



Sixth and Main Streets
Clarksburg

The Good News Weekly

October 1, 2017

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721 Hall Street
Bridgeport

Message from Sr. Warden Chuck Critchfield

on behalf of the Vestry
September 26, 2017

Fellow Parishioners:

I am pleased to announce that Rev. Nora Becker has officially accepted the call of the Vestry to be our rector.

Upon the completion of Nora's first year with us, the Vestry, Bishop Klusmeyer and Nora met in August to give Nora our feedback as part of the annual mutual ministry review. After that process the Vestry met and in a unanimous vote of the members present, decided to ask the Bishop permission to elect Nora as rector -- which he quickly granted. We completed the process of finalizing the Letter of Agreement with Nora last week and it is now official. So please welcome her as our rector!!

The text of the actual motion from the Vestry meeting is as follows: We move that the Vestry of Christ Church, on behalf of the congregation, request permission from Bishop Klusmeyer to elect Rev. Nora Becker to the rectorship of the parish of Christ Church Clarksburg/St. Barnabas Chapel with the following stipulation: Rev. Becker must continue to work with Rector's Reflectionary Group on a regular basis as directed and guided by the Vestry for a period of at least one year.

What followed that motion was a discussion about our role as parishioners in the work of the church. We felt that once Nora came on board last summer we relaxed. So the following pledge was approved: We the Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church and St Barnabas Chapel in our call to the Rev Nora Becker as rector, pledge to support her and call upon the parish to build with her our commitment in Christ by accepting our responsibility as active members in our Parish.

I would like to recognize that the Parish has resumed the Backpack Blessing Program and picked up a 2nd Head Start location; Bible Study has resumed; Contemplative Prayer services continue on Mondays; Second Sunday Supper at St. Barnabas continues; the End of Life program is underway; we have four wonderful choral scholars thanks to the generosity of parishioners; planning on the Memorial Garden is moving forward and there are probably individual efforts that I am missing. I urge the Parish to continue the work of the Church. Let's keep gathering momentum as we move forward!!

**Our mission is to know, live, and share
the Good News Story of Jesus Christ.**

Serving Ministries

October 1, 2017

- Holy Eucharist Rite II with The Rev. Nora Becker
9:20 a.m. Choir Warmup
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
at Christ Church in Clarksburg
Lector: Marilyn Blake
Ushers: Jody Morse and Dee Trimbach
Acolyte: Nate Critchfield
Altar Guild: Kitty Clovis
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee hour - in the parlors
- 11:15 a.m. Adult forum
- 11:45 a.m. Choir Practice
- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
at St. Barnabas Chapel in Bridgeport
Lector: Nancy Cotten
Usher: Joe Martin
Altar Guild: Elsa Bartlett

Upcoming Events

- 10/1 Holy Eucharist Rite II** at 10:00 a.m. at CEC
- 10/1 Deanery Meeting** at 2 p.m. at St. Barnabas
- 10/1 Holy Eucharist Rite II** at 5:30 p.m. at St. B.
- 10/2 Centering Prayer** at 9:00 a.m. at St. B.
- 10/4 Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m. at Christ Church
- 10/ 4-7 Nora at Family Systems Workshop** at VTS
- 10/8 Holy Eucharist Rite II** at 10:00 a.m. at CEC
- 10/8 Holy Eucharist Rite II** at 5:30 p.m. at St. B.
- 10/8 Second Sunday Supper** at 6:30 p.m. at St. B.
- 10/9 Centering Prayer** at 9:00 a.m. at St. B.
- 10/11 Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m. at Christ Church
- Oct. 27-29 Diocesan Convention** in Charleston

Backpack Schedule

- Pack after church on October 1
- Deliver on October 5 – Dick Clovis
- Shopper for October 5 - ??
- Pack after church on October 8
- Deliver on October 12 – Beth Sickles
- Shopper for October 12 – Beth Sickles
- Pack after church on October 15

A Word to the Church from the Episcopal Church's House of Bishops

September 27, 2017

The Episcopal Church House of Bishops, meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska (Diocese of Alaska)
approved and presented the following Word to the Church.

A Word to the Church from The Episcopal Church's House of Bishops Gathered in Fairbanks, Alaska, September 21-26, 2017
The bishops of The Episcopal Church came to Alaska to listen to the earth and its peoples as an act of prayer, solidarity and witness. We came because:

- *"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers"* (Psalm 24:1-2). God is the Lord of all the earth and of all people; we are one family, the family of God.
- *"You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are ... members of the household of God"* (Ephesians 2:19). The residents of interior Alaska whom we met are not strangers; they are members of the same household of faith.
- People have *"become hard of hearing, and shut their eyes so that they won't see with their eyes or hear with their ears or understand with their minds, and change their hearts and lives that I may heal them"* (Matthew 13:14-15). We are blind and deaf to the groaning of the earth and its peoples; we are learning the art of prayerful listening.

What does listening to the earth and its people mean? For us bishops, it meant:

- Getting out and walking the land, standing beside the rivers, sitting beside people whose livelihood depends on that land. We had to slow down and live at the pace of the stories we heard. We had to trust that listening is prayer.
- Recognizing that struggles for justice are connected. Racism, the economy, violence of every kind, and the environment are interrelated. We have seen this reality not only in the Arctic, but also at Standing Rock in the Dakotas, in the recent hurricanes, in Flint, Michigan, Charlottesville, Virginia, and in the violence perpetuated against people of color and vulnerable populations anywhere.
- Understanding that listening is deeply connected to healing. In many healing stories in the gospels, Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" That is, he listened first and then acted.

What did we hear?

- The weather is really different today," one leader told us. "Now spring comes earlier, and fall lasts longer. This is threatening our lives because the permafrost is melting and destabilizing the rivers. We depend on the rivers."
- The land in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge where the caribou birth their calves is called the "sacred place where life begins," so sacred the Gwich'in People do not set foot there. "Drilling here," people said, "is like digging beneath the National Cathedral."
- After shopping together, a native Episcopalian told one of us how hard it is to even secure food. "We can't get good food here. We have to drive to Fairbanks. It is a two-hour trip each way."

What we bishops saw and heard in Alaska is dramatic, but it is not unique. Stories like these can be heard in each of the nations where The Episcopal Church is present. They can be heard in our own communities. We invite you to join us, your bishops, and those people already engaged in this work, in taking time to listen to people in your dioceses and neighborhoods. Look for the connections among race, violence of every kind, economic disparity, and the environment. Then, after reflecting in prayer and engaging with scripture, partner with people in common commitment to the healing of God's world.

God calls us to listen to each other with increased attention. It is only with unstopped ears and open eyes that our hearts and lives will be changed. It is through the reconciling love of God in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit that we and the earth itself will be healed.

A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth

Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share;
Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation.
Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family.
Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land
and to hear and understand those who extract its resources.
Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities
and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.
Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people
and to shape beloved community.
For you are the One who seeks the lost,
binds our wounds and sets us free,
and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.
Amen.