

## **THE CANTERBURY TALES**

**NOVEMBER 2016**



### **FR. MARK'S MUSINGS**

Tis November!! Another milestone month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving and begin our preparations for Advent and Christmas. But before the holidays are upon us, I thought it might be a good time to look back and examine our year. I know there is some frustration with Sunday attendance (and I share your frustration) but that is not a complete picture. Although attendance is down, membership is up and giving is up. Keeping track of the numbers is good and bad. It can be depressing and sometimes offer solace but the numbers never tell the whole story. There are many accomplishments to be grateful for. Here is a brief summary of some of them.

Before anything else I must compliment all those willing to serve on one of the best vestries I have had the pleasure to work with. This is a dedicated group of people who donate a tremendous amount of work and time to help make St. Thomas of Canterbury the best we can be. They are creative, intelligent, hard-working people who are a joy to work with. They take their responsibilities very seriously, and yet find joyfulness in serving. We can enjoy one another's company with laughter and support one another in prayer.

It is good to have a good vestry when we are in times of financial distress. In what could be a time of distrust and competition, the vestry has handled our financial problems, and the Ann Yoker's memorial gift, with respect and dignity. As with all other memorial funds we have

chosen not to spend any of that memorial on operating budget items. That money as you all know has been set aside in two investment vehicles, one long term the other short. The remainder has been given to the Altar Guild to purchase much needed things for our worship. Things we felt would be a fitting memorial for Ann and her mother. You might notice that the processional torches have been refinished and look like new again. We have a wonderful new altar linen, a new paten is on the way, a couple of new stoles, acolyte vestments and more to come. We are truly blessed to have received these gifts. We are also grateful and give thanks to Noelle and everyone who has put so much effort into this project. It is already paying off nicely.

Another challenge we face is our office equipment is getting old. Specifically, our computers and software are so out of date they were becoming an operational problem. We have proceeded by not spending operating budget or memorial money, but by requesting that the congregation join together to purchase these needed items. We also did a significant amount of research to find charitable sources for the software we need. The result was that we cut our expense by more than half. What was left was paid by some of you in either cash donation or donations of monitors, cables, and expertise to set up the system.

I think most of you are aware that our choir does much more than just enhance our Sunday worship. They have always been impressive but lately seem to be continuing their growth not only in their music, but in their service. This past year they have added additional concerts to their schedule providing wonderful music to senior living centers and nursing homes and getting the name of St. Thomas of Canterbury out in the community as a congregation that exists for the wellbeing of others. I am extremely grateful to Ann and the entire choir for all their very hard work. It is another example of responding to the needs of the community with grace and love. Thank you all.

I also think most of you know that I meet regularly with other clergy from other denominations in the Greendale, Greenfield, and Hales Corners area. We have been expanding our worship together over the past 5 years but recently began working toward more common ministry. The result was our first annual Churches Caring Together event on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Over 150 people representing 9 different churches doing more than 5 different services for the Village of Greendale. I feel that this is just a beginning of cooperation between the churches and increased service to the community.

Our Vision Team has been hard at work and very productive. The Mustard Seed and Roots teams did an incredible job of laying a foundation for Vision Team which has built on that foundation. Like the construction of any building, few people notice the slow pace of laying a foundation, but then almost everyone notices how fast the building shot up when the

carpenters started putting up walls. But the walls won't stand without a good foundation. And now you are seeing the results in the community garden that is both a parish outreach project to the community, and an ecumenical effort involving other churches and the village leadership. The first phase is done and phase two, putting up the fence and allocating plots will wait till spring. In the meantime, the Vision Team is proposing that we begin a ministry of advocacy for seniors living nearby. You will hear more about this in the coming weeks. We expect to kick this off with the choir concerts in December.

At last I want you all to know about CDI Church Development Institute. Members of this congregation have been attending this incredible program for the past six to eight years. It is a program of leadership training that teaches leadership skills that can be used in every aspect of our lives. The two-year program is fully funded by the diocese and is a proven program in many dioceses across the country. Churches that implement this program are consistently growing and thriving. It is another way in which your diocesan assessment dollars come back to the benefit of the parish. Our CDI team is growing and you are beginning to see the fruits of it in such things as the renovation of the Narthex so that everyone can have full and open accessibility to coffee hour.

As we continue our participation in ecumenical worship I invite you to join us all at St. Luke's Lutheran Church on Northway, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Let us pray, sing, and rejoice together and acknowledge all we have to be thankful for.

Peace always,

*Fr. Mark*





## DEACON'S NEWS AND NOTES

November 1<sup>st</sup> – Luke 6:20

**Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.**

*Jesus reminds us that poverty does not determine generosity, that the poor have much to offer, and the saints of God often come from the least expected places.*

Because I value the Forward Day by Day and its daily meditations, I thought that every other month, I would begin and end with that month's passages. This month's author is Ms. Richelle Thompson, deputy director and managing editor at Forward Movement. Note: There are copies of the Forward Day by Day in the back of the church.

THANK YOU!

You elected me, through your deputies, to attend the General Convention in Austin, TX, July 5<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church of the United States, just as the annual parish meeting is the governing body of a parish and our annual convention is the governing body of the diocese. This nine (9) day event is held every three years and is attended by @10,000 persons. It is open to all Bishops, either active or retired, from all dioceses which are approximately 300 persons. They form the House of Bishops. It also includes about 900 deputies, four (4) clergy and four (4) lay from each diocese. They form the House of Deputies. Just as at the parish annual meeting, elections are held and the budget is approved; just as at the diocesan convention elections are held and resolutions and the budget are approved, at the General Convention there are elections for open offices, resolutions and the budget to approve. As I learn more about my role at the General Convention, I will include you on this exciting venture.

I have at least one possibly two committee meetings this month:

November 12<sup>th</sup> – Executive Council at St. Mary's, Dousman. We will be thanking those members leaving EC and welcoming those elected at the diocesan convention as well as finalizing the year's work.

There will be one Commission on Ministry meeting to interview a postulant for candidacy. Right now the date is up-in-the-air.

November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Thanksgiving Eve, an ecumenical, interdenominational service, this year at St. Luke’s, that brings the Greendale community together, especially poignant for us as we celebrate our community garden project.

Personally:

Many times I mentioned to Anne that I would love to sing with the choir at their Christmas concerts. This is the year, so will be rehearsing, usually Wednesday evenings.

November 1<sup>st</sup> – I will be attending an All Saints/All Souls service at my Alma Mater, Alverno College. They will be reading all the names submitted to them.

November 5<sup>th</sup> – A number of us from STOC will be accompanying our confirmands to Holy Hill. Sadly the trees have already peaked.

November 6<sup>th</sup> – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS! We get up in the dark and eat supper in the dark. On the positive side, I light my home with candles.

November 8<sup>th</sup> – We vote. T’would it was over.

November 9<sup>th</sup> – I will be attending a “swearing in service” for my nephew’s son Anthony. He is joining the navy; his journey starts this day.

November 24<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day. Though small in number (just three this year), my siblings and I love to get-together. And yes, we are going to “cheat” by going to Denny’s for our Thanksgiving Dinner, no cooking, no cleaning, no dishes, just relaxing and fun.



Charlie and I continue to bond; he is increasingly more comfortable in our home. I have watched him climb to the top of the armoire; sit in the window and survey his surroundings; prowling the outer apartment hall, upstairs and down; toss and chase his catnip pillows and sleep in the special cat bed I got for him. I just have to figure out how to convince him that every time I go to the kitchen, it is **not** to feed him.

November 30<sup>th</sup> -- Psalm 19:1

**The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.**

*Of all the many gifts of God, perhaps it is the unspeakable beauty and vast expanse of the skies that whisper most of heaven.*

*Go outside today, look up into the firmament of God's handiwork, and let your heart fill with joy and your mouth with words of gladness. Amen.*

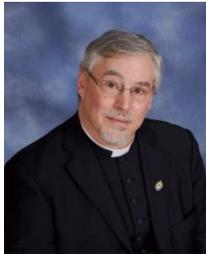
Peace and prayers,

*Deacon Marge*



## CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Consecration Sunday encouraged people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on October 23rd, we were asked to make our financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.



The Reverend Fr. Stephan Capitelli, Rector of St. Albans Episcopal Church in Sussex, addressed the congregation and facilitated the processing of completing the *Estimate of Giving Cards*.

A catered lunch was enjoyed by the congregation as a way to celebrate the completion of Consecration Sunday.

The following is the financial report shared with the church community during the luncheon.

### ***Statistical Report on Consecration Sunday Results***

- ✚ A total of 35 giving units (husbands and wives or single persons) completed *Estimate of Giving Cards* this year.
- ✚ A total of 27 of these giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount.

- ✚ A total of 35 giving units present to fill out *Estimate of Giving Cards* today committed a total of \$105,176.
- ✚ Based on last year's giving records, we can expect to receive \$44,470 during the coming year from people who have consistent giving patterns during the past twelve months but are not present today.
- ✚ Based on the average total of loose offerings during the past three years, we can expect to receive \$6,000 during the coming year from that source.
- ✚ Church income from non-donor sources such as interest, rentals and fees - \$2,500.
- ✚ This gives us a grand total of \$158,146 anticipated income for the next twelve months.
- ✚ The total income for our general operating budget during the last twelve months was \$172,000.
- ✚ Next year, we can expect our operating budget income to increase by \$4,526.
- ✚ This is 3% increase in total giving above last year.



*Happy Thanksgiving!  
To You And Your Family*

## **ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE**

Please plan to attend this year's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM, St. Luke's Lutheran Church – 6705 Northway, Greendale. It's also a Pie Fest ... Please bake and bring pies to the service to share. Check upcoming Sunday bulletins for more details.



## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Christmas Eve            5:00 PM

Christmas Day            10:00 AM

## NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS



Valerie Meyer	November 1
Tom White	November 3
Kris Reed	November 4
Kathi Beinlich	November 9
Jocelyn Seppala	November 9
Robert Babel	November 10
Ruth Lent	November 10
Evelyn Kim	November 12
Bernie Sommer	November 12
Joey Fisher	November 13
Olivia Carstens	November 14
Janet Chmielewski	November 15
Maggie Cram	November 16
Kristine Rank	November 18
Jane White	November 20
April Carstens	November 22
Gail Passler	November 22
Joy Becker	November 23
Scott Carstens	November 26
Brian Pedersen	November 26
Louise Allen	November 28
Kevin Nitka	November 30

### ANNIVERSARIES



Jerry & Lynne Heinz	November 1
William & Judy Kienzle	November 2
Mr. & Mrs. Joey Fisher	November 5
John & Joy Zick	November 8
David & Gayle Radavich	November 10