service where they find a local specialist to manage the project, and as a result they were able to quickly repair the roof while the weather was good. In addition to repairing the roof, the carpet is getting a thorough cleaning to remove all the water stains.

As a side benefit, we found yellow jackets in both peaks on the roof, so we called an exterminator. While he was here, he treated the carpenter ants that had just moved into the wood around the fireplace. Fortunately, he doesn't think they have done much damage yet, and they should not be an issue at least for the winter. In the spring we need to do some repairs to keep them out.

But for many the question remains will they be in heaven? In Second Corinthians Paul suggests that the saving and reconciling power of Christ's love affects not only human beings, but all creation (II Cor. 5:17-19). Maybe will Rogers can go to heaven after-all.

Whether our creature friends go to heaven is not the issue. The real issue is how we treat God's Creation here and now. And so, **we will gather with our animal 'friends' on October 4<sup>th</sup> after the 9:00 am Eucharist to thank God for them and to ask God to bless them and keep them safe, and to ask God to give us the grace to appreciate the loving gift of his Creation. (Blessings will take place in front of the church, if weather permits; in the garage if it is raining.)**

Blessings,  
*Fr. Thomas*

PS Given the very difficult times in which we find ourselves, I invite you to consider donating to our outreach effort on Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. We will be accepting food donations for humans and their pets. You may drop off your donations near the front of the church. Thank you in advance for your generosity. God bless.

## Stewardship in this Virtual World

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. – 1 Peter 4:10*

This has been a challenging year in so many ways for Christ Church – we're not together for worship and fellowship, we can't do our normal outreach to those in need, we're not there in person for each other, the daily challenges of pastoral care, offering worship, and managing the church affairs are all new and different. Your Vestry meets every two weeks via Zoom to determine what is best for Christ Church in this constantly changing world of COVID – it's not easy.

Even stewardship is a challenge this year – we can't gather to discuss our many blessings and the hopes we have for Christ Church in 2021 or what outreach project we would like to do to help address a need. As a result, this year we need to individually count our many blessing (even if it is hard right now) – there are many: we haven't lost anyone in our Christ Church family to COVID, we've reached out to our Christ Church friends and they're there for us. We've learned how important our friends are even though we are apart. The last few weeks it has been wonderful to worship together in the parking lot and see some of our Church Family, but we don't know how long we'll be able to gather as winter approaches.

Managing the finances for Christ Church has been a challenge. Income is down this year and that is a problem. The Vestry decided against the CARES Act loans (how would we ever recover from COVID with that kind of a financial burden?) and to apply for an Employee Retention Credit for the second quarter which

would have been almost \$7,000 – it was rejected although we met all the criteria. We'll try again for the third quarter and hopefully we will get it this time. Many of our operating costs have been quite low the last few months because we didn't have heat, electrical use was very low with no one in the building (no A/C's, lights, printers, etc.), we turned off the internet and phone temporarily, and no one used the copier. All that is about to change as we need to start the heating system. The rest of the year will be challenging.

We are together in this – we have our Christ Church family. As we start our Stewardship campaign and we plan for 2021, we need your support. Please consider prayerfully what you can do. Some people are financially impacted by COVID, others have not seen much change in their financial situation. Your pledge should never mean you can't meet the needs of your family. Giving is a prayerful practice, it is about your relationship with God. Please prayerfully consider your pledge so that together we may serve one another and those in need with the gifts we have received.

## Episcopal Relief & Development Wildfires & Hurricanes

Once again we find our country and others around the world being pummeled with natural disasters. As I write this, much of the Western United States is in flames from wildfires and much of the Southern United States is under several feet of water as a result of hurricanes. In both areas people have lost their homes, schools, churches, businesses and so much more.

I have no doubt that many organizations are soliciting each of us for donations. I am passing along the below information for ERD with the recognition that our households may be struggling with the economic effects of the Pandemic. However, if you are in a situation where you are able to assist ERD and your heart is drawn to do so, please check out the ERD website at [www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org). ERD has a dedicated fund for Disaster Relief in the United States. Once on the website, click "Donate Now" and then scroll down to "US Disaster Response". There is also an option for "Hurricane Relief".

May we keep our brothers and sisters around the world in our prayers.

Thank you,  
Robin Kozlowski  
ERD Parish Coordinator

**"...this fragile earth, our island home."**

*Eucharistic Prayer C*

We are in the "Season of Creation", which culminates with the Feast of St. Francis on October 4<sup>th</sup>. We associate St. Francis with care and concern for Creation, especially with animals. Francis of Assisi didn't always care about



## Birthdays

- 3 Beth LaForme
- 6 John Scott
- 11 Marcia DiSanti
- 17 Samantha Rucci
- 22 Patti Dickinson
- 23 Joe LaForme
- 24 Paula Shears
- 30 Cullen Reynolds

## Anniversaries

- 6 Bill & Joan Bohneberg  
John & Cheryl Urtel
- 8 Richard & Joanna  
Southard
- 10 Shannon Perry &  
Christine Lukas
- 14 Brian & Laurie  
Monaco
- 21 Al Leach & Joanne  
Staton
- 22 Bill & Deacon Martha  
Farone

## Helping Our Neighbors

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Collection

**Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 11 – 1:00**  
**Bell tower Driveway**

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, our Outreach Committee will be collecting non-perishable food and personal care items for the Lockport Blessing Boxes. The items we collected each year for our Christmas Outreach are appropriate as well as snacks, drinks and baby food. Some of the people who use the Blessing boxes have no place to cook, so ready to eat items are good.

### Warm-Up for Winter

**Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> 11 – 1:00**  
**Bell Tower Driveway**

Many of our neighbors of all ages are not prepared for winter. Normally when we do our Christmas Outreach, we have warm clothing available. With no Christmas Outreach this year, we can't do that, so we are working with other organizations to help our neighbors keep warm. Our Outreach Committee is collecting handmade or purchased hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, socks, boots, blankets, warm work cloths for men and women, and warm children's clothing. *Everything must be new.* If you have questions or are unable to drop your items off, please call Theresa McCabe at (716) 523-4996.

*All Donations Must be in by 10/31.*

Creation. It took a conversion, a change of heart, a change of lifestyle and priorities, and a major "aha" moment to bring Francis around to recognizing his (and our) promises in the Covenant God made with *all living things*. Francis turned his back on the trappings of wealth and excess and began living his life with "enough".

How about us? Do we realize how fragile the earth is with raging wildfires, monster storms due to the warm ocean waters, landslides, pestilence and so much more around the world? Do we realize the suffering, especially of the neediest who tend to live in the most vulnerable areas?

There is an interconnectedness between Creation and the breakdown of resources due to climate change that most often affects the world's poorest. The Hebrew Bible informs us of God's Covenant with Creation and our responsibility to care for the needy. The New Testament, especially the Gospels, informs us of our responsibilities to care for one another and especially the neediest among us. Our Baptismal Promises include:

"Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"  
"Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?"  
\*\*Will we honestly respond to these questions with "I will, with God's help."?\*

Will we – each and every one of us – open our hearts and allow conversion to happen, as Francis did?  
Will we – each and every one of us – commit to live with "enough", thereby reducing our use of precious resources, our carbon footprint, and our wastefulness?

Our earth is fragile and our "island home" has no bridge to evacuate humanity. Will we join in the conversion of humanity to become the bridge that leads the earth – God's Creation – back to good health? We know what we need to do. We've all heard the message many times. We really can't wait any longer to change our ways. Our earth is hurting. People are suffering and dying. With God's help, let us convert, be satisfied with and grateful for "enough", and *take care of all of Creation.*

Robin Kozlowski  
Aspirant for Ordination to the Diaconate

### Virtual Stewardship 2020

**October 11 – November 15**

Our Stewardship program is going virtual like everything in this COVID pandemic. Stewardship letters and pledge cards will be mailed, there will be a stewardship page on the website, and the traditional stewardship insert will be available each week in the Sunday email. Please return your pledge card by November 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!



## Garden Update – Thanks Kathy!

Look at our lovely updated Children’s Garden. Kathy Kelly (Sue Lerch’s daughter) of Precision Landscaping volunteered time and materials to make a lovely new garden near the ramp to the cloister. Thank you, Kathy, for your generous gift.



## Vacuum Cleaner – Thanks

Our disappearing vacuum cleaner mystery is still unsolved. Whoever took the new one that Mary Hunt purchased a couple years ago has not returned it. However, an anonymous gift of a new light weight vacuum was made so we will be able to keep the church clean. Thanks also to those who offered their vacuums – very thoughtful of you.

## Brookside

The Diocese finished taking inventory at Brookside and put the property on the market. At the same time, the Diocese said that they would be happy to keep the church if a local church would like to manage it. On September 28<sup>th</sup>, our Vestry voted to take on management of the church.

We need a property manager for the building. The neighbor mows the lawn, but additional weeding, trimming, and general care is needed. We also will need to clean thoroughly in the spring – it was last used in the summer of 2019. The church now has a kitchen, indoor bathroom, a new roof, and running water – all were done in the last few years. If you would like to be the property manager, please contact Christ Church at (716) 433-9229 or [office@ChrisLockport.info](mailto:office@ChrisLockport.info).

We feel very fortunate that Brookside will remain an Episcopal presence in the community, and we hope to have services there again next summer, COVID permitting.

## Reopening Plans

Before we get back to church, we are taking this time when the building is empty to do some much-needed maintenance.

- The church roof has been repaired.
- We will be rehangng the lanterns in the church – they are a safety issue. At the same time we will rewire them to current standards.
- Repairs are needed to put the boilers in good operating condition, and they will be done as soon as the parts are available.
- The floors in the parish hall, kitchen, coat room, choir robe room, and back stars will be stripped and sealed.
- The carpets in the downstairs hall and nursery will be cleaned.
- Everything in the Nursery will be cleaned and made ready for our youngest members.
- Choir robes have been washed and stored in garment bags.
- The tables and chairs in the parish hall have been put away – we won’t be having coffee hour, and we need the space to socially distance when we meet there.
- Debbie, Cindy and Bob have already sorted all the outreach items (hats, book sale, Paul’s Place, etc.), stored those they wish to keep, and donated the remainder of the items.
- The hydraulic cable in the elevator will be replaced shortly.
- The front wall (outside the red doors) is disintegrating. The Vestry is working on a solution.



### Christ Episcopal Church

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<https://www.christlockport.org/>

[www.facebook.com/CECLockportNY](https://www.facebook.com/CECLockportNY)

## Pet Blessing

St. Francis Day is the traditional day for blessing our pets. This year as our pets help us weather the pandemic and isolation it seems especially important to thank and bless them.

Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of St. Francis  
10:00 am – 11:00 am.

All pets must be on leashes or in carriers for their safety.

Weather permitting, we will be in front of the church.

If it is raining, we will be in the garage.



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