

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,

I love this time of year! I love the cool, crisp mornings followed the warmth of the midday sun. I love the vibrant colors of fall as flowers bloom and the leaves change their colors. I love the abundance of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, green beans and pumpkins that seem like a never ending gift of goodness from God. And yet, as surely as the leaves change, I know that change is just around the corner, even though I might wish that it could always stay just the way these last few beautiful fall days have been.

A few years back I stumbled across a devotional book called "The Circle of Life: The Heart's Journey through the Seasons" by Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr. It's a wonderful book of devotions, poems and questions encouraging us to see in the different seasons a metaphor for our spiritual life.

I have found one of the devotions called 'Autumn Speaks' to have particular resonance with me. The devotion is written as if it is autumn who is speaking, thus its title.

"It is in the art of letting go that you truly come to life. Like all great art this surrender is the work of a lifetime. It requires diligent, faithful practice crowned with trust. Every day you are dying to live although you do not always recognize this. I understand your longing for permanence. It challenges me, too, when the leaves first begin to fall from the trees. There is a strong pull in all of life for security and stability... Learn from me the art of surrender. You, too, have leaves that must be shed so that you may be renewed. Learn to recognize your own dying leaves, your own crumbling foliage waiting to become rich soil for some new seed. You are part of a marvelous web of existence in which each part is held in the compassionate hands of the Creator." (pp. 33-34)

And then the writer asks, "What are the leaves that must fall from your life in order for you to experience greater transformation? What needs to be harvested in your spiritual life?" I don't know about you, but as I reflect on these questions, I know that too often I need to let the leaves of anger, unforgiveness, judgementalism and self-centeredness fall from my life. And I need to let the fruits of the Spirit, i.e., love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, grow in my life.

But I have also learned that neither letting go of those things that hold me back or growing the fruits of the Spirit are possible if I do not place myself again and again into the hands of the master gardener. Simply willing myself to forgive someone who has hurt me or to be more loving and less judgmental doesn't work; trust me, I've tried! But when I place myself in God's presence day after day after day, honestly confess my sin and inviting the Holy Spirit to do its work--slowly but surely, God's transforming work begins to take hold inside me.

So as you watch the leaves changes colors and fall from the trees; as you harvest the last of this year's crop, I invite you to place yourself into the hands of the Master Gardener and give him free reign to do his transforming work in you.

In Christ,
Pastor Sheryl



Holy Apostles' Episcopal Church

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(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:

October—any type of soup

Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Pantry coordinators:

Susan Weitzel-(308)623-2684 or

Karen French (308)623-188

Financial Peace

A reminder that Holy Apostles is hosting a Financial Peace workshop starting on October 2. Please contact Sister Elizabeth Sojourner or the Pastors for more information.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship:

Dear friends, this is a friendly reminder to all of us to be mindful of those who may want to take a few minutes before worship to be in prayer. In order to guide us in preparing our hearts and minds for worship, you will now find printed in the bulletin a 'Prayer Before Worship'. We hope that you will find this prayer and prompt helpful to you in entering into God's presence and enriching your worship experience.

Third Sunday Offering for Priest's Discretionary Fund

At it's September meeting the Vestry formally approved Pastors Sheryl and Chris setting up a Priest's Discretionary Fund to be used by them to assist those in need or other possible uses as they see fit. Also at this meeting, the Vestry voted that the cash given in the offering plates on the 3rd Sunday of each month would be designated for use by the pastors for the Discretionary. Obviously, checks written specifically to the Fund would also be used for this purpose as well. Thank you in advance for your gifts to this fund.

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	

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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)

October Sunday Service Assignments

Dates	Lector/Server	Acolytes	Ushers	Gifts	Coffee
10/2	Marilyn J/Maryruth	Clancey	Larry W/Nick S	Nikki R	Steve & Marilyn
10/9	Amber/Jenny	Matt	Steve J/Gilbert K	Sharon	Nick & Katy
10/16	Deb/Maryruth	Mary & Merrill	Chris C/Lee H	Steve & Sylvia	Steve & Sylvia
10/23	Sylvia/Jenny	Clancey	Larry W/Steve J	Gilbert & Patty	Pete & Nancy
10/30	Leann/Maryruth	Mary & Merrill	Nick S/Gilbert K	Leann & Nancy	Lee & Jenny
11/6	Steph/Maryruth	Matt	Lee H/John P	Pete & Nancy	Chris & Steph

October Altar: Amber Plasencio & Judy Kieler

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

10/1 Aiden Meysenburg	10/10 Kinsey Knaub	10/21 Sheryl Kester-Beyer
10/6 Weston Cannon	10/10 Laura Kurtz	10/29 Julie Lane
10/8 Steve Johnson	10/12 Joslyn Kurtz	10/30 Joni Hotz
10/10 Colette Allbaugh	10/14 Reece Meysenburg	10/30 Leonard Sakurada

Anniversaries:

10/10 Matt & Alex Nation

October Altar Flowers

As of now there are no donations for flowers for the month of October

The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

Psalm 85:12

October 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service 6-8pm Financial Peace	3	4	5	6	7 Group Reunion@ Penny's 7 am Annual Council	8 Annual Council
9 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	10	11	12	13	14 Group Reunion @ Penny's 7 am	15
16 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service*	17	18	19	20	21 Group Reunion @ Penny's 7 am	22
23 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service	24	25	26	27	28 Group Reunion @ Penny's 7 am	29
30 9:30 am Adult & Children Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Service Confirmation Class	31	*The October 16 service will be an officially sanctioned liturgical variation highlighting the 12 step recovery process.				