

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,

From Black Friday to Good Friday.

This phrase has been rattling around in my brain since Thanksgiving Weekend when so much was made in the media about Black Friday—you know, the Friday after Thanksgiving when most stores and people officially kick-off the Christmas shopping season.

I was intrigued this year to read that the term 'Black Friday' was actually coined to describe the day most stores expect to go from red to black, because Christmas is when the vast majority of retailers finally turn a profit.

For many—and not just retailers—Christmas is the highlight of the year—but interestingly enough and this may (or may not) surprise you, for Christians, Christmas is not the highlight of our year—especially the church year—the highlight of our year is Good Friday and Easter.

Many people feel worn out and exhausted following Christmas—the gifts so highly anticipated are unwrapped and perhaps found wanting—the picture perfect Christmas we longed for, turned out to be anything but picture perfect—and once again we are reminded that food and drink and things are too often fleeting. Add to that the dark, cold days of winter and many struggle to feel upbeat in the face of a new year.

Which is why I think it is helpful to remember that there is more to Christmas than gifts quickly forgotten and picture perfect celebrations that rarely turn out that way—that there is more to Christmas than a cute little baby born in a manger, that the world would just as soon forget.

I guess that's why I found myself coming again and again in my mind to the phrase 'From Black Friday to Good Friday'—it became for me, a way to keep the focus on the big picture—for if Jesus had only come as a baby—if he had not willingly made his way to the cross—if it were not for Good Friday—the day in which God in Jesus Christ paid the debt for our sin, so that we might be free and clear—in the black, so to speak—and if God had not raised Jesus from the dead, then we would truly have reason to despair.

But because of Good Friday and Easter, we know that there is more for us than just the world's 'Black Friday' and all that it entails—there is the promise that God has entered into our world and paid the price for our sins—that he has broken the power of sin and death—and freed us to live resurrected lives—lives that don't have to be picture perfect—lives that find meaning in things more lasting than the material things of this world—lives of joy and hope because they are grounded in Jesus Christ, who not only was born on this earth, but lived, died and was risen for us!

So as we enter into this New Year, let us remember, that in Jesus, we have received the greatest gift of all time—a gift not limited to one day or season of the year—a gift who goes with us into this year and who promises to be with us long after the memories of this year's Christmas has faded.

Have a Blessed New Year!!!

Pastor Sheryl



Holy Apostles' Episcopal Church

1730 18th St/PO Box 188
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 donation item(s):

January—box or pouch pancake mix

Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Pantry coordinators:

Susan Weitzel-(308)623-2684 or

Karen French (308)623-188

Backpack Program

The Backpack Program is asking for the

Following donation item(s):

juice boxes, fruit cups, pudding cups and individual oatmeal packets.

Great Food & Great Fellowship

A reminder that we will be hosting another community meal, on Jan. 31, at 6:00 PM We will have a soup theme. Please come join us for some good food and great company.

Western Deanery

Holy Apostles will host the next Western Deanery meeting on January 20, at 10:00 AM. Pete Okamoto is heading the committee that will be providing the lunch. Please contact her if you can help.

Annual Meeting

Holy Apostles will be having our Annual Meeting and pot luck dinner immediately following church services on January 28. Please plan on attending. There will not be Sunday School on that date.

Vestry News

Holy Apostles will have some new vestry members for the next meeting, February 11, 2018. A huge and heartfelt thanks to Maryruth Reed and Andee Symonds for their dedication, contributions and commitment to the Holy Apostles family.

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	Judy Kieler	(308)225-4645
Junior Warden	Deb Yamamoto	(970)576-0644
Holy Apostles Website	www.holyapostlesmitchell.org	
Facebook	Holy Apostles Mitchell NE	

DIOCESE OF NEBRASKA - RESOURCE LIST

109 N 18 th St	855-341-5373
Omaha, NE 68102	(402)341-5373
www.episcopal-ne.org (website)	(402)341-8683 (fax)
dioadmin@episcopal-ne.org (e-mail)	

Bishop:	The Rt. Reverend J. Scott Barker	Sbarker@episcopal-ne.org
Canon to the Ordinary	The Revered 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)

January Sunday Service Assignments

Dates	Lector/Server	Acolytes	Ushers	Gifts	Coffee
1/7	Amber/Maryruth	Mary & Merrill	Steve J/Larry W	Pete	Andee
1/14	Andee/Jenny	Clancey	Lee H/John P	Sharon	Steve & Sylvia
1/21	Marilyn/Maryruth	Mary & Merrill	Nick S/Steve J	Steve & Marilyn	Leann & Nancy
1/28	Leann/Jenny	Matthew	Lee H/John P	Chris & Steph	pot luck meal
2/4	Stephanie/Maryruth	Mary & Merrill	Nick S/Steve J	Nikki	Nick & Katy

January Altar: Maryruth Reed

January Coffee Hour snacks provider: Maryruth Reed

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Jan 7 Michael John Kurtz	Jan 16 Rose Yamamoto
Jan 8 Leann Sato	Jan 19 Lee Hughson
Jan 9 Milo Newman	Jan 21 Kylie Lewis
Jan 15 Jerry Kurtz	Jan 30 Anne Lewis
Jan 15 Chad Propp	

Anniversaries:

Jan 1 Don & Nikki Rose

January Altar Flowers

Given by:

In memory of:

As of publication, there were no Altar Flower donations for the month of January.

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Matthew 7:11

January 2018						
Sunday 31	Monday 1	Tuesday 2	Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5	Saturday 6
					Group Reunion@ Penny's 7 am	
7 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	8	9	10	11	12 Group Reunion@ Penny's 7 am	13
14 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service 4-6 pm Confirmation Class	15	16	17	18	19 Group Reunion @ Penny's 7 am	20 10:00 am Western Deanery @ Holy Apostles
21* 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	22	23	24	25	26 Group Reunion @ Penny's 7 am	27
28 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service Pot Luck and Annual Meeting right after services	29	30	31 6:00 pm Community Meal Theme: soup	1	2 Group Reunion @ Penny's 7 am	3

*As third Sunday, January 21 will be the Pastors' Discretionary Fund offering date. Any cash in offering plate will go to this fund.