

Holy Apostles "Grapevine"

The Monthly Newsletter of Holy Apostles Episcopal Church

FROM THE DESKS OF PASTORS SHERYL AND CHRIS KESTER-BEYER

Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you know what the number one reason someone visits a church for the first time is? Because someone invited them! Surveys among new members found that 75 to 90 percent of new members say they came because someone invited them. Yet, research also indicates that, on the average, only 46 percent of church members say they have invited at least one person to worship service during the last twelve months.

Diana Butler Bass in preparation for writing a book on the characteristics of thriving neighborhood churches, visited several different churches, with her family, in the course of a year; at one of the churches they visited they were greeted warmly before the service and even invited out with some members of the congregation following worship. While out for lunch Diana was concerned that her 7 year old daughter, Emma, might be getting bored, until she noticed that one of the teenage girls at the table with them had engaged Emma in conversation. When they were done eating, Emily invited Emma to go for a short walk while the adults finished up their lunch. Bass writes, "About a year (and a dozen congregations) later, I asked Emma which was her favorite among all that we visited. Without hesitation, she said, "Emily's church." When I asked why, she responded, "I loved the music and Emily was really cool. She was nice to me." Emily had, quite literally, transformed a stranger into a friend through the practice of hospitality."

Bass goes one to say that "True Christian hospitality is not a recruitment strategy designed to manipulate strangers into church membership. Rather, it is a central practice of the Christian faith... Christians welcome strangers as we ourselves have been welcomed into God through the love of Jesus Christ. Through hospitality, Christians imitate God's welcome. It stands at the heart of a Christian way of life, a living icon of wholeness in God."

So what might that hospitality look like? Well, it doesn't need to be anything real complicated. Just a simple invitation to someone who doesn't already have a church home that may go something like this, "if you're looking for a church, I'd like to invite you to my church." And then give them the time of worship and directions to our church or send them to our website or Facebook page. If you feel comfortable, invite to pick them up on Sunday morning and bring them to worship with you or offer to meet them at church 5 to 10 minutes before worship starts.

And then once at church, introduce them to your friends, make sure they know where we are in the bulletin or hymnal or Book of Common Prayer, show them where the bathrooms are, and invite them to join you for coffee and fellowship after church. Of course, it is also possible that some of these new people will simply make their way to Holy Apostles on their own, in which case, it is important that we warmly greet them and make sure they feel at home in our church. Again, surveys tell us that it is how well people are made to feel at home in our midst that will determine whether someone returns to worship again with us.

In the coming months, it is my hope and prayer that we at Holy Apostles would take seriously this Christian practice of hospitality (even if it means taking us out of our comfort zones a little bit). Not so we might gain new members, but so we might truly be God's agent of welcome and love to those among us.

Blessings!
Pastor Sheryl



Holy Apostles' Episcopal Church

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 Mitchell, NE 69357
 (308) 623-1969

Email: apostles@embarqmail.com

Sunday service: 10:30am
 Office hours: Mornings - MTW

Mitchell Ministerial

Association Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is asking for the following donations:

August-Pancake mix

Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Pantry coordinators:

Susan Weitzel-(308)623-2684 or

Karen French (308)623-1883

Just a note!

Please mark it on your calendar that the ECW fall salad lunch will be on September 8. This moves it to after Labor Day.

Backpack Supplies

Just a reminder that starting the beginning of September they will be needing supplies for the backpack program. Needed items include, powdered milk, cup of soup, individual fruit and vegetable cups, instant oatmeal packets and individual cereals and sandwich crackers.

(Contact Andee Symonds for additional information.)

Western Regional Deanery

Reminder that Holy Apostles is the host of the upcoming Deanery on August 27, from 10.00-3.00.

Rev. Tar Drazdowski from Christ Church in Sidney will present a program on her mission work through the diocese.

Anyone interested in attending is invited to do so. The program should be interesting and informative. We will serve coffee & rolls in morning and a light luncheon as well.

Please contact Maryruth Reed if you can help with providing refreshments, are interested in serving, or can assist in another manner.

FYI- Names and Contact Information

Priests-in-charge:	The Reverend Chris Kester-Beyer	(402)694-9189 (cell)
	The Reverend Sheryl Kester-Beyer	(402)694-9182 (cell)
		(308)631-7656 (Rector)
Deacon:	The Reverend Angela Jones	(308)631-1922 (cell)
Senior Warden	Lee Hughson	(308)623-2004
Junior Warden	Judy Kieler	(308)787-0191
Holy Apostles Website	www.holyapostlesmitchell.org	
Facebook	Holy Apostles Mitchell NE	

DIOCESE OF NEBRASKA - RESOURCE LIST

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Bishop:	The Rt. Reverend J. Scott Barker	Sbarker@episcopal-ne.org
Canon to the Ordinary	The Reverend Canon Elizabeth Easton	Leaston@episcopal-ne.org
Diocesan Administrator	Lindsey Rowe	Dioadmin@episcopal-ne.org
Director of Finance	Beth Byrne	Bbyrne@episcopal-ne.org
Archdeacon	The Reverend Betsy Bennett	Deaconbetsy@windstream.net

(Diocesan Environmental Ministries & Ministry of Diaconate)

August Sunday Service Assignments

Dates	Lector/Server	Acolytes	Ushers	Gifts	Coffee
8/7	Sylvia/Maryruth	Matt	Nick S/Gilbert K	Steve & Marilyn	Fred & Nancy
8/14	Andee/Jenny	Clancey	Lee H/Tyler P	Sharon F	Lee & Jenny
8/21	Leann/Maryruth	Mary & Merrill	Mel F/Larry W	Nikki R	Steve & Sylvia
8/28	Deb/Jenny	Matt	Lee H/John P	Steve & Sylvia	Pete, Nick & Katy
9/4	Sylvia/Maryruth	Mary & Merrill	Chris C/Gilbert K	Nancy & Pete	Steph & Chris C
August Altar: Nancy Sato & Maryruth Reed					

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

8/1	Stephanie Cannon	8/19	Bobby Allbaugh	8/25	Jakob Allbaugh
8/4	Will Raney	8/21	Maryruth Reed	8/26	Lucy Allbaugh
8/11	Fred Sakurada	8/22	Jesse Meysenburg	8/31	Carol Flaherty
8/14	Marilyn Johnson	8/25	Becky Allbaugh		

Anniversaries:

8/6	Chad & Carlye Johnson
8/19	Steve & Sylvia Dolberg
8/23	Kyle & Anne Lewis
8/25	Steve & Marilyn Johnson
8/27	Wil & Aloha Hettinger

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3.12

August 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Group Reunion Penny's 7 am	6
7 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service Vestry meeting	8	9	10	11	12 Group Reunion@ Penny's 7 am	13
14 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	15	16	17	18	19 Group Reunion @ Penny's 7 am	20
21 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	22	23	24	25	26 Group Reunion @ Penny's 7 am	27 Deanery 10am-3pm
28 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	29	30	31			
Some things of note for next few months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECW will resume meeting in September • Adult and Children will resume Sunday School after summer break. 						