



February 2021

# The Harvest

## Moving on Up to the Big Time

There were two sitcoms back in the mid-seventies that I detested – at least in the beginning: *All in the Family* and *The Jeffersons*. Archie, of *All in the Family*, possessed all the character traits that I thought made us lesser human beings. Oh, every-once in a while he had a tender moment and became human, but for the most part, I thought, he was the antithesis of what we should be as individuals and as a society. The *Jeffersons* was no better as a role model. George was cast from the same mold as Archie: the boss, the ruler of the family, the king of his castle. Louise and Edith were the redeeming quality for each of their mates and displayed our better angels.

Recently, at home, there have been discussions about downsizing; Tom is for it and me – not so much. Not that I think it would not be a good idea; it is just all the work involved: sorting through all that has been accrued over the years and deciding what to keep (and why) and what to discard (and why). Getting rid of things is the hardest.

As you go through all your ‘stuff’ (where is George Carlin?), you recall how it came to be among your possessions. You may even relive past events as you hold the object, bringing a smile, or laugh to the present. But other times the object triggers no memory at all and you wonder aloud, ‘why did I keep this’ or ‘where did this come from’? And some item might even send a chill down your spine as you shiver and regret that memory and sigh as you mutter thanks for ‘having survived that ordeal’ and place the object in the ‘trash’ pile. Life is like that: the good, the bad...and the ugly. Yet, we own it all because even the ‘ugly’ is part of who we are because of where we have been and things we have done.

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## To Connect to Christ Church via Zoom

<https://christlockport.info/>

Compline – Thursday 7:00 pm

Sunday Service 10:00 am

Zoom Coffee Hour – Sunday 12:30

Donate with PayPal

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat Food Drive

February 13, 2021

Each month we have a Food Drive on the second Saturday. During COVID many of the organizations that serve those with food insecurities have closed. The food we gather has become critical to the survival of many residents of Lockport and the surrounding area.

Did you know that our Food Drives are getting positive attention for Christ Church? People from the community see the food drive on our sign and stop with donations. *People think of Christ Church* when they have something they would like to donate. We get calls from people with clothing or household items when they want the items to be free for the next owner.

On February 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 – 1:00 we will be accepting canned dog and cat food – it must be canned. We will also accept monetary donations (please make checks payable to Christ Church with “Pet Food” on the memo line) for Grace Pet Food. And, of course we will be collecting non-perishable food for the Lockport Blessing Boxes or checks to Christ Church with “Outreach” on the memo line. Also, if you would like to help with this or other Food Drives please contact Gloria Bryant.

### Ash Wednesday

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

Note: no service at noon  
this year.

Sorting through our ‘stuff’ and deciding what we want to keep and what we want to discard is much like reviewing our lives and deciding what character traits we want to keep and which ones we want to cast aside.

Lent is a time to reflect on which self we want to be and what traits we want to strengthen; getting rid of all those things that we drag along and that drag us down. When we go through our ‘stuff’, we end up putting the trash at the curb because it no longer has any value for us. Lent offers us a time to reflect and to evaluate the direction of our lives: where we have been and where we want to go. Is the road we are on getting us to our professed destination? We can only answer that for ourselves because only we know where we want to go.

Yes, Archie and George were alike in many ways, yet different in one important aspect. Archie did not want anyone to rock his boat. He liked his life just the way it was and did not want it to change. He was in his groove, his rut...his grave.

George on the other hand wanted his life to be better, richer; to be complete. Moreover, he eagerly embraced his new life – because, after all, he was ‘moving on up to the big time’.

This Lenten Season I am going to resolve to live a more integrated life, a more gospel centered life, a more authentic life as a follower of Jesus. I vow to personally, move on up to the really, big time: eternal life with my God. How about you?

*Fr. Thomas +*

## Our Lenten Journey

Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent are fast approaching. While Lent 2021 will be far different from any Lent that most of us have ever experienced, we must still step out in faith on Ash Wednesday and begin our journey toward the light of Easter. One of the readings offered on Ash Wednesday is Isaiah 58:1-12, a portion of which follows:

*Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?*

*If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.*

Our Baptismal Covenant asks of us: “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?” Based on this Covenant, we are called to pay attention to the injustices that confront us and work to bring about justice. Lent is an appropriate time to begin our personal and communal journey toward justice.

Isaiah proclaims “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice...”. Who is bound by injustice and how do we loosen such binding? We don’t have to look very far to find injustice in our communities, especially in these challenging days of a pandemic. Studies have shown that the people suffering disproportionately from the viral illness, unemployment and potential homelessness are people who work in industries that are restricted (hotels, restaurants, entertainment venues) and people who work in essential industries that remain open to serve us (grocery and department stores). Many of these people earn subsistence-level pay and have less than adequate health care and housing options, making them more vulnerable. How do we loose the bonds of injustice going forward? Yes, we will provide food and clothing...AND we must also recognize our responsibility to address the institutional “loop holes” that keep minority and poor populations (even in our communities) from having the opportunities to reap the same benefits as the people who have jobs that allow them to work from home, that have stable internet for their children to attend school remotely, that have health insurance.

The challenges are overwhelming, but don’t have to be. If each of us takes steps to address the causes of injustice, we will make a difference. There is power in numbers!

I invite you to explore The Episcopal Church’s website, specifically the “Ministries” page (<https://episcopalchurch.org/ministries>), which provides information regarding Asian American, Black, Migrant, Indigenous and Latino ministries, as well as Racial Reconciliation, Domestic Poverty, Creation Care, Social Justice and Advocacy Engagement, and the Office of Government Relations. These pages provide information for those of us “in the pews” to be aware of and participate in efforts to address social injustice. On the Office of Government Relations page, you may subscribe to online Action Alerts and join in sending emails to our elected officials to address issues from the perspective of the Gospel values as professed by the Episcopal Church.

Locally, check out the Diocesan Partnership website (<https://episcopalpartnership.org>) and click on the “Ministries” tab to learn about the Partnership’s involvement in social justice issues. Many of the events, such as webinars and special prayer services, are available for those who have access to the internet and/or to a “smart” phone.

Zechariah 7:9-10 offers wise words: *“The word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying: ‘Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.’”*



## Birthdays

4	Ken Miller
9	Pat O. Few
10	Gloriann Hutchins Theresa McCabe
12	Rick Few
13	Cheryl Urtel
14	Harper Buchanan
19	Penny Speidel
20	Bill Farone John Goetz

## Anniversaries

6	Dave & Karen DeYoung
14	Dick & Gretchen Lang

May we all, as individuals joined in a community of faith, take our first steps into Lent with prayer, reflection and action “to loose the bonds of injustice”.

Robin Kozlowski  
Aspirant for Ordination to the Diaconate

## 2021 Lenten Meditations

With the events of this past year in mind, the 2021 Lenten Meditations offered by Episcopal Relief & Development (“ERD”) will share reflections on the theme of **lament** from a diverse group of writers, beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 17). ERD is NOT offering the meditation booklets in hard-print format this year due to most churches now meeting “virtually”. The meditations ARE available on the [ERD website](#), and you may download all of the meditations in PDF format and/or subscribe for the daily meditations to arrive in your email.

The meditations follow the “Four Steps of Lament” as outlined by author Heidi Weaver:

“**REST**, to take Sabbath time to simply be present to our current situation;  
**REFLECT** on that which has been lost;  
**REPENT** for the sufferings and loss we have caused or overlooked;  
Make **RESTITUTION** and be **RESTORED** to God and to one another.”

I invite you to click on this link to the ERD website: [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org), which will take you directly to the Lenten material offered by ERD. Or if you go on the main page of the ERD website, open the Menu near the upper right corner of the screen, click on “Church in Action” and then click on “Lent”.

For those parishioners who do not have access to the internet and would like a printed copy of the meditations (not a booklet, but printed on standard-size paper), please call me at 716-434-4152. I will print it and make arrangements to deliver it to you at home or at church on a Sunday morning if you attend the “parking lot” service.

May you experience a *reflective* Lenten season,

Robin Kozlowski  
ERD Parish Coordinator  
(716) 434-4152

## The Giraffe and the Elephant – a modern fable

By R. Roosevelt Thomas Jr.  
(adapted by N. McCarthy-Brown)

Narrator: In a small suburban community just outside the city of Artiodact, a giraffe had a new home built to his family’s specifications. It was a wonderful house for giraffes, with soaring ceilings and tall doorways. High windows ensured maximum light and good views while protecting the family’s privacy. Narrow hallways saved valuable space without compromising convenience. So well done was the house that it won the National Giraffe Home of the Year Award. The home’s owners were understandably proud.

One day the giraffe, working in his state-of-the-art wood shop in the basement, happened to look out the window. Coming down the street was an elephant. Giraffe: (thinking out loud) I know him, (scratching his head) We worked together at

PTA committee. He's an excellent woodworker, too. I think I'll ask him in to see my new shop. Maybe we can even work together on some projects.

Narrator: So the giraffe reached his head out the window and invited the elephant in. The elephant was delighted; he had liked working with the giraffe and looked forward to knowing him better. Besides, he knew about the wood shop and wanted to see it. So he walked up to the basement door and waited for it to open.

Giraffe: Come in, come in

Narrator: immediately they encountered a problem. While the elephant could get his head in the door, he could go no farther.

Elephant: (sighs) I'm too big.

Giraffe: It's a good thing we made this door expandable to accommodate my wood shop equipment. Give me a minute while I take care of our problem.

Narrator: The giraffe removed some bolts and panels to allow the elephant in. The two acquaintances were happily exchanging woodworking stories when the giraffe's partner leaned their head down the basement stairs and called to their partner:

Giraffe's partner: Telephone, dear; it's your boss.

Giraffe: I'd better take that upstairs in the den, (giraffe says to the elephant). Please make yourself at home; this may take a while.

Elephant: (talking to himself) hmmm, I wonder what all is down here?

Narrator: The elephant looked around, saw a half-finished project on the lathe table in the far corner, and decided to explore it further. As he moved through the doorway that led to that area of the shop, however, he heard an ominous scrunch. He backed out, scratching his head.

Elephant: (thinking out loud) Maybe I'll join the giraffe upstairs."

Narrator: But as he started up the stairs, he heard them begin to crack. He jumped off and fell back against the wall. It too began to crumble. As he sat there disheveled and dismayed, the giraffe came down the stairs.

Giraffe: What on earth is happening here? (the giraffe asked in amazement.)

Elephant: I was trying to make myself at home.

Narrator: The giraffe looked around.

Giraffe: Okay, I see the problem. The doorway is too narrow.... You know...If you'd join weight watchers, we could get you down to size.

Elephant: Maybe?.... (the elephant said, looking unconvinced)

Giraffe: And the stairs are too weak to carry your weight (the giraffe continued). If you'd go to ballet class at night, I'm sure we could get you light on your feet. I really hope you'll do it. I like having you here.

Elephant: Perhaps, but to tell you the truth, I'm not sure that a house designed for a giraffe will ever really work for an elephant, not unless there are some major changes.

### Diocesan Newsletter

Each Wednesday an email newsletter is published by the Diocese of WNY & NWPA. It's a great way to learn what is happening around us and what our Bishop is doing. [Sign up here.](#)



### Christ Episcopal Church

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

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

## Annual Meeting Election Results

Wardens: Jack Taylor (Sr.)  
Gloria Bryant (Buildings and Grounds)

Vestry: Mary Brennan-Taylor  
Debbie Bronschidle (elected in 2020)  
Pat O. Few  
Theresa McCabe  
Ken Miller (elected in 2019)  
All Rucci  
John Scott  
Cheryl Urtel (elected in 2020)  
Sue Venezia-Waddell

Diocesan Convention

Delegates: Sue Bauer  
Bob Theurer  
Cindy Theurer

Alternates: Robin Kozlowski



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