



Christ Church
Sixth and Main Streets
Clarksburg

The Good News Weekly

of

Christ Episcopal Church

January 6, 2019



St. Barnabas Chapel
721 Hall Street
Bridgeport

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www.stbarnabaschapel.com
 Office phone: 304-622-3694
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<https://www.facebook.com/Episcopalparishinclarksburg/>

Upcoming Events

- 1/6/19 Holy Eucharist Rite II** at 10:00 a.m. at Christ Church
- 1/6/19 Holy Eucharist Rite II** at 5:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas
- 1/8/19 Vestry Meeting** at **6:00 p.m. (new time)** at Christ Church
- 1/9/18 Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m. at Christ Church
- 1/13/19 Holy Eucharist Rite II** at 10:00 a.m. at Christ Church
- 1/13/19 Holy Eucharist Rite II** at 5:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas
- 1/13/19 Second Sunday Supper** at 6:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas

Backpack Blessings Schedule

- Pack after church on January 6
- Driver to deliver bags January 10 – Dick Clovis
- Shopper for January 10 – Beth Sickles
- Pack after church on January 13

The GOOD BOOK CLUB – EPIPHANY 2019

The Rev. Canon Heather L. Melton
Staff Officer, the United Thank Offering

Welcome to year two of the Good Book Club! UTO is happy to partner once again with Forward Movement to support Episcopalians in a church wide Bible study. This year, we are spending the season of Epiphany looking at the book of Romans. Romans is a great text and is really well suited to the season of Epiphany. Romans is a wonderful lesson from Paul to the churches in Rome who are living into their faith. He speaks of the gift of grace, explaining how faith is the path to salvation. It seems fitting as we begin a new calendar year to wrestle with the text of Romans: What new things might we gather for the year ahead? How will our faith be strengthened? How can we respond with gratitude to the gift of grace freely given by God to us in the year ahead? For those of you that are joining UTO for a second year, you'll notice some changes to our Good Book Club materials. First off, we've invited UTO grant recipients to write the majority of the reflections. Since Paul is writing to fledgling churches, we thought it might be better if you heard from the ministry innovators whom UTO helped to launch new ministries and new programs. We'll begin with a reflection from our UTO Board president and a little information about UTO for those of you who are new to this wonderful ministry of The Episcopal Church. Each week, you'll have a reflection, discussion/reflection questions, and information about the authors and the work they are engaged with in their community.

Continued on page 2.

Serving Ministries

January 6, 2019
Epiphany Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Choir warmup**
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II** at Christ Church
Lector: Jody Morse
Ushers: Ben Barksdale and Dee Trimbach
Acolyte: Nate Critchfield
Altar Guild: Suzanne Wilson & Carol Johnson
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee hour** in the parlor
Coffee hour hostess: OPEN
- 11:30 a.m. Choir rehearsal**
- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II** at St. Barnabas
Lector: Nancy Cotten
Ushers: Joe Martin
Altar Guild: Nancy Cotten

January 13, 2019
1st Sunday After Epiphany

- 9:30 a.m. Choir warmup**
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II** at Christ Church
Lector: Bill Saviers
Ushers: Ben Barksdale and Tom Walsh
Acolyte: Nate Critchfield
Altar Guild: Suzanne Wilson & Carol Johnson
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee hour** in the parlor
Coffee hour hostess: OPEN
- 11:30 a.m. Choir rehearsal**
- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II** at St. Barnabas
Lector: Nancy Cotten
Ushers: Tom and Becky Durrett
Altar Guild: Elsa Bartlett
- 6:30 p.m. Second Sunday Supper** at St. Barnabas

... to know, live, and share
The Good News Story of Jesus Christ

WEEK 1: JANUARY 7-13, 2019

Sherri Dietrich, UTO Board President, Diocese of Maine

READ: ROMANS 1:1-3:8

REFLECT: Paul often begins his letters with his “credentials,” as he does in Romans. It’s a lot of information that must have been important for his original readers to read, but it isn’t particularly inspiring to us 2,000 years later. We already know the story of Jesus and his disciples who were empowered to spread Christianity throughout the known world, and Paul doesn’t need to defend his right to write about Christ and faith at this point. But I am always moved by the greeting to his readers that follows, which is usually some version of the one in Romans 1:8: **“I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world.”** It may have been just the “Dear Reader” salutation of his age, but it’s lovely and it reminds me both of all the people I love and of the eternal importance of proclaiming our faith. Evangelism hasn’t always been embraced by Episcopalians, and it can be pretty scary to share your faith in a “post-Christian” age, but Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has reminded us that Christianity is indeed good news that’s too good not to share. Now that I’m the United Thank Offering Board president, Paul’s greeting feels even more personal and significant to me because it’s just how I feel about all of the people who participate in UTO. UTO grants proclaim our faith throughout the world and help provide buildings and programs that allow others to then proclaim their faith to their neighbors, and I thank my God for every one of you.

DIG DEEPER:

1. Whom do you thank God for every time you remember them?
2. Are there people who thank God because your faith has been proclaimed to them?
3. What first steps could you take to proclaim your faith throughout the world?

About the Author and the United Thank Offering (UTO): Sherri Dietrich is president of the United Thank Offering Board. She lives gratefully in Midcoast Maine with her wife, cat, and 23 chickens, and often feels closest to God in her garden. The United Thank Offering (UTO) invites all Episcopalians to participate in a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude and giving. For more than 128 years, UTO has distributed small Blue Boxes to Episcopalians asking them to place a coin in the box for each good thing that happens in their life. These boxes are collected annually in parishes and dioceses and then throughout the whole Church. All of the thank offerings are then distributed as grants to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. Please note that 100 percent of donations to UTO are given away the following year, and each year UTO receives more requests for grants than it can fund. We hope that hearing the stories of some of UTO grants will inspire you to participate more fully in UTO so that we can increase our thank offerings and support more innovative ministry projects like the ones you will learn about each week. To learn more about UTO, please visit: unitedthankoffering.org or episcopalchurch.org/uto

GRATITUDE JOURNAL

THIS WEEK I AM THANKFUL FOR:
