

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION
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the Messenger

Charleston, South Carolina The Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion July 2021

FROM OUR RECTOR

We continue, in this newsletter column, taking another look at Thom S. Rainer's Autopsy of a deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive.

We will begin by taking a quick look at the chapter "The Slow Erosion of Churches." Thom Rainer specifies that it is rare for a long-term church member to see erosion in his or her church, "This slow erosion is the worst type of decline for churches, because the members have no sense of urgency to change...they see the church on a regular basis but don't see the gradual decline that is taking place before their eyes." Rainer continues, "Often the decline is in the physical facilities, but it is much more than that, the decline is also in the vibrant ministries that once existed...the decline is in prayer lives of the members who remain, the decline is in the outward focus of the church...and the connection with the community...and the loss is there in the decline of the hopes and dreams of those who remain."

It is my sincere hope that you might have noticed that the Vestry and other leaders of the Church of the Holy Communion are aware of various declines and are working to more fully address them.

The next chapter, "The Past Is the Hero" ties in closely with the previous segment; "The Slow Erosion of Churches." Thom Rainer informs us here that, "Most of the churches in America that close, don't shut the doors over a single

or even a few cataclysmic events." In all the deceased churches studied by Rainer, the issue was slow erosion and there would be no autopsy to perform if church members had faced reality and with God's help, reversed the course.

The author tells us that "the most pervasive and common thread of our autopsies was that the deceased churches lived for a long time with the past as hero." He indicates that the 'Past Is Hero' congregants held on tightly clinging to things of the past with desperation and fear, more each progressive year. Their battle cry was: "We will die before we change."

Rainer stresses the fact that "these churches were not hanging on to biblical truths...not clinging to clear Christian morality...and were not fighting for doctrines at all. Again, Thom Rainer, "They were fighting for the past. The good days. The way it used to be. The way we want it today."

These are very hard lessons. Change is always difficult, because by its very nature it involves loss. The deceased churches clung to various issues that they refused to let go of, even in the face of certain death.

Worship styles, orders of service, and times of worship services were discussed in assorted places. Buildings and rooms in buildings were stubbornly held onto. Some would not accept any new clergyman except the one who served thirty years ago.

(continued)

Thom Rainer caps the treacherous blindness of ‘The Past is the Hero’ in the following sentence. “But more than any one (item tightly clung to,) these dying churches focused on their own needs instead of others. They looked inwardly instead of outwardly. Their highest priorities were the way they’ve always done it, and that which made them the most comfortable.”

My interest in these topics is to endeavor together, to take a clear-eyed look at where our church stands in these very difficult times, and to think about what we may be doing right and well and to consider what needs to change. I don’t believe that our Lord ever intended for his Church and followers to look back and to remain static. The needs all around us and the work we are called to do in order to better serve others is ever demanding and ever changing.

Prayer: God, please let me be part of the solution and not the problem. Show me what I need to see. Open my eyes to your reality. And give me the courage to move forward in the direction you desire. (from the book: Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive, by Thom S. Rainer)

Father Richardson+

CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION LEADERSHIP & STAFF

The Rev. Jeffrey R. Richardson, Rector
The Rev. Jerry J. Jellico, Deacon
Tierrhane Huff, Choir Director
Elise Pickford, Organist
Dorothy Holland, Youth/Children’s Minister
Mary Neale Berkaw, Coordinator of Altar Guild Ministries
Stephanie Jellico, Parish Administrator

HOLY COMMUNION’S DAY SCHOOL STAFF

Stephanie Jellico, Day School Director
Lisa Clarke, Catechist
Belinda Dymek, Lead Teacher
Beth McKie, Lead Teacher
Emily Mills, Teaching Assistant
Katherine King, Teaching Assistant
Conner Caraman, Teaching Assistant

VESTRY MEMBERS:

Christine Jennings, Sr. Warden
Mark Gould, Jr., Warden
Sue Cavanaugh, 21
Martin Gramling, 21
Patricia Henley, 21
Jan Schumann, 21
Michael Jones, 22
Roy Schmarkey, 22
Skip Schumann, 22
Morey Lent, 23

**The next CHC Food Pantry is
Saturday, July 10!!!**
 Please consider coming at 7 a.m.
to help bag & distribute
groceries!

VESTRY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Christian Education: Skip Schumann
Communications/Website: Mike Jones
**Vestry Person of the Day, Ushers,
Greeters:** Patricia Henley
& Roy Schmarkey
Outreach: Mike Jones & Jerry Jellico
Parish Life/Hospitality:
Roy Schmarkey, Lisa Covington
& Sharon Dean
Pastoral Care: Sharon Dean
Young Adults: Martin Gramling
Inreach: Jan Schumann & Mike Jones
Finances: Sue Cavanaugh & Tori Giblin-Jones
Stewardship: Morey Lent & Patricia Henley

SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE Check out our new banner!

Spread the word!



Ross Corlett, having served at the altar as an acolyte for many years, has now joined the rank of Sub-Deacon and has made impressive beginning.

**VESTRY PERSONS OF
THE DAY FOR JULY:**

July 4
Christine Jennings and Mark Gould

July 11
Martin Gramling and Morey Lent

July 18
Patricia Henley and Michael Jones

July 25
Skip Schumann and Roy Schmarkey

"Submissions to the Messenger will be added after approval and will not be considered anonymous unless agreed upon by the editor, the Rector and the submitter. Also, submissions may be shared via any and all other electronic means, socially or privately."



Mrs. Belinda, our Primary Class teacher (pictured with her daughter, Emma) has been teaching our Day School students about care of environment, specifically, plants and gardening. The children of the Day School began working in the Garth during Summer Camp and plan to continue to keep this space clean and beautiful.



Food Pantry Needs

Every 2nd Saturday is Food Pantry distribution Day. We are asking that you consider donating food items to help off-set food cost, such as:

P-NUT BUTTER, EASY TO OPEN CANNED CHICKEN OR TUNA, AND CANNED VEGGIES OR FRUIT

To learn more about the Food Pantry please contact The Rev. Jerry Jellico, 843-751-8108 or Michael Jones, Michaelvjones843@gmail.com
Thank you for your support!!!

Next Pantry is Saturday, July 10

GROUNDS CLEAN-UP DAY!!!

Come help clean the church grounds on Saturday, July 17 beginning at 7 a.m. Plan to stay for a picnic! Contact Skip Schumann for more information, 843-696-0943 or skipschumann@gmail.com



COMING SOON...

CONSTRUCTION NEAR YOU...



Exciting news ahead...

the Day School's Primary Classroom is being relocated to the Sunday School wing on the 2nd floor. Soon we'll be able to hold dinners and other events in the Parish Hall! Construction on that area will be sometime in the near future, maybe as early as next month... Stay tuned for details as they unfold...

Anyone wishing to help offset some of the cost is welcome to make contributions to the "Building Project Fund".

PURSUE GOD EVEN WHEN YOU CAN'T FEEL HIM. THOSE ARE OFTEN THE TIMES HE INVITES US TO PRESS IN DEEPER.

Dear Church of the Holy Communion,



Thank you all so much for the generous contributions made to the residents of Joseph Floyd Manor. The picnic tables are an amazing addition to the property and a great way for the residents to enjoy the outdoors. The picnic was also lovely and was such a special treat!

Love, Friends of JFM

From Parish Life...

Thank you to all who helped make our Corpus Christi celebration (our 1st potluck event since Feb 2020) a great & happy success! Thank you, Laurie Palmer & Sue Cavanaugh, for helping in the kitchen. Thank you to Thomas Covington who helped throughout the Sunday set up & take down. Thank you to Patsy Prioleau & Laurie Palmer for donating & arranging the beautiful flowers adorning the sideboard & tables. Thank you to the Traywicks who helped with takedown & clean up. Thank you to all who prepared & brought all the delicious food for the buffet table. Finally, thank you to all who stayed so that, once again, we could enjoy a CHC family meal.

~Lisa Covington and Sharon Dean

3RD SUNDAY CASH:
Cash offerings on the 3rd Sunday which is not in an enveloped marked as "pledge" will be earmarked for the Rector's Discretionary Fund.



THE MESSENGER
Newsletter information is due the 20th each month. Please send information to Stephanie at syjellico@hotmail.com or office@holycomm.org

NOTICES & REMINDERS

TENT FOR USE...
A blue tent has been purchased for the church to be used by the church. Anyone in need of the use of the tent please sign it in and out through the church office.



There have been several bats in the building. Please remember to keep all doors closed, especially at night.

A little FYI & request from your money counters: When writing out your checks, please make sure numerals are written clearly. The machine at the bank reads the numerals, & if they are not clear, it leads to a miscalculation of the deposit amount. For example, a 7 can be read as a 1 if the top of the 7 is barely there.

Please remember **ALL Food waste** needs to be placed

in the garbage cans located in the Kitchen. Leaving it any other place will cause unwanted guests.



July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to...

7/1 Catherine Emory
7/1 Denise Harris
7/3 Lauren (Everitt) Johnson
7/4 Jason Luck
7/5 John Hammonds
7/6 Julia Sanderson
7/7 Patrick Garrison
7/8 Joe Villeponteaux
7/10 Margaret Allen
7/11 Cheryl Allen
7/11 Logan Evans
7/11 David Hume
7/11 Sean Jellico
7/11 Agatha Ricks
7/13 Shirley Weaver
7/14 Matthew Rhoades
7/21 Cayson James Rosselot
7/22 William Prioleau
7/22 Eudora Holland
7/23 Peter Everitt
7/23 Donna Harrell
7/23 Bryce Hilton
7/28 Austin Fabian
7/29 Daniel Larisey
7/29 Dusty Rhoades
7/30 Julia Barrington
7/31 Ford Rivers

Happy Anniversary to...

7/2 Rusty & Cathy Harter
7/20 Allen & Melissa Dawson
7/20 Freddie & Carolyn Fabian

Prayers of the People

Please join us in praying for the following:

We most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor...

Barbara, Nathlyn, John, Monica, Christian, Sarah, Brad, Shirley, Mary, Katie, Sue, Ford, Betty, Lucia, Bob, Michael, Ariel, Bill, Janice, Billy, Anna, Millie, Maffett, Krista, Susan, Ruth, Caryl-Sue, Leslee, Nick, Deanna, Lila, Hank, Kevin, Terry, Kay, Richard, Carol Sue, Celia, Avery, Marie, Cy, Amelia, Conor, Brad, Teresa, and Wesley

...and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Lord, in thy mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

social
SUNDAY Join us for light refreshments at the Sunday Social

Anyone wishing to share a celebration with your church family please email: syjellico@hotmail.com -or- office@holycomm.org with the details.