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| **The Belfry** | **Christ Episcopal Church** | **October 2021** |

***Sr. Warden Report***

**Written September 22, 2021**

**Annual Blessing of the Pets**

The annual blessing of the Pets will be held at noon on October 3rd at Burns Park, weather permitting. In the event the weather does not permit, we will have the blessing in the lobby in Vinter Hall. The annual Feast of St Francis is October 4th, so this date works perfectly. Father Nick has graciously agreed to stay after the last service on Sunday to perform this blessing. Please contact Carla Corbin at 608-792-3630 or the Church Office with any questions.

**Senior Warden Report**

October already? I write this report the day Fall officially begins and the weather is accommodating our end of summer and fall temperatures all in one week, but we love our four defined seasons!

There are many activities becoming somewhat normal at church the month of September. The church school children met at Burns Park and sang songs and learned about what the words of the song meant. We hope to be able to see more families with children attending our services and Sunday School soon.

The Vestry met and reviewed the mask requirement and have agreed to maintain the requirement of wearing a mask during services and strongly recommending masks be worn throughout the building to include Vinter Hall. The subject of singing was brought to my attention this past week by a parishioner, singing in church is so joyful and is almost as if we are praying when we praise God through music. I consulted with our Organist David, and he had several suggestions on how to bring singing back to our services. We are researching the options and will offer one or more of the following: singing hymns in the pews while wearing a mask, arranging for a cantor to sing the hymns, or bringing the choir back. As soon as a decision has been made, we will be offering music again.

Please bring your beloved pets to the annual Blessing of the Pets that will be held on October 3, 2021, at noon by Father Nick at Burns Park or if weather is not accommodating, we will have the blessing in the lobby of Vinter Hall. We have arranged to provide small St Francis medals to participants.

I am overwhelmed with the charitable offerings of time, talent, and treasure by our parishioners. It is heartwarming to see the caring we have for one another and for those who are in need. Thanks to everyone who has been a part of this ministry.

Attendance at both our services has certainly dropped from the attendance post COVID, our offering of the service **live** on Facebook and recordings available on YouTube have been widely accepted as alternatives to being present at our services. I strongly encourage you to attend either service whenever you are able. I am hoping summer vacations are not taking our parishioners away any longer as school has since begun again. It is always nice to see each other and worship together.

The Search Committee has been interviewing Rector candidates and has offered a visit to La Crosse to one of the more promising candidates in the next few weeks. The candidate will not be attending a service but will be touring our city and church as well as meeting our committee members. We are continuing to meet almost weekly to review and determine if we will entertain and offer interviews to those who are applying. Please keep us all in your prayers and ask the Holy Spirit to be present in our deliberations of where we are being guided.

As always, be kind to one another, please come to church and thank Father Nick for hanging in there with us as we are still on our search journey.

Your sister in Christ,

Carla Corbin

Senior Warden

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***2021 Vestry Members***

Below you will find the current Vestry Members and their phone numbers. Please feel free to contact any one of them with your questions and concerns in the upcoming months as we transition.

Carla Corbin, Sr. Warden: 608-792-3630 Tim Donahue, Jr. Warden: 608-783-7418 or 608-769-8232

Bob Weathers, Treasurer: 608-799-9777 Lora Stefanski, Clerk: 608-386-8329

Jane Domroese: 608-792-3068 Michelle Elliott: 217-412-4121 Carole E.: 608-852-8352 Julie Markos: 608-317-8324 Greg Parmeter: 605-216-3671 Edd Storey: 605-675-4805 Jennifer Williams: 608-792-3819 Kurt Weaver: 608-787-6484 Rachel Heiss: 608-784-0991

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**The Rev. Tom Ackerman**

**4875 Easy Street #12**

**Hartland, WI 53029**



***Congregational Sympathy***

Our sympathy to the family of Constance (Connie) Arneson. May she rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her. May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Our sympathy also to the family of Mike and Brenda Byars and their family. Charles T. Byars, 86, died in Wichita Falls, Texas on September 12, with his son Mike by his side.  His voice and call sign of W5GPO were familiar to thousands, especially during severe weather in North Central Texas. Byars was the leader of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services Skywarn group since their inception in 1974, sending out HAM radio volunteers to spread out and watch the skies during severe weather and report to local authorities. He served in the Army and upon release joined the Texas National Guard then transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, ultimately retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer 4, totaling 42 years of military service.

May he rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Someplace Good and Deep***

Church member Daniel McConnell will have a show of his art and poetry, “Someplace Good and Deep” at Pump House Regional Art Center main gallery. Please come out and support Daniel at a reception at the Pump House Nov. 12, 5-7 pm. His book by the same title will also be featured at the show. He is proud to have first shown his work at Christ Church Undercroft Gallery. Learn more about Daniel at SomeplaceGoodandDeep.com.

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***Jr Warden Report***

Two of the exterior historic doors have been refinished. The front step adjustment and stabilization is complete. These are the concrete steps leading up to our Main Street (primary) entrance. Adjustments to our water chiller loop have been made to correct the excess water usage. We are still working with the city to see if an adjustment can be made to our water/sewer bill during the time the water excess went undetected (we are billed quarterly).

An estimate by DEML our HVAC company has been provided to update our control panels for our system.  The cost to replace cost to replace more than 6 controllers and the new panels would cost $19, 041. The life span of these panels is 20-25 years, and they were last replaced about 22 years ago.

As always if you see something grounds/building/maintenance that needs to be addressed call Tim 608-769-8232, lee 608-799-8037 or Carla 608-792-3630. Thanks!! Lee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP***

October 15-17 at St. Elias Orthodox Church, 716 Copeland Ave., La Crosse, WI Instructor: Drazen Dupor Icon: “Sweet Kissing” Theotokos and Christ Child (acrylic on board with metal leaf). Cost: $230; includes all paints and supplies. You may pay by cash or check, directly to Drazen at the start of the workshop. You may wish to bring an apron or painting smock. Meals are on your own (refrigerator and microwave are available at church).

**HOURS:** Friday: 2-7 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday: 1-3 p.m.

To reserve your spot, please let Stacey Kalas know you are planning to attend ([kalas31@centurytel.net](mailto:kalas31@centurytel.net) have questions, please contact Drazen Dupor at 608-244-0885 or [drazendupor123@gmail.com](mailto:drazendupor123@gmail.com). Note: Currently, we are requiring participants to wear masks regardless of vaccination status. To reserve your spot, please let Stacey Kalas know you are planning to attend ([kalas31@centurytel.net](mailto:kalas31@centurytel.net) or 608-785-7030).

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***From the Treasurer***

Thanks to everyone who donated to replace soiled Prayer Books. Replacements are at the back of the church grouped by donor name. Please retrieve yours. Next project is to complete the plaque recognizing those who contributed to the $650,000 renovation of Vinter Hall.

Bob Weathers, Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***October Birthdays and Anniversaries***

**Birthdays:** Julie McGarry (1);Peter Hammond (2); Rick Stefanski, Caroline Morris (4); Marilyn Williams (5); Andrew Elliott (6); Chris Frye, Melanie Weathers-Pendleton (7); Mary Shaw, Nick Charles (11); Mike Conway, Joe Theisen (13); Lee Donahue, Tom Johnson (14); Jennifer Williams, Katie Wine (15); Vivian Andresen, Bill Simmons, Sharon Sweeney (16); Lincoln Gundersen (23); Tim Hammes, Pam Claussen (24); Benjamin Parmeter (25); Pat Vinson (27); Riley Powell (28); Cindy Hood, Nadia Younis (31).

**Anniversaries:** Rick and Lora Stefanski (4); Judson and Harley Beck (5); David and Sherry McNamara (6); Rich and Karen Peterson, Kurt and Laurie Kartman (8); Lucy and Dennis Webb (9); Gordon and Theresa Edwards (12); Patrick and Myra Augustine, Dick and Julie McGarry (24); Aneel and Nadia Younis (25).

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***August/Sept. Plate and Pledge***

August 29 $2,945 Sept. 5 $3,840

Sept.12 $2,520 Sept. 19 $1,590 Sept. 26 $3,900 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Altar Guild***

From Julie Markos, Altar Guild scheduler. Seeking new Altar Guild members.  Please contact Julie Markos at 608-317-8324 or email at [symmer1@yahoo.com](mailto:symmer1@yahoo.com) We will teach you what to do. Can be Male/Female -- Adult or Youth.

**Altar Guild Schedule for October: 10/3** 1 Michelle E. 2 Mary V., Sherry B., Michelle E**. 10/10** 1 Kathy H./Jeanie K. 2 Lora S. **10/17** 1 Cindy H. 2 Sherry B. **10/24** 1 Charlotte G. 2 Doug H**. 10/31** 1 Michelle E. 2 Doug H.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Prayers for Discernment Process***

OGod of patient and gentle strength, who knows our needs even before we ask, may your loving presence guide us as we seek the next Rector for our parish and Bishop for our Diocese. Give us an open spirit, discerning hearts, and clear minds, that we may trust your will for us and become ever more united in your son our Savior, Jesus Christ. Inspire our conversation, deepen our prayer, and make us a community of humility and grace. Raise up for us, we pray, a priest and shepherd who will boldly proclaim your Gospel, faithfully administer your sacraments, and serve your people with love and compassion. All this we ask through Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Let there be singing!***

Beginning Sunday October 3rd, we will be offering a Cantor at each service.  If this works satisfactorily over the next few weeks, the Vestry will consider allowing singing in church “behind the mask”.  It has also been requested that humming or saying the words to the hymns would be appreciated by several parishioners.  The hymnals are in the back of the church.  Please respect those around you and not sing until we have assessed the impact.   Thanks! Carla Corbin