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

***Sr. Warden Report***

We are into another year that we pray will allow us to return to normal worship services soon. I see a light at the end of the long tunnel.

We are not ready to open the church yet, however we have plans to target Palm Sunday March 28th and God willing will be able to have Easter worship services as well. It is a reminder of our closure the palms from last year are still in the refrigerator, it was hopeful we would be able to use them, but now we are working toward a new goal and new palms for 2021.

The Vestry has set the date for the Congregational Town Meeting/Forum as **Sunday February 21st, 2021 from 10 am to noon.**  This will be a Zoom coffee hour format meeting as we cannot meet face to face. I am hopeful we will have a good response for attendance. We miss our church family. This is an opportunity to share Morning Prayer, led by Greg Parmeter, see how you are doing and entertain questions regarding any church topic. We would love to have questions sent to us in advance if there are some that are burning and Bob, Tim and I can be prepared to answer. No question is unimportant. We wanted to connect as we feel others do as well. Bob will send out the link to Zoom the day before. If we do not have your email address, please provide it to the church office to be sure you receive the invitation with the link to join the event. Questions can be sent in advance to Tim Donahue at timleedonahue@gmail.com or to me at carlacorbin25@gmail.com.

The update from the Search Committee - we have two strong candidates we are considering moving forward in offering a second interview and perhaps a visit to our parish to explore possibilities. We will keep you informed in the event we make a call and with the approval of Bishop Matt, which is our tradition. Please keep the Search Committee members in your prayers as this has become a time consuming and complicated process.

As we are not scheduling an Annual Meeting until we are in a safe meeting place, we want to follow the process of completing our Annual Reports. Even though there may not have been events for the past year to utilize our church ministries, or the ability to do the work, contributing a report on the status of how the ministries are at this time is important for keeping us compliant to the annual report process. We will review the report as we always do, once complete, with the Congregation and will vote to accept the reports submitted when we have our Annual Meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions. Please submit the reports to the church office by February 15th for Jackie to compile. The church email address is: info@ceclax.org.

Provisional Bishop Matt Gunter is visiting us on Monday for a short hour visit and tour of the church. We are not able to invite others to meet him currently due to our closure and his safety as he is visiting multiple parishes that day. We are hopeful to accommodate a Zoom introduction if we can obtain a date/timeframe that he is available.

Please read through the full Belfry as there is additional information contained with more details on the activities being planned at Christ Church.

Please remember those who are not able to be reached or access electronic options for visiting or staying in touch. Sending a Valentine to a parish member is a great way to stay connected and show others we care. In the event you do not have someone’s mailing information, please contact Lee or I and we can provide you what we have listed. If you have changed your address, please let Jackie know at the church office and she will update.

May God keep you in the palm of His hand as we travel this journey together and keep our country and our church in your prayers.

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: 608-675-4805 Jennifer Williams: 608-792-3819 Kurt Weaver: 608-787-6484 Rachel Heiss: 608-784-0991

 The Belfry

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La Crosse, WI

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**Christ Episcopal Church**

**PO Box 2908**

**La Crosse WI 54602-2908**

**Phone: (608) 784-0697**

**www.ceclax.org**

**info@ceclax.org**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



 ***Campus Outreach: Love Fest***

Jason Derr at Campus Ministries is getting ready for Love Fest 2021.  It is a brown bag full of love and treats for any campus student walking by who would like to grab one.  It has a positive message saying God loves you.  We would like to help him out for Valentine's bags and Spring/Easter treats.   Suggestions for donations are plastic jars of peanut butter, fruit snacks, holiday candy, jerky type sticks, trail mix, small boxes of cereal,  cheese crackers, energy drinks/ bars and other non-perishable foods or small items that can fit into a brown paper lunch bag/ on a table for kids to grab.  You can also write a note or Valentine's day card to include.

Jason Derr, United Campus Ministries hands out approximately 30 bags each time if the weather is nice.  Jason monitors the table and speaks to the students, so we can have cans and liquids.  No glass please.  Please put your donations in the lobby where its warm, labeled Love Fest/Julie Markos.  Monetary Donations are also accepted, please note love fest/campus outreach in the memo line.

Julie Markos/Shelby Pendleton-Weathers/Julie Besenbruch \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ***Little Free Pantry***

Now that it's regularly under 40 degrees F, our little free pantry needs to be stocked with items like: granola bars,  fruit snacks, energy bars, crackers, cookies, ramen, couscous, quinoa, peanut butter in plastic jar only, dried beans of all colors, rice, cereal, raisins, powdered milk,  flour, sugar, brown sugar, powdered sugar, noodles of all kinds, mac and cheese,  dry soup mixes,  dried fruits, trail mix, hygiene supplies for incontinence, wipes, pads, tampons, toothbrushes, hair ties, mittens, gloves, hats, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, Chapstick, deodorant, bar soap, and individually wrapped utensils can go in there as well**. No liquids, cans, glass, or fresh food that will freeze**. Also, clean plastic or paper bags are welcome and can be neatly placed on the bottom shelf.

Please feel free to donate or pick out items at any time if needed!!  If you see anything liquid/glass/cans please remove it asap and take it home with you, we do not want them to explode.   If you want to send monetary donations to help with the pantry instead of shopping, please note that in your memo line of your check and mail it to the Church. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ***Junior Warden Report***

 As the Covid-19 landscape continues to evolve, we adjust too. In the past few months, small groups of fewer than 10 people, socially distanced, wearing masks have been granted permission to celebrate life events in church (baptism, prayer service, and recording services and music). **For safety,** t**hese events all require prior approval, coordination, and scheduling with the Junior Warden.** Use is limited to the undercroft and the sanctuary. These spaces are big enough and have enough air flow to accommodate 10 people or less with masks and social distance. Call or text me with questions about using either space, 608-769-8232. Looking forward, we pray to open by Palm Sunday, depending on the Covid-19 situation at the time. **When we do re-open there will be great rejoicing!**

 ***Other Reports***

**Youth Group Update – Give me a Break!** The teens are leaving their computers behind to reconnect spiritually with the great outdoors. Our next event (still being planned) will be on Sunday Feb. 7th at 1PM. E-mail timleedonahue@gmail.com for info.

**Annual Report – Is it that time again?** We have postponed the Annual Report and meeting this year. Our goal is to still provide ministry reports updating everyone on how we have been functioning during the very trying 2020 year. Please submit your annual report information to Jackie by Feb 15th, so she can compile the information. **Please send phone and address changes to Jackie too, so we can keep in touch with each other.**

**Be My Valentine!** Nothings says love like a call or a card. Send a Valentine to a church member you miss to brighten their day. Need ideas? Call or email Carla or Lee for more options!

 ***From the Treasurer***

For 2020, a surplus of $19,494 was realized on receipts of $231,486. The fact that the positions of Rector and Music Director were vacant the entire year was the principal driver of the surplus. Additionally, COVID forced us to suspend in-person worship and ministry for 9½ months causing many of our expenses to be significantly under budget: the secretary and custodian’s hours were reduced, the cost to heat and cool the building was $5,000 less than budget, and Worship Support and Christian Education were under budget by $13,900. Even though we were not able to worship in-person, parishioners showed their support of Christ Church by fulfilling the financial commitment they made before “COVID-19” was even a word in our vocabulary. We are an extremely generous parish!

At this writing, some have not yet returned their 2021 Pledge Card. If you need one, please contact the church office (info@ceclax.org or PO Box 2908, La Crosse WI 54602) and we will get one to you.

Bob Weathers, Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ***February Birthdays and Anniversaries***

**Birthdays**: Mandy Parmeter (2);Bill Beck (4); Edd Storey (6); Marian Thomson (7); Myra Augustine (8); Mary Larson (11); Adam Shaw (12); Tiffany Konradt (13); Sandra Elsen, Gavin Wackershauser (14); Eric Wackershauser (16); Helen Cacciapaglio (18); David Heslip (19); Lisa Sauer, Sarah (Yahkub) Augustine (22); S. Michael Kilbey, Linda Weaver (23); John McConnell, Apryl Denny (25); Salem Kilbey (27); Jay Ash (28); Dan Claussen (29).

**Anniversaries:** Bill and Jane Simmons (5); Woody and Shari Godbold (7); Tom and Kathy Williams (14); S. Michael and Regina M. Kilbey (21). **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 ***December/January Plate and Pledge***

December 27 $4,358 January 10 $3,340 January 24 $5,825

January 3 $12,995 January 17 $5,752 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ***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 forever. **Amen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *Congregational Sympathy*** Congregational sympathy to Dave and Sherry McNamara and their family. Dave’s Dad Ed passed away on Tuesday, January 19th. 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. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ***Local Devotional Book*** Hello, my fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ!  Just wanted to let you all know that my wife Lori and I have written a book of daily devotionals entitled "Views from the Porch."  It is a daily Bible verse, a tie into events in our lives, and 365 beautiful sunrise pictures over the Mississippi River from our front porch in Dakota, MN.  It is available online at Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and Apple iTunes. Attached is the press release and cover shot, along with this month's promo sheet.  Check out the trailer at [http://covenantbooks.com/books/?book=views-from-the-porch](http://covenantbooks.com/books/?book=views-from-the-porch&fbclid=IwAR3de1HxI4z4dcGlKhL1cpllFu6dfq-BiShoXpJVwk3HN0JgxaQVqXWekTY). Blessings to you and prayers for you all!

Pastor James and Lori Strom Money Creek/Ridgeway Churches