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Episcopal Mission of Warren County

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January/February Newsletter

“You realize you do this wrong and I’m dead, right?”

Summer day camp for me when I was 12 involved spending 3 weeks researching local estuary health along the coast of Connecticut where I grew up. Project Oceanology provided a fantastic program for local science-loving youth that got us out doing real research. It’s fun to brag to others that I’m a published scientist with four papers housed at the University of Connecticut library. No word yet on if anyone has ever cited any of my data, but still...

Like every good experience for young people growing up, though, there’s more being learned than just the stated curriculum. So it was that one sunny morning I was in a 12-foot skiff with Mr. Hage who was one of our project directors (local science teachers who lead the program), and two other young scientists like me out collecting water samples. At one location, we needed a clean sample from 8 feet down in the water, and due to the conditions it meant that our project leader would need to use his SCUBA equipment. After he donned the heavy tanks, adjusted his fins and mask, and checked the

sample bottles to make sure they would open and close, he turned to me and asked me to open the valve on his tanks. I still remember his words, “one full turn clockwise, then a quarter turn back”.

As a bunch of 11 and 12-year-olds are prone to do, we had spent the whole time headed out to the sample station laughing about typical juvenile topics. We must have still been laughing as I reached over and turned the valve the prescribed distances. And thus I can still to this day close my eyes and see Mr. Hage’s face as he turned, lifted his mask, looked me square in the eyes, and said, “you realize you do this wrong and I’m dead, right?”

Most of us probably do not think of our relationships in church as involving such high stakes. We enjoy meeting people, enjoying the company of others who think and feel like us and being politely challenged by those who might be a bit different. That’s part of the growth opportunity that comes with being in a community: it’s a healthy mix of nurturing and challenging relationships that help us live more deeply into God desires for us. We can engage as much or as little in these relationships as we feel like any given day.

I think there is more to our contribution to one another as we live together as a community of God’s disciples, though. We support one another in living our spiritual lives, lives that are under threat from so many forces around us. From the pressures of our busy lives, the challenges of medical situations, and our greater social and political world, our souls are always being severely tested. We spend a few hours together each week, and then we each don our tanks of spiritual fresh air and head off into the waters that bring both blessings and challenges.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

TITHES & OFFERINGS	2
ANNUAL MTG, YOUTH,	3
ASSOCIATE VICAR	4
COFFEE HOUR, PANTRIES	5
BIRTHDAYS	6
PRAYERS	7

(Continued from page 1)

In those times when we are together, whether all together on Sunday or Wednesday, or just a few of us at an event, one thing we are doing is preparing each other for our next dive into the wider world. We hold each other's spiritual lives in our hands.



When we take time to invest in one another, to care enough to bring our best selves to one another with an eye toward helping them be prepared for their lives, we're doing the real work of Christian community. We do this by educating ourselves to deepening our relationships, paying attention to practicing forgiveness, sharing of our own gifts, and working to hear one another's stories. We do this work as well by committing to praying for one another, knowing that God joins us in the midst of prayer to open up even greater potentials for all. We do these things to adjust the valves on each other's spiritual air tanks and invite others to check our own. We are building up the body of Christ, remembering the gravity of this thing we call discipleship life.

Mr. Hage brought me more than just a water sample that day, he brought me a lesson in how much we truly matter to one another. So far, that sense of how much we matter to one another has only grown for me in the years since. God has blessed us to be in one another's lives not just for polite company, but so we can have true companions who love us and to whom we can direct his love. In this way we reveal the love of God to the world, in how we love one another as he loved us.

Matthew

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Change is coming to how we use offering plates

Change is coming to how we use offering plates during worship.

Beginning on the first Sunday of Lent this year, the churches of the Episcopal Mission of Warren County will be adjusting how we work with gathering financial gifts as part of our worship services. In short, we will no longer pass offering plates through the pews during

the worship. Our offering plates will be available near the entrance to the main aisle at the beginning of the service and will be brought up to the altar at the beginning of the offertory. Those offering a financial gift (pledge envelope, check, or cash) are asked to place their gift in the offering plates at the beginning of the service.

There are many reasons for this, and a longer explanation is available on our website. In brief though, the reasons focus

on two areas. First, it removes pressure from newcomers and visitors. Second, it honors the growing number of people who give electronically or less frequently.

Details on how to give to the EMWC will be included in our bulletins, and our ushers will be reminding folks for the next few weeks as to how to handle their contributions as we adjust our liturgical actions. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Father Matthew or Andrew.



Annual Meeting Preview

Sunday, January 29th promises to be a very exciting day at the EMWC, as we gather together at our Warren location for our Annual Meeting. We will take in reports, review our 2017 budget,, hear of our plans for making 2017 another successful year in our ministries in Christ’s name, and all surrounded by worship and fellowship together.

Of key importance will be a first look for the congregations at the results from our recent CAT (Church Assessment Tool) survey. Our leaders have been prayerfully considering much of what is in the midst of the data, what this can teach us about

where we are and where we should put our energy to best meet the call of Christ as his disciples. Our meeting will include highlights of important insights from the CAT survey and an outline of how we will structure ourselves for our work as a mission and two congregations.

Our day will begin at 9:30 with Morning Prayer, followed by our meeting time together, a celebration of Holy Communion, and then a festive reception afterwards.

Youth Group, Sunday, January 22

3 PM - 4 PM An Awesome, Fun



4 PM -5 PM



You won't go away hungry!

5 PM-5:30 PM



**Episcopal Mission of
Warren County’s
Mardi Gras Dinner
Tuesday, February 28th**



**Gathering , 5:30 PM , Dinner, 6 PM,
Bead Raffle Drawings, 7PM
At St. Francis, Youngsville**

Also, a King Cake contest is open to anyone willing to try their hand at creating this traditional seasonal delicacy. Pick a recipe from the internet and bring your creation. Come enjoy good music and traditional pancakes and sausage to celebrate the last feast before Lent!

March 1



*Holy Eucharist and
Imposition of Ashes*

8 AM – Warren
12 PM – Youngsville
5:30 PM -Warren

LENT

Throughout Lent we will gather after our Wednesday night worship service for our Lenten program.

God's Love—the bridge for a divided world

As many of you know I just returned from a week at seminary. This trip was only one week rather than the normal two weeks, of which I was very grateful for (I miss being home very much). Even though this was shorter period of time it doesn't mean that the classes were any less intense. The main point of focus during the week was on various aspects pastoral care. One of the main issues that was on everyone's mind was the election and the upcoming inauguration. One of the blessings of being with this group is that they are from across the United States. One thing was abundantly clear; this is an issue that has touched everyone throughout the country. The response to these events are wide and varying. There were some interesting discussions and points of view that were brought up in class and outside of class. These discussions didn't change my point of view but they certainly confirmed my understanding.

The doctrine of political parties or individuals involved politics should not be preached in or out of the pulpit by clergy. However, it is appropriate to address social issues which affect our spiritual life and the lives of others. The issues surrounding the contentious presidential election and subsequent inauguration is something that has affected all people whether they support the incoming administration or not. It has become painfully obvious that the contentious situation of the election has created divisions not only in communities, but in even in church communities and families. The division between the differing points of view is a chasm that must be bridged. That bridge can only be built out of love - God's love.

When Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment, he replied "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." According to the Gospel of John as the time of Jesus' crucifixion came near he said, "I give you a new command-

ment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Finally, at his crucifixion Jesus asked "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." This is the example of type of love and forgiveness that Jesus gave us to live by. Jesus loved all of humanity; even people society viewed as the most revile. This is the love we are to have for all of humanity. We are to put aside our differences and love one another with the love that God has shown us. From in our Baptismal Covenant we acknowledge that we will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves. We will also strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. We do this with everyone whether we agree with them politically or not. We do this because we are all Children of God. We do this because we are disciples of Jesus. We do not celebrate in those who experience fear or are down trodden. We do not ridicule those who hold a different opinion. We extend the loving hand of God to all; we bend the knee hearts and kneel beside them and pray; we share with them the light of Christ.

This is the hard work of our faith, to see beyond our limited view points and to love all people with the glory of God. This is the work that we have been given to do because we are the church where all are welcome. We are the church where God's love, peace, and mercy is proclaimed. We are the church which takes God's love into the world so it may be shared with others. We are the hands, feet, and voice of God's love in the world - a world which desperately needs God's love to be proclaimed so that divisions may be bridged.

Peace,
Tim

COFFEE HOUR

Our awesome after service coffee hour is a great time of fellowship. Many thanks to those who offered their gift of hospitality by providing goodies for all to enjoy. We give thanks to *Bonnie Dickson & Jan Thompson, Anne Reynolds & Nancy Reynolds, Molly Lawson & Linda Salva, Chris Myers, Brigitte & Jeff Chase, Colette Grady & Laurie Rulander, and Helenanne Meyer* for hosting in Youngsville. If you would like to be added to the schedule, at St. Francis, please see Helenanne Meyer.

Thanks to the following people who hosted coffee hour in Warren: *Mary Lou*



Campbell, Beth Porter, Mary Lou & Tom Watt, and Addy & Gary Landrio. Check out the table in the entryway for open Sundays for your opportunity to serve in this fellowship ministry.

Would you like to host a coffee hour, but think you can't bake? Store bought treats are always welcome, but now there's another way to participate. Simply designate a contribution as "coffee hour treats." Someone will do the shopping for you, and you will be the VIRTUAL HOST or HOSTESS!



Food Pantry Needs

Our food pantry at our Warren location is in need of the following items:

- Pancake Mix (just add water) & Syrup
- Complete Boxed Meals with meat
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Pasta and sauce, Spaghetti-O's, Ravioli, Mac & Cheese
- Canned vegetables, soup,
- Mayo, tuna fish, canned chicken
- Canned Vegetables & Canned Fruit

Your donations are greatly appreciated by those needing our emergency food pantry. Thank you for sharing the Love of Christ with others.

The Pet Food Pantry at our Youngsville location is entering its second year and are so pleased

and thankful for everyone's continued support. Remember we accept cash donations as well as pet food. If you find your pet doesn't like its' food please seal and donate, also any pet items in good shape! Drop off stations in Warren include Ed Schults showroom at 4090 Market Street or The Critter Clippers 2935 Conewango Avenue in Warren. If you make a donation in honor or memory of a pet, please send a photo and we will post it on the pet bulletin board.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January

- 2 - Aubrey Schantz Varine
Barb Willis
- 3 - Mary Lou Watt
- 7 - Jana Johnson Hanks
- 10 - Cassaundra Press
Todd Warner
- 11 - Darlene John
- 12 - Jess Schantz
- 13 - Donna Ball
- 18 - Trinity Wennberg
- 19 - Jim McCollough
Jessie Schantz Merko
Cara Powers
Mark Woody
- 20 - Vivien Boger
- 21 - Ashley Schantz
- 23 - Lenore Glotz
Linda & Brad Salva
- 25 - Pam Curry
Carol Rickerson
Laura Taylor
- 26 - Ashley Horner
Dorothy & Charles
Bennett
- 28 - Brittany Glotz
Bryce Glotz
- 29 - Charles Bennett
Teresa Magnani
- 30 - Chuck Myers
- 31 - Keira Fox

February

- 1 - Rachel Farnsworth
Patrick Schantz
- 2- Pat Hesch
Chris Mesmer
Linda Salva
- 3 - Christy Spackman
- 4 - Linda Dyer
- 5 - Colin Kramer
- 7 - Tony Creal
Abigail Whaley
- 8 - Lacy Brant
Taylor John
Michael Thompson
- 9 - Greyson Farnsworth
Paul Groves
Ian Franklin
Addy Landrio
- 10 - Nolan Groves
Kevin Rulander
- 13 - Emma Campbell
Jill Woody
- 14 - Ed Ball
Beth Glotz
Pauline & Charles Steinmeyer
- 15 - Sue Dilick
Ellen Scalise
Kurt Smith
- 16 - Cameron Westover
- 17 - Sadie Slick
- 18 - William Clever
Collin Delattre
- 20 - Leslie Baldensperger
Madalynn Campbell

- 21 - Rob Arnold
- 22 - James B. Schantz
- 23 - Linda Jensen
- 26 - Cathy Schantz
Patrick & Jennifer Schantz
- 28 - Joshua Westover
- 29 - Donald Jackson

March

- 1 - Gavin Horner
- 2 - Donna Brown
Jennifer Scalise
- 4 - Andy Pope
- 5 - Jack Glarner
- 6 - Rob Olson
- 7 - Kendra Myers
- 8 - Justin Eck
- 12 - Susan Wolfe
- 14 - Christine Thomson
- 15 - Bill Renninger
- 17 - Ethan Dyer
- 19 - Brian Magnani
Kennedie Ebersole
- 21 - Jessica Stuart
- 24 - Lester Rulander
Kato Watson
- 25 - Alan Baldensperger
- 26 - Robert Dilks
- 28 - Brigitte Chase
Debbie Horner
Elaine Moriarity
Casey Werner
- 30 - John Willis
- 31 - Jerry & Betsy Bowersox



The new Altar Flower sign up calendar is in the entryway for your opportunity to place flowers on altar for 2017. You may place them on the altar in memory of or in honor of someone, or in thanksgiving for an event, etc. You may order the flowers from the florist of your choice and pay for them directly or ask Barb to order for you and then pay the church. Any questions, call Barb at either office: STF—563-7586, TMC - 723-9360.

FYI — No flowers are placed on the altar during Lent.



Illness/ Surgery/ Other Needs: Ann, Brendan, Dee Stewart, Kathy & Bob, Bill, Joyce, trafficked children, Doug, Roger, Jean, Joan, Herb, Tom Watt, Fran Wood, Taylor Johnson, Inca Wellner, Colin

Thanksgiving for: life itself, connection, the Diaper Ministry, smoking ban at home, lost linens found, for friends (Connie Michell & Debby Hornburg) offering temporary housing, wonderful family trip to Cleveland, winter sunshine

Serving in the Armed Services: Alex Danielson, Collin Delattre, Curtis Delattre, Parker Hahn, Jackie Shaw, Nathan Lake, Robert Barrett, Jonathon Fox, Andrew Horner, Abe Vansile, Bill Wencil, Bill Horner, Sondra Dew, T.J. Fera, Pete Ochucki, Stephen Battko, Rob Umbaugh, Adam Decker, Troy Spencer, Natalie Neidrick Julin, Jolene Nobles, Aaron Heliker, Arick Heliker Matthew Wright, Matthew Lambert, Sean Jenkins, Krista Traut, Matthew Easterly Alaxis Brink Smith, Julie Sveda, Hayden Victor

The Clergy: Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Sean Rowe, our Bishop; Matthew Scott, our vicar, Tim Dyer, our associate vicar

Prayer for the Diocese

O God, by your grace you have called us in this diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishop, Sean, and other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trinity

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Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



Celebrate

Grow

Share