



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle
October 10, 2018

New and Notable

Stewardship 2019
GRATITUDE
by Deb Lang

One day as an old wise woman sat at her doorstep a man came to her and said, "An angel came to me in my dreams and told me that you have found a precious stone; a stone that will make me rich beyond imagining. Give me what you have found!" The woman thought a moment, smiled and went into her hut. She soon returned and said, "The angel must have meant this." In her hand she held a glistening diamond. A diamond so large it covered her palm. She said, "I found this some years ago, please take it with my blessing." The man snatched the brilliant diamond from her hand and gazed at it with wonder. Surely this was what he had been hoping for all his life. He clutched it to his heart and ran home. But that night, and for many nights, he couldn't sleep. He was deeply troubled. One morning at dawn he rushed back to the woman's hut and thrust the diamond into her hand. "Please take it back, I don't want it," he said. "What I want, more than anything, is what you have that made it possible for you to give it away."

This story brings us to the heart of stewardship. Christian stewardship is about gratitude and the difference between a possession and a trust.

Gratitude is at the core of Christian spirituality. Gratitude is an expression of the deep truth that everything we have comes to us as a gift of God – every breath, every ability, every opportunity, every moment of life. Becoming conscious of this reality changes us from the inside out. Research demonstrates that gratitude contributes powerfully to

human health and happiness. People who keep regular “gratitude journals” report more alertness, energy, enthusiasm, improved attention, better sleep patterns, higher levels of happiness and sense of well-being. Take a moment to remember all that you have received and notice the gratitude which suddenly arises in your heart. Thank God for these blessings and watch as your gratitude grows along with your sense of peace and happiness.

The difference between a possession and a trust is also essential to the Christian understanding of stewardship. When we view something as a possession we think of it as “mine”; when we view it as a trust, we recognize that rather than it *being* mine, it is simply “mine to take care of”. As Jesus taught in the parable of the talents, stewards don’t just protect holdings, they are also expected to develop them – to put them to use so they produce a yield. When we understand that our time, talents, and treasures are given *in trust*, we can freely give them to produce yields for God’s work of love and justice in the world.

During this church season of Stewardship let us ask “For what gifts am I grateful today?” Say “Thank you” often – to God and others. Let us demonstrate our gratitude by putting what God has given us in trust to use for God’s work of love in the world. What can happen if we do this? Well, it’s very likely that we will more than reap the rewards.

Deborah Lang

Adapted from an article by Dr. David Benner

Thoughts from Bill

FIRST AT LAST

In this Sunday’s gospel, Jesus says, “But many who are first will be the last, and the last will be first.” (Mark 10:31)

Who can forget the recent McHenry VFW “Queen of Hearts” lottery? So many wanted to be first, so many ended up last. The lines of people from all over grew each week. There were so many tickets with the last drawing that they had to get a horse water trough to hold them. In a sense, we might say that a woman from Schaumburg ended up first—she had the winning ticket.

Jesus talks about first and last after telling a rich man that he lacks one thing: “Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.” The man left grieving because he had many possessions.

The issue with Jesus is what we value. We diminish our self worth when we think we must be first—wealthy, healthy, beautiful, popular, intelligent—or whatever makes us get in some invisible line to achieve a goal that moves us further from the person God created when we were born. This is why He so often said the poor inherit more than the rich. Poor people have much more freedom and peace than the wealthy folks.

What do you value more than anything else? Is your life a striving to be first, or making peace with the idea of being last? These are very important spiritual questions. Being last means accepting that we are all children of God and brothers and sisters in God’s family. It is our souls saying loudly and clearly: “Thank you God, I am free at last.”

Rev. Bill McLemore

WHAT ABOUT THE CREED

Ever wonder about the Creed? You know. The one we say every Sunday. Do you think about it, about the words we are saying together? Or do you check out and just say it? Here are some things you may or may not wonder about:

- There are two creeds. One is the Apostles Creed and the other is the Nicene Creed. (Actually, there are others, but these are the main two.) The one we say on Sundays is the Nicene Creed, by the way.
- Why do we say “We believe” instead of “I believe”?
- Where did the Creed come from? Who wrote it? And why?
- Do I have to personally believe everything in the Creed to be a Christian? An Episcopalian?

For the next three weeks, there will be an opportunity to discuss the three parts of the Nicene Creed at Coffee & Conversation. (There will also be an option to just have coffee and conversation.) So take a few minutes and consider what it is we are saying when we “confess our faith” in the words of the Creed.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Faithfully,
Lori+

Crandall's Chicken Dinner to benefit WACM

~Woodstock Area Community Ministries~

Monday, October 29th, 4pm to 8pm

www.wacmgroup.org

All-You-Can-Eat Broasted Chicken Dinner

Adults - \$15, Kids (6-12) - \$10, Kids (5 and under) - \$5

In addition to your meal, you can also buy a meal for a Veteran!

For more information or to buy tickets, please contact Patrice Braun:

(815) 701-7317 or patricebraun55@gmail.com

WACM is a community-based organization dedicated to caring for those in need in the community with emergency financial aid, PADS, and other services.



2018 CROP Walk

Deb Lang

Despite the damp and chilly weather, the CROP Walk was a great success. Many families from area churches walked to support and bring awareness to the issue of hunger in our community and the world. Next year we are planning to walk under the banner of "The Episcopal Churches of McHenry County" and have a team from St. Ann's, St. Mary's and St. Paul's. The picture above is of St. Mary's rest stop that they sponsored. Water, popcorn and games for little ones were offered and enjoyed.



Historic Hook & Hastings Organ Concert

Sunday, November 4th, 6:00 pm

Holy Communion Episcopal Church

320 Broad St., Lake Geneva

On Sunday, November 4th Greg Zelek, Principal Organist and Curator from the Madison Symphony Orchestra, will be performing a selection of organ works from Vierne, Bach, Elgar, Guilmant, and others on this historic 1883 instrument, Hook & Hastings OPUS 1144. Advance tickets are available and free will offerings will also be accepted. All proceeds will go to the Organ Restoration Fund at Holy Communion, as their 135 year old organ is needing a 50-year check-up and restoration.

In case you missed it...

St. Paul's First Flea Market!



Admission Table



Committee



Baked Goods



McLemore Hardware Store



Kitchen Crew



For sale!

The usual fare...

Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, October 14, 2018

(Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost- Year B)

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The Old Testament: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15. The prophet Amos calls for people to seek the Lord and work for justice and mercy. Psalm 90:12-17. "Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom." ***The Epistle:*** Hebrews 4:12-16. Jesus is portrayed as the "great high priest" who is "Jesus the Son of God." ***The Gospel:*** Mark 10:17-31. This passage begins with the story of the rich man who asks Jesus how to obtain eternal life. He says he already has obeyed the laws of God. Jesus then says he needs to sell all he has and give to the poor and come follow him. But the man leaves sorrowful because he has great wealth.

THE HYMNS:

Processional: No. 680. "O God Our Help." This hymn is based on Psalm 90:1-5 and was written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748). He moved church music from the old medieval office hymns to that of the reformation. He composed 600 hymns many of which are still in hymnals of many denomination. This particular hymn has been in the Episcopal hymnal since 1874. The tune "St. Anne" with all its beauty is of dubious origin but was enhanced by William Croft in a 1708 book of arrangements for singing the psalms.

Sequence: No. 685. "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me." This popular Protestant hymn was written by Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778) and first published in his "Gospel Magazine, III" (March 1776), attached to an article on spiritual improvement – dealing

with human sin and waywardness. The tune, "Toplady," was composed for this text by Thomas Hastings (1784-1872) and published in "Spiritual Songs for Social Worship," 1831.

Presentation: No. 448. "O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High." The author of this hymn is generally believed to be Thomas a' Kempis, born near Dusseldorf in 1379 into a peasant family. At a young age, he was sent to a pauper's school run by a religious order in which he later became a member and was priested in 1413. The tune "Deo Gracias," is a 15th English ballad melody and is best sung with spirit and movement.

Communion: "In the Lord I'll be forever thankful." This hymn was written and set to music by Jacques Breathier for the Taize religious community in France. 1991. It is based on Philippians 4:4-6.

Recessional: No. 460. "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus." This majestic hymn was written by an English businessman, William Chatterton Dix, who sold insurance, but had a hobby of writing hymns based on his personal faith. This particular hymn is based on Revelation 5:9, "for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God." The tune "Hyfrydol" by Rowland Hugh Prichard is remarkable in that it limits itself to a range of only a fifth, save for the final phrase which rises to the sixth (D). Having celebrated God's "goodness and mercy," we go forth singing: "Hark! the songs of holy Zion thunder like a mighty flood; Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood."

Servants for October 14th

Patrice and Bill Braun - *Ushers*
Rick Carlstedt - *Lector*
Judy Robel - *Intercessor*
Pam Dietmeyer - *Eucharistic Minister*
Kim Morris - *Vestry Person of the Day*
Angie Lang - *Children's Crucifer*
Beth Lukas - *Altar Guild, Flower Guild*
Patrice and Bill Braun - *Coffee Hour*

On the Calendar...

Vestry - Wednesday, October 17, 6:00 pm
Men's Breakfast - Saturday, November 3, 8:00 am
Daylight Savings time - Sunday, November 4
Eve of Thanksgiving Service - Wednesday, November 21, 7:00 pm

From the studio of the Rev. William P. McLemore



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