

October 2021

# The Harvest

## On Earth as in Heaven

Mae West famously said, “You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”

What caught my mind’s eye when I came across her thought was not that we only live once, but that if we do it right...that is the challenge: living right. What does that mean, exactly?

I immediately thought of all the self-help books and programs geared to finding meaning in life, or happiness, or fulfillment. They all seem to miss the point, or better they seem to put the proverbial cart before the horse. If we live rightly, then meaning, happiness and fulfillment would logically seem to follow. The question that confronts us is, ‘in what does living rightly consist?’

I remember reading somewhere that the Ten Commandments were a blueprint to structure society so that people would be happy and fulfilled. The Commandments ordered life: God is first and only. Love God, worship God, and do not have any other god. Those first three commandments set our relationship with God. The rest of the Commandments order our relationships with one another: Respect and honor parents, and do not murder another, commit adultery, steal, lie nor manipulate the truth in anyway in order to deceive another or cause them harm, nor desire to have what belongs to another – be it goods or

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## Connect to Christ Church

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## Outreach

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

The next food drive will be October 9<sup>th</sup> at Christ Church 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Just drive up and we'll take the food out of your car. As the weather cools we need more hearty hot meals. We especially need protein (canned meat meal or hearty soups, tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter and jelly for school lunches, etc.) and ingredients for the meals we all turn to in the winter.

### Warm up for Winter

We also need warm hats, scarves, socks, mittens, and gloves in all sizes on October 9<sup>th</sup>. We need to help our neighbors stay warm this winter.

Some of the items will be distributed through the schools to children who have no hats or mittens, and some will be available to anyone who needs them.

Mary Hunt Guild President, Joan Weet, presenting the Scholarship to Mat Heschke.



persons. If we compare the Commandments to our current society, how do you think we are doing in terms of living rightly? I didn't think so.

A consequence of our 'missing the mark' (the Jewish description of sin) is that we look toward a different place (heaven?) rather than to try harder at living right here. Pie in the sky, Father Thomas; we will never achieve it. Never! Maybe not; but does that mean we should not try?

Listen to what we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

It is not in heaven only, but here on earth that God's will is to be followed. In today's world that is not an easy lift; in fact, it takes a focused effort to live right. Luckily, for us, God is willing to forgive us when we fall short, if—and this is the hard part - we are willing to forgive others their failures at living right. Even with our failings, we can still make God's will on earth real through forgiveness. In fact, by striving to live right, we can have heaven on earth.

Loving God with all that we are, and loving our neighbor as ourselves fulfills the law and the prophets. In the end, it will satisfy our yearning for meaning, joy, and fulfillment in this world and the next. If we 'do it right, once is enough.' Indeed it is.

Blessings,  
Fr. Thomas+

## Waves

The topic of "waves" has crossed my path several times over the past two months. A presentation given recently by Diana Butler-Bass at the Chautauqua Institution featured a poem by Judy Brown titled "The Trough". Diana's presentation was about resilience. The poem spoke of the experience of being caught in the trough of a wave and figuring out what to do next. The power of the wave would not allow for swimming out of it easily. It would require patience, resilience, and a calm response rather than panic.

In preparation for one of my courses at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, I read two books that presented the history of the Diaconate in the United States and worldwide. Both authors used the metaphor of waves to describe the changes, growth and struggles as one era of development moved into the next. For example, one of the more modern waves was that of the Perpetual (Liturgical) Deacon (originally men only), whose ministry was to be an assistant to the Priest in the

functioning of the parish. That wave began to ebb as the next wave of development came rolling toward shore, being the concept that the Deacon's role would include women and be focused on the needs and concerns of the world, bringing those into the church. While the previous wave ebbed, the new wave drove forward.

A few weeks ago, Fr. Joe and I spent several days at the seashore in New Jersey. I spent hours walking in the surf and watching the roaring waves. I felt the pull of the ebbing wave, even as the next wave came crashing in. Therein is the struggle, the undertow. The ebbing wave doesn't disappear. Some of it gets picked up again by the new, incoming wave. In the history of the Deacon's role, there are still Deacons in our midst who were ordained as primarily Perpetual (Liturgical) Deacons. At the same time, the men and women ordained in the last 15 years or so are living their ministries in a far different way. The result? At any given time there are Deacons who minister in different ways depending on when they were formed and ordained. Likewise, there are Priests and parishes who are more accustomed to the role of the Deacon that has ebbed than to the role of the Deacon that has come to shore. As the "old" rushes out, it mingles with the "new" and for a while the water is foamy because of the struggle between the two waves.

This example may be applied to almost any institution, including the Episcopal Church, her Provinces, Dioceses and Parishes. Parish life often feels like we're standing at the shore experiencing the ebbing wave as it rushes back to the ocean, even as the new wave comes crashing to shore. The ebbing wave is "the way things used to be"; "we've always done it this way"; "where is everyone". The crashing new wave is "what are our gifts"; "what is our mission"; "how may we be a community in these days and the future".

Let us consider carefully: Will we allow ourselves to be pulled under by the ebbing wave? Will we become disoriented and panic? Or will we be patient and resilient while in the wave's trough before coming safely to shore on the crest of the new wave?

"If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown."  
*Isaiah 43:2*

Peace,  
Robin Kozlowski  
Aspirant for Ordination to the Diaconate



## Birthdays

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

## Anniversaries

- 6 Bill & Joan Bohneberg  
John & Cheryl Urtel
- 10 Shannon Perry &  
Christine Lukas
- 14 Brian & Laurie  
Monaco
- 22 Bill & Martha Farone



Choir Celebrating Tim's Birthday



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**2<sup>ND</sup> Saturday Food Drive  
&**

**Warm Up for Winter**

Saturday, October 9, 2021

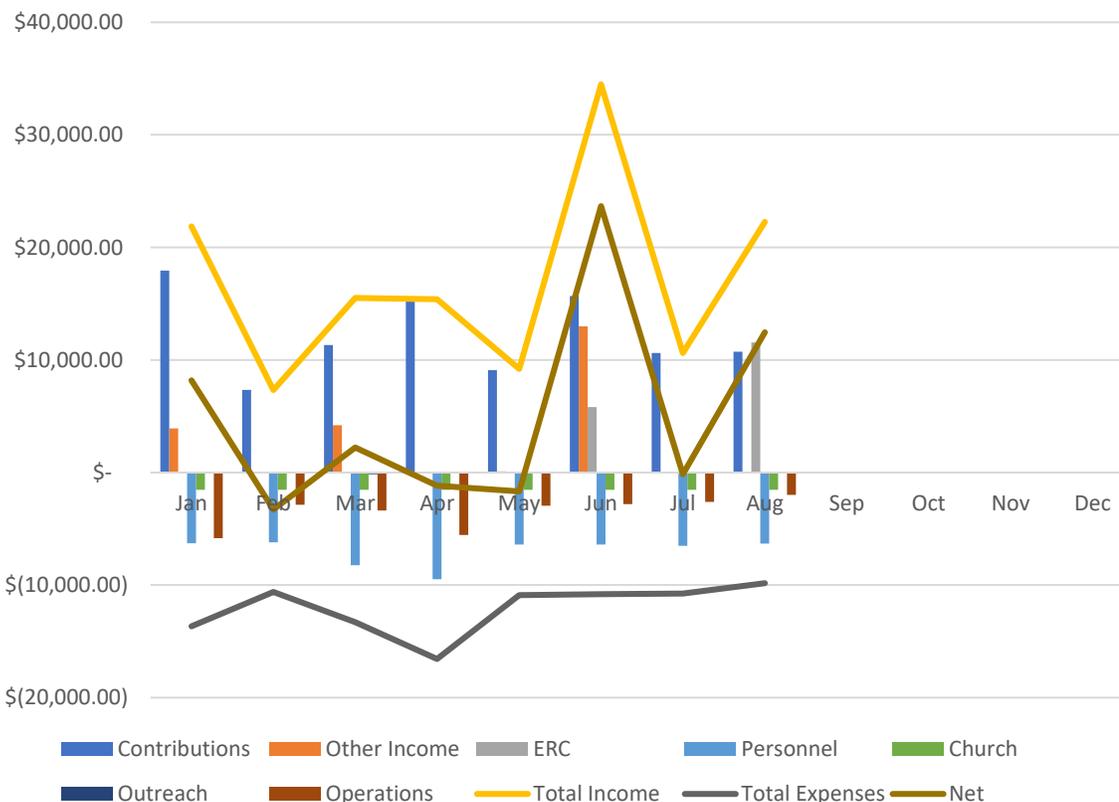
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Christ Church near the Bell Tower

More information on page 2



**2021 Finance Summary**



**August**

Total Income:

\$22,280.44

Total Expenses:

\$9,831.85

**Year to Date**

Total Income:

\$136,673.06,

Total Expenses:

\$96,441.31

**Notes:**

- Other income is mostly investments and is reinvested
- ERC is Employee Retention Credit, part of the CARES Act. Most of what we received may need to be returned to the IRS so we really can't use it now.