

the COURIER

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The Newsletter of Christ Episcopal Church
Dearborn, Michigan

SUMMER 2019
VOLUME 53.06

Knitting Together Partners in Faith

Following sixteen years of self-imposed exile from church and Christianity, and an exploration of other faith traditions including a sprint through the cultural “New Age” phenomenon of the 1980’s, I found myself being called back into the church. The image I had of that call was one of knitting together the many threads of my faith journey into a more solid fabric. I wanted to pull together the many strands of ideas and questions and create in me a strong cloth of belief. The minister who married Dan and me told us that the Episcopal Church would be a good place for me to do this, and for Dan to find a faith home similar to his Roman Catholic upbringing. So we returned to church, the Episcopal Church. Over the years I have thought of this knitting together metaphor and increasingly found it useful. It has been a particularly helpful image for this last year as we have welcomed Halim into our community as Curate with the subsequent experiences of Eastern Orthodox and Middle Eastern Christianity.

When I mentioned to the Vestry, in December of 2016, the idea of attending the diocesan Requiem or Renaissance workshop, and we subsequently began to look with greater intentionality at who we are as a faith community in this time and place, I had no idea how the journey would develop. I didn’t imagine a process of unravelling and then knitting ourselves back together. But it occurs to me looking back, that this is what happened.

Before I can begin to knit a pair of socks or a hat or sweater, I usually have to unravel the skein of yarn and rewind it into a more organized ball. For whatever reason, skeins of yarn are more loosely put together, and need to be rewound into a ball or else risk the yarn getting tangled and making a mess. So of course as church communities consider who they are and what their purpose is, the process is similar, a kind of deconstruction of what was before the real art of reformation, relationship building, and community identity can begin.

These last few years have been a time of taking apart who we are and rewinding together a stronger sense of our purpose, who we are as a faith community today. Although in the early phases of this I had no idea what the outcome would be, I trusted that we would come to something that would enliven us and give us a new sense of ourselves. It was during this time of uncertain hope that the Bishop presented us with the idea of Halim coming to Christ Church as our Curate. Even then it took months to discern if I was ready to take on another Curate, if this church would be a good fit for him and

he for us, and if we could work out with the Bishop the financial logistics of having him with us.

However, through all of this, God was recognizing our work, our hope, our challenges to begin knitting together a renewed purpose, one that anchors Christ Church in the neighborhood we reside in, and by having a more meaningful presence in today’s world. God has a great sense of humor, and a deep love for God’s people as we strive to live into God’s desire for us. Still it was a complete surprise when a few months after Halim arrived in Dearborn that the invitation came for him to pastor a Lutheran congregation of Middle Eastern, Arabic speaking people. No one imagined this possibility. Well, no one except God.

The Lutheran Church and the Episcopal Church share a Call to Common Mission and Bishop Gibbs and Bishop Kreiss (ELCA Synod Bishop in SE Michigan) have a strong relationship. It was a gift and a blessing that when Mother of the Savior lost their pastor of twenty years, who spoke English and Arabic, that Halim, a bilingual priest, had just moved to Dearborn and could become their pastor. It was also a gift that Halim was at Christ Church as the Curate and being mentored and supervised as a newly ordained priest because the call he taking on was (and is) daunting. I have done a lot of mentoring and supervising and congregational development, and had the skills to guide him. Although subsequently I have also spent this year deepening my skills to work with intercultural communities in order that our work could be as effective as possible.



Continued on page 2

Now, ten months into his role of pastoring Mother of the Savior, some clarity is forming. In a recent meeting with Bishop Gibbs and Jim Gettel (Canon for Congregational Life), Halim and I discussed the future of Mother of the Savior and Christ Church, Dearborn. We anticipate that by September Mother of the Savior will need a new place to reside. It is our hope that a covenant will be formed between Christ Church and Mother of the Savior inviting us into becoming Partners in Faith. As partners in faith we will reside together in the same building and learn to live together as people of faith from different cultures and languages. It was a very Spirit filled conversation, taking place just before the actual day of Pentecost. There are decisions still to be made, and many details to work out over time, but a basic covenant will be created once we have a move in date.

A number of churches have done something similar, formed partners in faith with worshiping communities from different languages and cultures. St. Clair's in Ann Arbor shares their space with a Jewish Synagogue. Other churches share space between English and Hispanic communities. I created another intercultural community years ago between an English speaking Episcopal Church and a Korean speaking Methodist church. We could become the first English-Arabic covenanted partners in faith in the Episcopal Church, and our work could be a protocol for others. This could be precedent

setting partnership, full of the charism of the Holy Spirit!

Learning to live together will take time and an openness of spirit and faith. However there is real evidence that when two faith communities come together in this way, each community thrives and grows. They grow from being in relationship with each other. They grow from modeling how to be both true to who each community is while living together, modeling healthy relationship in a world that leans toward polarization instead of mission focused unity. Congregations forming partnerships in faith each grow because other people are intrigued and come to see how communities are doing this.

The trajectory of this process of renaissance has been far beyond my imagination. It can only be a God-thing, a God inspired response to our prayers. It included, and will continue to require, a fair amount of unraveling, and rewinding before we can knit ourselves into the rich fabric of faith that it appears God is calling us into, partners in faith as the first English-Arabic community in the Episcopal Church. A fabric that is constructed of the very people who live in our neighborhoods, which is always a sign of a vital and vibrant church, created by the strands of our rich diversity of faith, knitted together in hope.

*In Peace,
Pastor Terri*

VESTRY REFLECTION

By Barbara Hall

During the last year Christ Church has suffered through a lot of misery. We have experienced serious illness of both the very young up to the elderly. Sudden unexpected deaths, along with those who have been ill for many years have passed from our presence. When unfortunate incidents occur, our normal everyday lives can be turned topsy-turvy.

Grief is different for everyone:

1. Some are plunged into deep chasms of hopelessness.
2. Some, after the initial shock, react and quickly step up to do what has to be done; this group is usually organized and their grieving process is usually shortened (note, we are never completely through with grieving for the remainder of our lives).
3. Others take the attitude that oh well, what is to be will be. They also hold their feelings inside and try to maneuver their lives through the grieving period. Eventually though when they wake up to the facts and realize that their loved ones are gone, then they have

a delayed period of mourning. It could be harder on this group, taking them longer to get through the grieving process.

We have memories of our relatives, friends and others who had meant so much to us. These memories stay with us and help to keep us going forward.

**On a local
church sign:

God's answers
are better than
our prayers.**

Faith in God can be a very big help in getting our lives back to "not normal", but a step forward.

The happiness forum on Sunday, May 19th was presented by the Spirituality Group. Lynn Becker presented a good talk. The main topic was to have a positive attitude to whatever life deals us. The practice does work.

I have always tried to see a positive side in any problems or circumstance that confronts me. Sometimes it does cause me to question things, but I usually (95% of the time) can turn a decision before me into a positive case. I just let God know that I need guidance/direction and wait for His answer.

THE FIRST YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A LEBANESE EPISCOPAL PRIEST IN DEARBORN

By Curate Halim

It's almost one year since I have started my journey here at Christ Church and it's almost one year also since I graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary last May. I've found that there is a difference between when you read a book or study something and doing it. Peoples lives are so precious and delicate, and I'm privileged to encounter, support, help and to be present with people in their needs. My joy and pleasure are to sit across a person who is filled with hope and fear, joys and anxieties. Its such a privilege to speak and pray with each person. In seminary when you're studying or thinking about issues, everything can seem so big or significant or shocking. And when you're a priest, you're actually living with and journeying with the people, they're just more real. There's so much complexity suddenly, because it's people's lives.

At Rev. Mitch Yudaszw's ordination to priesthood last weekend, Rev. Terri Pilarski used the expression Ontological change, that the ordained person expected to be changed to become another person after ordination. This is a way of saying that the experience of being a priest is more of a continuing formation than distinct moments. You're not waiting around for significant moments to occur. Rather, you're visiting with people, meeting them week after week. The relational aspect of it becomes more relevant.

The second is, that when you're at the seminary, you think, I want to be a really good priest, I want to help people, and have all the answers. There is a temptation for having a perfectionist's life. I have to give the perfect homily, or if someone dies, I have to say the perfect thing. But when I met the family at the funeral last month, this wasn't their first encounter with the church or a priest or faith, and it's not going to be their last. I'm part of a bigger vision that God has for them. I don't have to have every single answer.

As I reflect on the past year, I find that every day brings a new challenge. I have moved to a new country, new culture, I left behind friends and family to follow my call and serve God's children. This past year was definitely not easy, and I had to work hard to adjust to my life here in Dearborn. But today, I feel more confident because of the experiences that shaped me. I have strength and courage because of the wonderful support of Bishop Wendell Gibbs and the staff at the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, the great and amazing support from Rev. Terri Pilarski and her wisdom, and the amazing support from the staff at Christ Church, Erin and John. I feel stronger and blessed by the wonderful support of the congregation and vestry of Christ Church, I'm so grateful to your wonderful love and support.

As I reflect on the last year and my journey, I find it has been part of a continuing Ontological change, a bigger mystery. I couldn't imagine that in my first year I will be called to be Priest-in-Charge to an Arabic Christian congregation here in Dearborn. I'm grateful to this call and I pray that the Holy Spirit will lead to a wonderful ministry at Mother of the Savior Church and that as Christ Episcopal Church and Mother of the Savior, we will witness what church is about, coming together in one place to glorify God who "opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of his Holy Spirit."

Last weekend during Mitch's ordination I was reminded that the church has existed thousands of years before me and will exist thousands of years after. It's very hopeful and satisfying and humbling in a good way, to recognize that here, in my little life, I'm just called to do my little part in God's work, to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, with God's help.

Thank you for all of your support.

PRE-SUMMER FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Kevin Green, Treasurer

As we prepare for the summer season and all that it brings with it (outdoor services, summer concerts, vacations, etc.), I want to give you an update on the Church's financial position. We started the year strong but have more recently fallen behind our budget in terms of income. Fortunately, our expenses continue to track very closely to the budget. As of the end of May, we are approximately \$5,000 behind budget. If this

summer follows the usual trend, we can expect that income will fall further behind until things start to return to normal during the last four months of the year. You can do your part to help us bridge this summer lull by trying to stay current on your pledge. Please remember that we have an online giving option on our website, so you don't even have to be present to contribute. Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer!

SUMMER HOSPITALITY

9:30AM AND 11AM

This summer at 9:30am and again at 11am in the Lounge, coffee, juice, and ice water will be available.

This is an invitation for people who attend the 9am and 10am services to gather together and have a chance to connect. This will be a simple offering set up by the staff, but anyone is welcome to help set up and clean up. So, come early for the 10am or stay a little after the 9am and spend some time with folks you might not otherwise see over the summer.

The Lounge was chosen because it can be a consistent space regardless of the weather, is near the library for activities for kids, enables the doorways to be free for those who are coming and going, is air conditioned and close to a kitchen for the convenience of setting up and clean up.

SUMMER SPIRITUAL

SCRIPTURE OFFERINGS

This summer we will once again host a dialogue for the sermon time at all three services. The dates for the sermon dialogue will be held for six Sundays, July 28 – Sept. 1. Our reflections can come from any one of the four readings; however, we will be placing a particular emphasis on the readings from our summer spiritual study guide: “Unraveled.” Each of these readings, twelve total, will be found in The Communicator in the place of the Old Testament reading. These twelve readings will accompany reflections, art work, and journal prompts included in the “Unraveled” booklet. A hard copy of the booklet is available as well as weekly emails with the reflection for that week. Please use these to supplement your summer time of contemplation where ever you are, whether at home or on vacation.

LISTENING WITH EARS AND HEART: SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

By Pastor Terri

Twenty years ago, in response to some life decisions I was making, I started working with a Spiritual Director. I was in seminary and discerning the nature of my call to ordained ministry. Although it is a requirement for all those discerning calls to ordained ministry to have a Spiritual Director, having a conversation partner who could guide me through the questions seemed like a good idea. The Spiritual Director I found ended up companioning with me for fourteen years. She journeyed with me through seminary, ordination, and my first few positions in parish ministry, until she retired in 2010. When I moved to Dearborn in 2011 I began to see another Spiritual Director, an equally terrific companion to travel with me in my spiritual life. She retired in 2013. In the fall of 2014 I began an intensive, year long, spiritual direction internship, a course of study that would qualify me to be a Spiritual Director.

Spiritual direction is the process of companioning with someone as they seek to understand, and grow in understanding of their relationship with God and how God is present in their life. It is a process of helping another person gain access to their interior life and give language to their experience of the divine through active and intentional listening and asking gentle questions intended to deepen their awareness of God's presence. Spiritual direction helps people grow in their relationship with God.

Most spiritual direction internships anchor their formation in learning about the “Ignatian Exercises.” Created by St. Ignatius in the 16th century these exercises offer a template for the spiritual life. The exercises use a metaphorical framework based on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus through which we examine the stages of our own lives and the many feelings and situation we may face. Moving through the exercises with a spiritual guide enables one to gain a deeper sense of one's self in relationship with God.

When one begins to develop one's spiritual life it readily becomes apparent that spirituality is fragile and susceptible to the whims of the human heart, it is especially vulnerable to distractions and distortions. People pursuing a deeper understanding of their spiritual life may struggle in any number of ways, both with the questions of their lives and with the process of pursuing a deeper spiritual awareness and relationship with God. We are easily distracted, establishing habits that help to deepen one's spiritual life are challenged by the pulls and tugs of daily life. A Spiritual Guide helps one become accountable to one's self and one's spiritual practices as well as offering ideas for practices that might deepen or broaden one's spiritual life.

All authentic spirituality requires some degree of perseverance and practice in prayer, listening to and for God, and growing in awareness of the ways God is present in one's life and in the world. Sometimes the traditional language used to describe God, faith, and spirituality does not resonate with one's own life experience. Deepening one's spirituality may involve a deconstruction of the stereotypes one has assimilated into one's self in order to open one's heart, psyche, and soul to the workings of the divine within. Working with a Spiritual Director one can explore a variety of ways of understanding God's presence in one's life. Having a companion who is willing to listen and offer gentle guidance with thoughtful questions offers one the opportunity to develop a richer, fuller spiritual life. A richer spirituality enables one to navigate the complex ups and downs of life, acquiring greater meaning in the process.

To find a Spiritual Director one can Google “Spiritual Directors International” which will provide a list of people in one's area who are trained as Spiritual Directors.

Telegraph Blues



Jeff Karoub



Silverstrings Dulcimer



Littlefield Folk



Robert Jones &
Matt Watroba

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES 2019 6-8PM

Free and open to the public. Funded by proceeds from the annual Homecoming parking and Thrivent Financial. Please bring your own lawn chair, a meal, and a beverage of your choice, and enjoy four lovely summer evenings outside accompanied by these delightful local musicians and singer songwriters. Robert Jones and Matt Watroba courtesy of David Tamulevich at Tamulevich Artist Management www.Tamulevich.com

July 19: Telegraph Blues

July 26: Jeff Karoub

**August 9: Silverstrings Dulcimer
& Littlefield Folk**

August 16: Robert Jones & Matt Watroba

Christ Episcopal Church 120 N. Military Dearborn, MI
313-565-8450 www.christchurchdearborn.org

Episcopalooza

is coming to Christ Church September 7th.
This is a back to school carnival sponsored
by the Youth and Young Adult Ministry
(YAYA)
of the Diocese of Michigan.



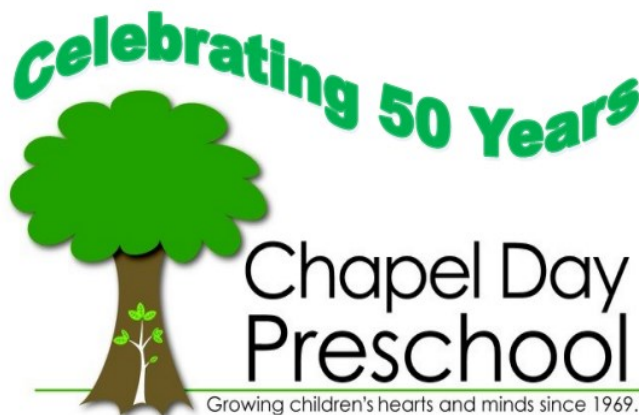
Summer Contemporary Fiction Book Club 2019

(A group of Dearborn area booklovers)

Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm
Christ Episcopal Church, 120 N. Military (at Cherry Hill)
Enter the side door from the parking lot – there will be a sign on the door

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| June 19 | THE FRIEND
By Sigrid Nunez |
| July 17 | AMERICAN MARRIAGE
By Tayari Jones |
| August 21 | LIBRARY AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD
By Felicity Hayes-McCoy |

For more information, please contact mjdurivage@comcast.net



Chapel Day Preschool is celebrating their 50th anniversary on Saturday, August 10th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. There will be an open house and activities for children. More information will be announced soon.

If you, or someone you know, is a Chapel Day Alumni and would like to receive an invitation please send your address to chapeldaypreschool@gmail.com.

Please come and join us!

SEPTEMBER COURIER SUBMISSIONS

Submit news and articles for the September issue of the Courier
by August 20th to office@christchurchdearborn.org.
Please add Courier to the subject line.

Calendar Highlights

FELLOWSHIP

COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, 11:15am

Refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the 10 am service. The sign-up sheet is downstairs if you would like to host a Sunday.

ST. MARY'S OF BETHANY PRAYER GROUP

Tuesday, 10:30am

Intercessory prayer offered for the needs of those on our current and sustaining prayer lists. Names are read at the 11 am Tuesday Eucharist in the Chapel.

YOUNG PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S PRAYER ROOM

Sunday at 10:05am for 3-9 year olds during the 10am service. The children leave the church together and meet in the Prayer Room for a child friendly service with stories and crafts, then return to church for communion. Please contact the church office at 313-565-8450 or office@christchurchdearborn.org.

HEALTH

MARTIAL ARTS

Adult Classes

Wednesday 7pm

Sunday 2pm

STRETCHING CLASS

Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday monthly at 10:30am. Michael Mroczyk, leader of our Martial Arts Group, is offering coaching in a method of effective, dynamic, facilitated stretching for all interested persons. The sessions are open. The greatest benefit will be for those whose range of motion has atrophied. Come dressed comfortably. The sessions are free of charge. Donations to Christ Church are welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

June 1 League of Women Voters 10am
June 1 Sonneman Studio 2pm
June 3 Scout Leaders 7pm
June 3 Listening Group 7pm
June 4 Scout PLC Meeting 6:30pm
June 4 AAUW 7:30pm
June 8 Men's Group 10am
June 8 Mitch's Ordination
June 9 Church Picnic
June 15 Men's Group 10am
June 16 Summer Service Schedule Begins
June 17 Summer Office Hours Begin
June 18 Strengthening Community Relations 7pm
June 21 Summer Book Club 7pm
June 21 CHI Healing 6:30pm
June 22 Men's Group 10am
June 27 Book Club 1pm

JULY

July 1 Scout Leaders 7pm
July 2 Scout PLC Meeting 6:30pm
July 4 Independence Day Office Closed
July 10 Strengthening Community Relations 7pm
July 13 Men's Group 10am
July 17 Summer Book Club 7pm
July 19 Summer Concert Series 6pm
Telegraph Blues
July 20 Men's Group 10am
July 23 League of Women Voters 6pm
July 26 Summer Concert Series 6pm
Jeff Karoub
July 27 Men's Group 10am

AUGUST

Aug 2-4 Homecoming
Aug 5 Scout Leaders 7pm
Aug 6 Scout PLC Meeting 6:30pm
Aug 9 Summer Concert Series 6pm
Silverstrings Dulcimer & Littlefield Folk
Aug 10 Chapel Day 50th Anniversary
Aug 10 League of Women Voters 10am
Aug 10 Men's Group 10am
Aug 16 Summer Concert Series 6pm
Robert Jones & Matt Watroba
Aug 17 Men's Group 10am
Aug 21 Summer Book Club 7pm
Aug 24 Men's Group 10am
Aug 31 Wedding
Aug 31 Men's Group 10am

Summer Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

Charles Bell
Emmett Pawa
Carolyn Blackmore
Andrea Poske
Frank Kery
Lawrence Crane
Ken Serwatowski
Frederick Brandenburg
Dennis Kirchoff
Margaret Green
Kelly Jabbusch
Jonathan Cotter
Ike Sanderson-Price
Kristin Hipp
Nancy Lehnert
Abigail Green
Shane Cotter
John Vandevent
Doulens Pawa
Shirley Damps

June 4 Julie Patterson
June 7 Nathaniel Boyar
June 8 Kerry Manseau
June 8 Sally Dalton
June 9 Mason Stanis
June 11 Mary Daroczy
June 13 Morgan Ross
June 18 Spencer McCallum
June 18 Marcia Shelton
June 19 Margaret Owens
June 19 Peter Behm
June 21 Jerry Behm
June 23 Megan Lewis
June 24 Doug Phillips
June 25 Roger Fox
June 27 Melissa Zimmerman
June 28 Robert Villa
June 29 Paulsen Vandevent
July 2 Jill Poske
July 3 Benjamin Green

July 7 Kevin Green
July 8 Andrew Behm
July 10 Joseph Pellegrino
July 10 Harriette Pawa
July 12 Eleanor Bell
July 15 Bonnie Sheill
July 17
July 19
July 24
July 25
July 26
July 29
Aug 3
Aug 7
Aug 7
Aug 8
Aug 9
Aug 9
Aug 10
Aug 13
Aug 14

ANNIVERSARIES

Jonathan Cotter & Helena Thornton
June 22 (28)
Frederick & Bonnie Sheill
June 29 (56)
Hardy & Marcia Shelton
June 29 (51)
Larry & Mary Jo Crane
July 1 (21)
Dale Taylor & Susan Gregg
July 2 (28)
Thomas Trimble & Monica McLeod
July 16 (25)
William & Peggy Owen
July 21 (63)
Dan & Terri Pilarski
Aug 17 (34)
Andrew & Jean Angel
Aug 18 (23)
Bob & Sharon Smith
Aug 24 (51)



120 N. Military
Dearborn, Michigan 48124
Phone: 313-565-8450
Fax: 313-565-8515
E-mail:
office@christchurchdearborn.org
Website:
www.christchurchdearborn.org



OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Wendell Gibbs, Jr., Bishop
The Rev. Terri Pilarski, Rector
The Rev. Halim Shukair, Curate
Nick Bell, Sr. Warden
Lynn Becker, Jr. Warden
Matthew Sallman, Clerk
Kevin Green, Treasurer

STAFF

Erin Biggs, Office Manager
John Jones, Sexton
Tess Dowgiallo, Children's Choir Director

VESTRY

Jean Angel
Lynn Becker
Nick Bell
Barbara Hall
Michael Mroczyk
Holly Schanz
James Thornton
Chris Ventura