

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



OCTOBER 2025 - CHRONICLE

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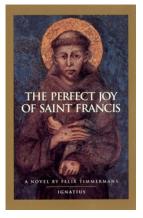
Where we seek to glorify God, follow Jesus Christ, and serve all people through the power of the Holy Spirit, as a community of companions walking together in the Way of Christ's Love for all.

The Perfect Joy of St. Francis

Perhaps the most popular Franciscan alive today is the bestselling author Richard Rohr, who was once asked by our former Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, "What's your favorite book?" I was very eager to hear his answer to this question since his own books (such as *Everything Belongs, The Universal Christ*, and *The Divine Dance*) have been deeply formative for me.

He answered, "The Perfect Joy of St. Francis by Felix Timmermans," a historical novel about St. Francis with which I was not at all familiar. I now own two copies of the book, but I must admit that I have not yet finished reading the book all the way through. However, after reading several other books about St. Francis (by G. K. Chesterton, Nikos Kazantzakis, Ilia Delio, Jon M. Sweeney, Au-

gustine Thompson, etc.), I have become familiar with the legend upon which the book's title is based, the legend in which Francis teaches Brother Leo about "perfect joy." Hermann Hesse concludes his monograph of Francis with five legends of the saint, all of which come from *The Little Flowers*, and the first of these legends is about this perfect joy. The story sounds like one of those deeply puzzling, koanlike, and slightly jarring conversations between a Zen master and his student. Here's how Hesse tells it:



One winter, St. Francis was walking with Brother Leo from Perugia to Santa Maria, nearly freezing in the severe cold. He called to Brother Leo, who was walking ahead of him and said, "Brother Leo, if our brothers everywhere set a great example of holiness and devotion, nevertheless, take note and remember well that perfect joy is not to be found in this."

And after some distance he called out again: "O Brother Leo, if our friars healed the blind and the lame, and cast out demons, and made the deaf to hear, and the lame to walk, and the mute to speak, and, furthermore, if they raised the dead after four days, take note that this too is not perfect joy."

And again, after a while, he called out loudly: "Brother Leo, if the Friars Minor learned all languages and sciences so that they could prophesy and reveal not only things to come, but also the secrets of hearts and consciences – take note that this too is not perfect joy."

And continuing further, once again, St. Francis called out, "Oh Brother Leo, you little lamb of God, even if our friars spoke the language of angels and knew the course of the stars and the powers of plants, if all the secret treasures of the earth were revealed to them and they knew the powers of the birds and the fish, even of all the animals and humans, trees and stones, roots and waters – take note that this too is not perfect joy."

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And still he went further and still he called, "Brother Leo, even if our brothers preach so effectively that they convert all the nonbelievers, take not that even this is not perfect joy."

After talking like this for a couple miles, an exasperated Brother Leo finally exclaimed, "Father, I beg you, for God's sake, to tell me what perfect joy is!"

And St. Francis answered him, "We will arrive at Santa Maria, drenched from the rain and numb from cold, covered with mud and overwhelmed with hunger; and we will knock, and the warden will be angry and say: 'Who are you?' and we will answer, 'Two of your brothers.' And then he will reply 'What you are saying is a lie. You two are vagrants who wander around deceiving people and stealing alms from the poor. Get out of here!' And if he refuses to open the door for us and leaves us outside, in the snow and rain, in hunger and frost until nightfall, and if we patiently endure this injustice and mistreatment, without getting angry, and if we think that the warden is right in considering us so unworthy and that God compelled him to speak to us like this, then, O Brother Leo, take note that *this* is perfect joy. Because listen, Brother Leo, the greatest of all spiritual gifts and blessings bestowed upon us by Christ is this: the opportunity to master oneself and, out of love for your Savior, gladly endure punishment and insult and suffering."



Personally, I am not very eager to endure punishment, insult, and suffering; and although Francis emphasizes this in his explanation, I have come to appreciate another pearl of wisdom from this story about perfect joy, after reading with some of you *New Seeds of Contemplation* at our first Thomas Merton Redwood Chapters meeting last month.² On page 2, Merton writes, "To enter into the realm of contemplation one must in a certain sense die: but this death is in fact the entrance into a higher life. It is a death for the sake of life, which leaves behind all that we can know or treasure as life, as thought, as experience, as joy, as being." Put more simply, the contemplative life (that is, the Christian life) requires letting go of that which we perceive to be "joy" in order to receive the *perfect* joy that God wants to give us. Joseph Campbell said, "We must be willing to let go of the life we've planned, so as to accept the life that is waiting for us." I think this is what Francis is

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¹Nikos Kazantzakis's *God's Pauper: St. Francis of Assisi* is a creative retelling of the life of Francis told from the perspective of Brother Leo. Chapter 6 of the novel recounts this legend in which Brother Leo learns about "perfect joy" from Francis.

²Our October meeting will be Tuesday October 21 at 5 PM in the Chapel. We will continue reading aloud *New Seeds of Contemplation*.

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trying to teach Brother Leo (and us): we must be willing to let go of the joys that we often associate with the vanities of the world so that we may receive the perfect joy that God longs to give us through the wonders of his creation. Perhaps God is longing you to give you an experience of his perfect joy this weekend at one or more of our three St. Francis Blessing of the Animals services: at Betty's Bayside Village at 5 PM on Friday; at the Coleman's House at 4 PM on Saturday; and by the Chapel at 5 PM on Sunday.

I still find it difficult to associate perfect joy with punishment, insult, and suffering, but I believe Francis is pushing us to see perfect joy in those experiences that we might initially be inclined to associate with the opposite of joy. In truth, it is often our most challenging experiences that transform us and mold us and even perfect us into the likeness of God, in whom perfect joy is found.

So, my prayer for us this month, which is the same prayer that the other congregations in our deanery will be praying for us, will be one inspired by the Collect for St. Francis: "Give the people of Christ Church Eureka the grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfect joy. Amen."









Dear Christ Church Family,

Our 2026 Pledge Campaign will begin on Sunday, October 5th with the distribution of Pledge Packets during the Coffee Hours. In both services on Sundays October 12, 19, 26, and November 9, parishioners will share the joy they find in worship, fellowship, and service at Christ Church and why they support Christ Church. Our Pledge Ingathering and Blessing will be during both services on November 16, with special guest preacher the Very Rev. Canon Gary Hall, former Dean of the National Cathedral. A catered Celebration Luncheon will follow that 10:30 service.

Our Pledge Campaign is a chance to reflect on the many ways that we are connected to each other. Our theme this year focuses on the stories we tell and the ways we are called to share our words, our actions, our love, and our joy with the world. This year, with all that has been going on in the world, one constant has been the connections we have formed here at Christ Episcopal Church Eureka.

Our stories bring us together. Each of us has a story to tell, a reason why we found this congregation and continue to participate. Each of us has dreams, ambitions, and great ideas, just as each of us has struggles and times of difficulty. Part of our Good News is that we can bring our whole selves, all our story, to this place and to these people, and receive the support, encouragement, and praise that we need.

God calls each one of us to be good stewards. Stewardship is simply the effective management of the resources committed by someone into the steward's care. The Scriptures tell us that all that we have, and all that we are, are gifts of God, and that our gifted time, talents, and treasure are for the benefit of the Commonwealth of God on this earth.

In the Pledge Packets are letters from our Rector, Fr. Daniel DeForest London, and our Senior Warden, Merry Phillips, to encourage you on your journey of faithful stewardship. There is also a 2026 Pledge Card, with a helpful chart on the back for determining your pledge amount, and a return envelope. These materials may be useful as you discern how you will share the Good News of your transformative creativity and abundance with us and with our neighbors.

We can only be an example of love and compassion in our community with your many and various gifts.

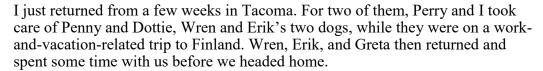
Please return your pledge card by mail or put it in the offering plate at any service, so we can include it and bless it at our **Ingathering Services and Celebration Luncheon on Sunday, November 16th.**

Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!

With love and gratitude, Steven Preston Stewardship Committee Chair Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. . . For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6: 19-21)

God's Instrument

The Rev. Jeri Gray-Reneberg, Associate Priest







One evening, 18-month-old Greta was playing with our car keys, when something happened that surprised her. She pushed a button and the car alarm went off. She looked at me and said "ding, ding, ding!" I said, "Yes! Do you hear that noise?" She said, "Noy-se." I said, "It makes a noise." Then she was fascinated by the concept of something "making a noise." When the carillon bells that mark the time went off at the University of Puget Sound (a few blocks from them), she would come to me with concern on her face and say, "Make a noise. Ding, ding, ding!"

A sensitivity to auditory cues can apparently start at an early age.

Nine years ago last month, my colleagues Randy Knutson, Larry Holben, and I organized and led an Episcopal-Lutheran music conference in Sacramento called "Many Voices, One Song." One of our presenters, and our organist for the closing service, was David Cherwien, internationally recognized church organist, conductor, composer, and teacher. He was listed in our program as a founding member of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and president of that organization from 1993-1997, as well as being a member of the American Guild of Organists. He is well known for having published an extensive amount of choral music and providing leadership at hymn festivals, worship conferences, and other gatherings, and is also listed as a member of the Association of Anglican Musicians Serving the Episcopal Church.

I had long appreciated the hymns written by his wife, Susan Palo Cherwien, a hymn writer and church musician in her own right. Earlier that year, my daughter Linden had sung one of my favorites at St. Francis', "Beloved, God's Chosen," accompanied by Doug Moorehead, who happened to be filling in on that day for our musician, Dana Christen. You can still find Linden singing with Doug's accompaniment if you search YouTube for "Gray-Reneberg Beloved, God's Chosen." I was thrilled to meet both Susan and David, whom Randy had met through the American Guild of Organists, at this conference. Susan has since died, but her lyrics live on.

Now here's the serendipitous part. I was honored to preach at the closing Eucharist, at which we commemorated Saint Hildegard of Bingen. And of the texts appointed for that day, I chose to preach on Colossians 3: 14-17.

Here's how I recounted the story on that day:

"Of the texts appointed for Hildegard's commemoration, the Colossians text is one of my favorites. And as I studied it more closely, I realized that I had a hymn running through my mind. Here's the thing: not only did my daughter Linden sing this lovely hymn at my church, St. Francis', a few months ago, but its lyrics are written by David Cherwien's wife Susan, with music by Robert Hobby.

So, more simply: hymn number 648 from the ELW – the Lutheran hymnal – has lyrics by Susan Cherwien.

Continued from previous page — God's Instrument

It is based on this text from the book of Colossians which we read to remember Hildegard, whose feast we observe today. And it was fresh in my mind, because my daughter Linden sang it in church a few months ago. Some coincidence, right?

As I read the first two verses, listen for echoes of the Colossians text (the hymn actually starts with verse 12):

'Beloved, God's chosen, put on as a garment compassion, forgiveness and goodness of heart. Above all, before all, let love be your raiment that binds into one every dissonant part.

Within, call forth Wisdom, to dwell in you richly; let peace rule your hearts and that peace be of Christ. And from the heart's chamber beloved and holy, let singing thanksgiving to God ever rise."



As it was Hildegard's day, and a music conference, I then quoted Hildegard herself:

"The marvels of God are not brought forth from one's self.

Rather, it is more like a chord, a sound that is played. The tone does not come out of the chord itself, but rather, through the touch of the musician.

I am, of course, the lyre and harp of God's kindness."



As we conclude the Season of Creation, I hope you will also remember music as one of God's most essential creations. Maybe we can pay a little closer attention to the inspiration of "noise," and how "dissonance" often ends in resolution. How, "to [our] listening ears, all nature sings and round [us] rings the music of the spheres."

How does God's kindness play through your unique instrument?

fori +



October 2025 Christ Episcopal Church Wednesday Chapel Services Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour | 9 am

October I—Morning Prayer Commemorating Thérèse of Lisieux, Monastic, 1897

Dedicated to what she called her "little way," she led a simple, quiet life of prayer—in particular for priests—and small acts of charity.



Birgitta advised popes and rulers throughout Europe, and criticized the extravagant lifestyles of the clergy, monastic orders, and laity, challenging four popes to return to Rome from Avignon.



Teresa was born in Spain, near Avila. Even in her childhood, she took much pleasure in the study of saints' lives, and she used to delight in spending times of contemplation, repeating over and over, "For ever, for ever, for ever, for ever, they shall see God."

Commemorating Teresa of Avila, Mystic and Monastic Reformer, 1582

October 22—Morning Prayer Eve of Saint James of Jerusalem

In the Gospel according to Matthew and in the Epistle to the Galatians, the James whom we commemorate today is called the Lord's brother. Other writers, following Mark's tradition, believe him to have been a cousin of Jesus. Certain apocryphal writings speak of him as a son of Joseph's first wife. Whatever his relationship to Jesus—brother, half-brother, or cousin—James was converted after the resurrection. Eventually, he became Bishop of Jerusalem.

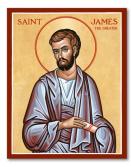
October 29—Morning Prayer James Hannington, Bishop, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1885

Hannington's mission field was on the shores of Lake Victoria. He dreamed of creating a shorter and more efficient route directly from Mombasa, in Kenya, to Buganda. Ignoring the advice of his local guides and porters that the venture would be politically sensitive, and failing to heed a warning from emissaries of King Mwanga to stop, he and his party were apprehended and imprisoned. After a week of cruel privations and suffering, he and the remaining members of his company were executed on October 29, 1885, on the orders of King Mwanga.













Paul and Barnabas at Lystra, Jacob Pynas, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Bible Study Acts of the Apostles

Thursdays | 12:30-2PM | Lewis Hall Pastor Karen Stanley

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES OCTOBER 23rd

On Thursday, October 23rd, 12:30-2pm, Pastor Karen will be leading an exploration of ACTS. This book is the story of the spread of the Jesus Movement in the 30 years after his death and resurrection.

Everyone is invited to join in the lively discussion as we share our questions, insights, and comments. Each session begins with the reading of the chapter under discussion (so no preparation is required) and some background information on history and context, followed by our discussion.

You may bring your own Bible or use one provided. You are also welcome to bring your lunch if you wish. Coffee, tea, and water are provided. Our usual group includes folks who know the Bible well and folks who have never read it, and no prior knowledge is expected.

YOU are welcome to join in the warm fellowship, accepting atmosphere of diverse views, and easy laughter as we grow together in understanding and faith.

New Youth Group Starting at Christ Church

Beginning October 5th we will be hosting a new youth group at Christ Church. The group is open to all middle and high school aged youth – typically 11-18 years old. We will meet on Sunday evenings from 5-6:30pm in the chapel. Youth are encouraged to join us for a meal, fun games & activities, and most importantly fellowship & worship. Please share this new group with the youth in your life!

We are also looking for volunteers to help support this new ministry. If you are interested in attending youth group as a volunteer leader* or providing our weekly meal, please reach out to Robin Cardona at robinacardona@gmail.com. Thank you!

*Please note: those working directly with youth are required to complete Safe Church training





Quilters+

Inviting all crafters, stitchers, knitters, and quilters!

The day: Wednesday, October 8

The time: 9:30 AM The place: Lewis Hall

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN A GROUP OF HANDWORK AFFICIONADOS (or wannabes)

for mornings of stitching, knitting, crocheting, or other handwork.

Coffee and snacks and conversation, busy hands – a great way to spend a morning. Come and join us!

Questions? Call Peg Gardner 443-9627 or Belinda Zander 442-4222.



CENTERING PRAYER

Tuesdays | 6:30 pm | Chapel of Our Merciful Saviour

Covid protocols are: Full vaccination is recommended; masks are OPTIONAL for those who are fully vaccinated and masks are expected for those who are not fully vaccinated. Seating is distanced.



Christ Church Eureka - Green Team Report

Greening Our Congregation:

Our Call to Carbon Neutrality & The Imperative of Solar/Battery

Promoting Creation Care & Reducing our Carbon Footprint

<u>Episcopal Church Directives</u>: In 2022, the Episcopal Church's General Convention and our Diocese's Annual Convention both charted a course toward becoming carbon neutral by 2030, in response to the global emergency of climate change that is caused by carbon-intensive human activity.

In 2022, in response to General Convention, our Diocesan Commission on the Environment drafted a resolution, adopted by Annual Convention that November, that charted a process for our Diocese and its churches to become carbon neutral by 2030.

<u>Our Background</u>: In response, Christ Church (along with other churches) formed a "Green Team" in early 2023, composed of the Rector and now seven parishioners: Junior Warden Heidi Erickson, Perry Gray-Reneberg, Beth Haynes, Ian Haynes, Jim Hendry, Dale Maples, and Chair Steve Preston, advised by Royal McCarthy. Beth, Ian, and Royal are our Implementation Team, which manages approved projects.

<u>The Green Team has</u>: assessed our full church campus energy efficiency through two professional inspections and reports (in 2024 and 2025); formulated a Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (which Vestry approved in early 2025); is implementing the Action Plan (with required Vestry approvals); and launched "Tip-of-the Month" articles by Beth Haynes in the *Chronicle*.

<u>Our first significant project</u> toward carbon neutrality was replacing over a hundred incandescent and halogen lightbulbs with LED bulbs (in Lewis Hall, the Heritage Room, and the Chancel), which is saving hundreds of dollars a month in electricity costs, and lowering our carbon footprint. These replacements were thanks to the vision and generous donations of two parishioners, costing the church little or no money.

<u>Next Up: Solar Panels and Battery Storage</u>: As you will see below, we are now moving urgently toward installing solar panels and battery storage to fully support the current and future electricity needs of the full church campus. This will reduce or eliminate the cost of buying electricity from the grid, <u>and</u> the church will receive credits/payments for any unused solar-generated electricity that goes back into the grid from our solar panels after the batteries are fully charged. We will also be able to "island" during electric grid outages, and be a "resiliency hub" for the community during outages.

Solar with battery storage is seen as key to fulfilling much of the rest of our Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, such as replacing gas furnaces and water heaters with much more efficient heat pump equipment powered by our own solar-generated electricity. This will reduce or eliminate the cost of purchasing natural gas, which is rising even faster than electricity charges, and lower our carbon footprint even more! And state, local, and utility subsidies may be available to help pay for that equipment.

<u>IRS Direct Pay Reimbursement:</u> The <u>IRS reimbursement to the church of 30-50% of the cost</u> of solar-panel/battery-storage installation *survived* the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA), but with shortened deadlines and some modified conditions.

(The <u>residential tax credit</u> for solar-panel and/or battery-storage installation expires at the end of this year; equipment must be installed and in service by December 31, 2025.)

The <u>commercial (that's the church) tax credit expiration</u> for solar-panel installation (which is reimbursed by Direct Pay) has been moved up from 2032 to 2027, <u>unless the project has been "Safe Harbored"</u> by December 31, 2025 (<u>see below</u>). Being "Safe Harbored" also means the penalties (reductions in reimbursement) for Chinese content in any equipment, and the earlier deadlines and other revised conditions, don't apply.

If <u>not</u> "Safe Harbored," construction must begin no later than July 4, 2026, and the system must be in-service and certified by December 31, 2027 to receive the Direct Pay reimbursement. And the reduction in reimbursement for Chinese content will apply.

Currently, a separately-done <u>battery-storage only</u> installation still will qualify under the "old" terms of the Inflation Reduction Act (must be in-service by 2032) to receive the Direct Pay reimbursement.

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"Safe Harbor": There are two ways to qualify for "Safe Harbor":

Begin significant construction by December 31, 2025. This is not feasible for us, because the site for our solar panels (Thompson Education Building) needs to be re-roofed first. The Treasury Department, pursuant to an Executive Order, has also placed significant hurdles to this by increasing what "significant construction" means.

<u>OR</u>

Sign a contract with an installer and pay at least 5% on the contract by December 31, 2025. The recommendation from organizations working in the field of Direct Pay for nonprofits (including churches) is to pay more than the minimum on the contract (like 10-15%), since change orders during installation could increase the actual cost to a level that would make the "downpayment" less than the 5% required for "Safe Harbor," which is what the IRS will look at. In that case we would be disqualified from any Direct Pay reimbursement, regardless of whether we had met the July 4, 2026 deadline to begin construction.

The Green Team has agreed unanimously to <u>recommend to the Vestry to proceed with</u> actions to protect our Direct Pay reimbursements through the <u>"Safe Harbor"</u> mechanism, by signing a contract with an installer and paying 10-15% down by December 31, 2025.

<u>The Green Team has received proposals (bids) from three contractors</u>, which have been emailed to all Green Team members and advisor Royal McCarthy, as well as our Treasurer and Senior Warden. Ian Haynes is preparing a spreadsheet of the competing bids, to help us with a side-by-side comparison of them. The Team is reviewing the bids thoroughly, with a goal of making a recommendation to Vestry's October 25th meeting.

The Green Team, in close consultation with the Rector and Treasurer, will also <u>recommend funding options</u> for Vestry's consideration.

This timeline will allow for Vestry decisions by its December meeting, which would allow time to sign a contract with the chosen installer and make payment for "Safe Harbor" by December 31, 2025.

<u>A Note on Roofing of the Thompson Building</u>: Regardless of solar installation, the Thompson Building needs re-roofing. Roofing bids to prepare for solar panel installation are being sought by Jr. Warden and Green Team member Heidi Erickson, with the assistance of Green Team member Jim Hendry and Lyn Klay. We have received one bid for 30-year-warranteed membrane roofing of the Thompson Building, with two more bids expected soon.

If we can be "Safe Harbored" by the end of this year, timing of the roofing will not be urgent. However, to receive Direct Pay reimbursement if we are <u>not</u> "Safe Harbored," then roofing would need to be completed well before July 4, 2026, so significant solar construction can begin in time. (Re-roofing does not count as "significant construction" for "Safe Harboring.")

<u>In Summary</u>: The Green Team expects to bring recommendations to the Vestry for "Safe Harbor," for a solar-panel/battery-storage contractor, for roofing, and for funding options by Vestry's October 25th meeting. Vestry will make the final decisions.

Steven D. Preston Green Team Chair and Vestry member



Christ Episcopal Church Green Team Tip of the Month Song of Solomon Awake, O north south wind! Blow that its fragrance abroad.

Song of Solomon 4:16 (NRSV): Awake, O north wind, and come, O south wind! Blow upon my garden that its fragrance may be wafted abroad.

Promoting Creation Care & Reducing our Carbon Footprint

The Green Team Tip of the Month is written by Elizabeth Haynes. If you have a tip to share, you can forward it to her at ehaynes@mnsi.net.



How much perfume are you wearing?

Even if you didn't put on perfume when you got dressed today, you're probably wearing a variety of perfumes or fragrances. If you used shampoo this morning, you're wearing perfume. If you washed your clothes, you're probably wearing perfume. Deodorants, lotions laundry detergents and scent boosters, hands soaps and dish soaps are all scented with perfumes designed to make the product more pleasing and to mask the smell of the chemical combinations that comprise the product. Some of these scents are naturally sourced from herbs, spices and flowers, but many of them are synthetic, created in a laboratory.

Why does this matter? Green matters (https://www.greenmatters.com/p/environmental-impect-scented-products-synthetic-fragrance) reports that synthetic fragrances probably do far more harm than good. One-Seed (https://oneseedperfumes.com/blogs/news/world-environment-day-why-your-perfume-may-be-polluting-more-than-your-car) reports that research shows that 35% of us experience intolerance or allergic reactions to synthetic perfumes. Reactions can include migraines, breathing problems, asthma and anxiety. Perhaps that baby powder scented lotion isn't so great after all!

And these harms aren't limited to people. Synthetic fragrances are also damaging to the environment. Scented laundry products can be harmful to plants, animals and aquatic life when they are washed down the drain. And volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from scented products create just as much petrochemical air pollutions as petroleum burned as fuel.

OneSeed cited a 2018 study published in Science (February 2018) that showed VOC emissions from products including perfumes, paint, pesticides and glues contribute to half of fossil fuel VOC emissions in the 33 industrialized cities that were studied. VOCs in the air create ozone which can trigger asthma, permanently scar the lungs and are linked to heart attacks, strokes and lung cancer.

Can we reduce the environmental impact of perfumes, fragrances or scents by buying products that only have naturally derived scents. Well maybe. But Necole Bitchie (https://necolebitchie.com/is-perfume-harmful-to-the-environment/) notes that sourcing natural fragrances can pose problems too. Popular plants like sandalwood and rosewood have been over-harvested leading to deforestation and biodiversity loss. Cultivating flowers like jasmine and tuberose often involve intense agricultural practices with heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides that contaminate soil and water sources.

Not all scents are bad. But we do need to think about how the scented products we use contribute to creation care or creation harm.

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Vestry Highlights

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(C) 707-599-6856

Vestry Highlights ...from the meeting on September 23, 2025

- Treasurer Francis Rivinus reported that our finances, as of August 31, continue to remain in good shape but due to fluctuations in pledge and plate revenue we need to be cautious about additional spending through December.
- The Vestry approved using the proceeds from the Rummage Sale held on September 6 for community outreach.
 The sale successfully raised almost \$800, thanks to the generous parishioners who donated items and participated, and to Elizabeth H-L for coordinating it.
- The Vestry approved an increase of \$1,000.000 to the Stewardship budget to cover the costs of catering.
- The Vestry discussed implementing a Child Care program during the 10:30 worship service. Roni C. will contact St. Alban's for information on their program; Barbara W. agreed to help coordinate volunteers.
- St. Alban's has been carrying the administrative load for Camp Living Waters (CLW) for several years and has requested help from the Deanery. The Vestry agreed that it is important to support CLW as a deanery-wide event and Heidi E. offered to contact possible volunteer staff to help carry on.
- The Junior Warden reported on the progress of gathering roofing bids (for the Education Building) two have been received and it is expected that there will be one more.
- Steve Preston reported on behalf of the Green Team that three bids have been received for solar panels/installation and there may be one more.
- The Vestry approved a new fee schedule for wedding expenses presented by Fr. Daniel.
- A new Youth Group will begin on Sunday, Oct. 5, 5 pm. This will replace the Joy Mass and will be for older youth.

Vestry minutes, treasurer's reports, and other documents are posted by the Clerk of the Vestry, Peg Gardner, on the bulletin board in Lewis Hall.

If you have questions or concerns about parish activities, please contact a member of the Vestry!

Next Vestry Meeting/Retreat: Saturday October 25, 9:30-3:00, at the home of Beth and Ian Haynes.

From the Senior Warden

September was a rich and rewarding month. Christ Church parishioners volunteered for and participated in the many activities offered by the church. From the Rummage Sale on September 6 to the Good Neighbor Day festivities in Hammond Park on September 28 – folks showed up and shared their time and talent. I want to offer special thanks to Elizabeth H-L for coordinating the Rummage Sale and to all who set up tables of donated items, spent the day at those tables, selling and visiting all who stopped by. Many volunteer hours went into the event; yet at the end of the day all agreed by all that "we should do this again." The money that was raised will go to community outreach projects.

Christ Church had a table at the Good Neighbor Day event held in Hammond Park on September 28. The event, designed to bring together residents of the "Muni" neighborhood was successful and fun. Many Christ Church parishioners showed up to join in the fun and many of our "neighbors" stopped by the table to learn a little more about Christ Church. So many said how much they appreciate the church: they enjoy how well-kept the campus is on their daily walks, they attend concerts and other events like the labyrinth walks, and several openly expressed their appreciation for our "All Are Welcome" banner. It was an afternoon of making connections, feeling a part of something 'bigger,' and creating community.

September has been a busy month for many of our committees: the Stewardship Committee is preparing for the upcoming pledge drive and held a Ministry Fair; the Green Team is sharing information at the Adult Forums during the Season of Creation on the church's progress towards a carbon neutral environment; the Labyrinth Committee is planning for the building of the outdoor labyrinth and work has begun on the meadow to prepare the area for building next Spring. The choir has returned and the final "Sundays at 4" concerts was held with the Scotia Band filling the church with wonderful music and 130 attendees!

And there is a lot more in store, as always. Please look for ways you can get involved if you want to. The *Chronicle*, the weekly email updates (you can subscribe through the office), and Sunday bulletins all offer announcements of events and opportunities to volunteer.

Part of volunteering is discerning "what makes your life meaningful ..., what you're good at, and what the world needs." (this is a paraphrase of the definition of Ikigai (a Japanese concept). Everyone has limits to their time, their endurance, and their 'zest.' Listen to your mind, body, and heart and volunteer where you feel best suited.

I've just begun reading the book, *Slow productivity: the lost art of accomplishment without burnout* by Cal Newport. He equates "slow productivity" to "pursuing meaningful accomplishment" – that is, "Do fewer things. Work at a natural pace. Obsess over quality."

Seek your own productivity level and what is meaningful to you, what stirs your heart – and remember, it is not a competition.

In peace,

Merry Phillips, Senior Warden





"All Creatures of Our God and King" (#400, *The Hymnal 1982*) is a much-loved text that enjoys wide ecumenical usage. The words of the hymn were initially written by St. Francis of Assisi in 1225 in the *Canticle of the Sun* poem. The text is a meditation on Psalm 145 (although it also reflects Psalm 148). The *Canticle*, often referred to as the first genuine religious poem in Italian, was written in the last year of St. Francis' life when he was virtually blind and unable to endure daylight. The hymn version we know today was written by William Draper, rector of a Church of England parish church near Leeds. "The hymn shapes the thoughts of the Canticle into a fine musical form for singing – Draper omits the 'brother' and 'sister' element and whereas St. Francis is universally known for preaching to the birds and urging them to praise God, in Draper's English text it is the creatures themselves that articu-

late their own praises throughout the seven verses.

"Although not found in the original text, the 'alleluias' make splendid sense and are necessary for the tune. Repeating the words "O praise him" each stanza emphasizes the cosmic praise of all creation ..." (Hymnary.com).

This English text was written in the metre of the tune *Lasst uns erfreun* and was first published with the tune in 1919. The tune is originally from 1623. The popularity of the tune in the English-speaking world is directly attributable to its adaption by Ralph Vaughan Williams. It is notable that the verses of the hymn are sung in unison (with one voice) while the refrains are sung in harmony (as a chorus).

The hymn is a favorite of many church organists, lending itself to the use of varied registrations or even a cappella singing for certain stanzas. A broad range of organ registrations may be used – using the different colors and sounds of the organ – as well as improvisation during the verses, to illustrate each stanza, culminating in a powerful and majestic final verse: 1) sun and moon, 2) rushing winds and breezes, 3) swift flowing water, 4) mother earth, 5) mercy, forgiveness, pain and sorrow, 6) gentle death, 7) praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One.

Look for David Schofield's recording of this beautiful hymn which will appear on Christ Church's FaceBook page and will be played at the Adult Forum on October 5 – in celebration of St. Francis and the Season of Creation. Thank you, David.

Submitted by Merry Phillips, Sources used: Hymnary.com, Psalter Hymnal Handbook, Wikipedia, *The Hymnal 1982 Companion*, vol. 3 (1994).



From the Junior Warden Heidi Erickson

IT'S STEWARDSHIP MONTH...

Every year right about now, we begin our annual Stewardship fundraising event. This year we will "Tell out my soul". And since I'm not the greatest public speaker, I thought that I would use this month's article to share a story about why I am so grateful for Christ Episcopal Church.



A few years ago, during my second stint on the Vestry, I was asked by Mother Lesley McCloughrie if I would agree to be the Junior Warden of Christ Church. I can only imagine what the look on my face must have resembled. A deer in the headlights, perhaps? I just could not believe that Mother Lesley was asking ME to be the Junior Warden. I think I asked her if she was "sure about that?" She was.

So, without truly knowing what being a Junior Warden entailed, I said something to the effect of "Okay".

For a little background, I knew nothing (and still know next to nothing) about repairing broken things. My dad and my grandpa were my go to people that took care of that stuff. I'm not the gardening type either. My grandma and her sister, my great aunt Dorothy, had beautiful flower beds and gardens full of vegetables in their yards. I was too busy rollerskating, riding bikes or climbing trees for those hobbies.

So, after I was elected Junior Warden for the first time, my friend Beth Powell, who was the previous year's Junior Warden, gave me a tour of the buildings and grounds. Wow, was I surprised at how much there was (and still is) to being a Junior Warden. I was terrified! Not only was I responsible for making sure that the buildings and grounds remained in good shape, I didn't want to let the Vestry and Mother Lesley down.

But, here's the best part. Mother Lesley and the Vestry had faith in me and they helped me become a Junior Warden. I found ways to make sure things were repaired and replaced that year. I discovered talented people to help me, help the church.

Apparently, the vestry was so impressed, they elected me to a second Junior Warden term the following year. We had a couple of really fun work days in those 2 years. We had a huge wish list that we worked on. While we weren't able to accomplish all of the items on the list, we were able to remodel and refresh the girls and boys bathrooms in the Education Building and replace the aged drinking fountain between the two bathrooms. I was, and still am, very proud of those projects. I was also very thankful for the love, support and faith that Mother Lesley and the vestry had for me. I remain humbled and blessed by them even now.

So, in 2024 when I was asked to be the Junior Warden of Christ Church again, I was not afraid. I was excited. I knew that Father Daniel and the Vestry would be there to help me and would "have my back". And they have. We've accomplished some gigantic, amazing projects this year. But, none of them are possible without the time, talent and treasure of the people of Christ Episcopal Church.

So, as we "Tell out our soul" this Stewardship season, look around this amazing campus and know that the beauty and care of these buildings and grounds don't come easy or cheap. But it is so worth it. If you're able to refresh and lift up your pledge this year, thank you. And if you're not, that's okay too. For as long as we have faith the size of a mustard seed, great things will happen.

Have a wonderful month everyone,

Your Junior Warden,

Heidi



Your Support Changes Lives.

Autumn greetings! Our congregation has donated in 2025, 418 lbs. of canned goods to Food For People. Our donations support our fellow community members, who are experiencing food insecurity. Your participation is greatly needed and appreciated, as we strive to meet our 2025 goal of 1,000 lbs. A few cans of food can make a real difference for someone else .

Fran and Stephanie

P.S. As a reminder, the Food Basket is always out in Lewis Hall and donations are accepted

FRESH PRODUCE SUNDAY FOR

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S ON OCTOBER 19



Fresh Produce Sunday is October 19. Baskets will be placed at the back of the nave to collect donations of fresh produce which will be blessed and then taken to St. Vincent de Paul's dining facility on Monday morning. Thank you parishioners for remembering to help each month with your gifts of potatoes, carrots, apples, oranges, bananas, lettuce, onions, cabbage, kale, avocados, peaches, kiwis, and, and, and....

Child Care Helpers Needed



With so many families now joining us for our 10:30 service, we now have a growing need for Child Care. We are bringing back this very needed ministry! Two Child Care Helpers are needed each week. Starting at 10:20 and staying until children are picked up after the service. We are hoping to generate a large enough pool of volunteers so our absences from the 10:30 service are at a minimum. Some Safe Church courses and a Live Scan are required. If this growing ministry interests you, a sign up sheet will be at the back of the Parish Hall or contact Vickie Patton 707-498-4538.

The Chronicle 18 October 2025

Labyrinth Quest...

Life-as-a-Labyrinth vs. Life-as-a-Maze

Kathryne DeLorme, Veriditas Certified Labyrinth Facilitator



The labyrinth is a powerful transformational tool for prayer, reflection, and communing with God. The labyrinth design is a perfect metaphor for life, replicating the twists and turns of our life journey with a central focal point that offers a renewed awareness of our own Divine Nature.

Labyrinths are unicursal, having a single path. With no choices or intersections, the path leads unfailingly, although circuitously, to the center.

Mazes on the other hand, have multiple paths and myriad choices, most of which lead nowhere. They are intentionally structured to be bewildering.

As a literary motif, the labyrinth is very often confused with a maze as a symbol for a difficult and challenging ordeal filled with disorientation and complexity. This confusion is found in many dictionaries, in the titles of many books, (the Labyrinth of Economics, -of History, -of Philosophy, -of Mathematics, etc.), and in general language usage.

But there is a big difference experientially. Life-as-a-maze and life-as-a-labyrinth are opposite concepts with vastly different spiritual symbolism.

In a maze, we lose ourselves. In a labyrinth, we find ourselves.

While it seems obvious that the preferable symbol for our life journey would be the labyrinth, it is easy to see our lives as more maze-like, that we have lost our way, are off the path, that success is not assured, and that we have taken wrong turns, wasted time and opportunities, or failed at important points. Our rational minds work overtime reprimanding us.



In a maze, we lose ourselves.

But the spiritual quest can be summarized at this single intention: to switch from life-as-a-maze to life-as-a-labyrinth.

This reorientation calls us to let go of feeling we must control or fail and allows a deeper connection to an intuitive wisdom that can carry us to a place of centered peace, direction, and clarity.

With Life-as-a-Labyrinth, we discover that all paths are part of the One Path, leading steadfastly to the center where communing with the Sacred can be restorative and transformative. Connecting with the Sacred involves trusting the process, continuing to move forward on the path of our life step by step.

There is a basic formula for labyrinth walking that can be adapted to your current reason for your walk, but is essentially this:

Enter the path with an open heart, Linger in the center listening and receiving, Begin the return journey in gratitude.

This formula works well for the labyrinth... and for life.



In a labyrinth, we find ourselves.

Our next Labyrinth Walk is Saturday, October 18th from 2 – 5pm. Drop in for a prayerful walk as we celebrate the *Harvest of Blessings* in our lives.

Stay for tea and snacks and color a labyrinth pattern to take home!



- Open to all 25/LGBTQIA+ people in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California
- Every month on the 3rd Wednesday from 7:00-8:30 pm on Zoom

For more information or for the Zoom link to our support group, contact:

RainbowMinistriesEDNC@gmail.com

UPCOMING TOPICS:

OCT. 15 - Sacred & Safe Spaces
NOV. 19 - Transgender History Month:
Fearfully & Wonderfully Made:
Embracing Our Full Selves
DEC. 17 - What Are We Waiting For?



Sponsored by the
Rainbow Ministry
of the
Episcopal Diocese of
Northern California



NOSAIC VOCAL ENSEMBLE presents

IMMORITAL HIRE MUSIC CELEBRATTING MUSIC

featuring Benjamin Britten's Hymn to St. Cecilia and works by William Byrd, Felix Mendelssohn, Reena Esmail, Pärt Uusberg, Sarah Quartel, and more

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH @ 7:30 PM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH @ 4:00 PM \$20 AT THE DOOR

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CORNER OF H AND 15TH STREETS
EUREKA, CA

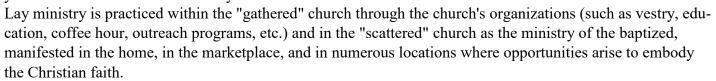


A DREAMMAKER PROGRAM OF THE INK PEOPLE

Called to Serve

LAY MINISTRY by Marty Vega

Do you have your copy of our new Lay Ministry Directory? Have you felt motivated to contribute your skills and enthusiasm to one or more of the ministries mentioned? Do you have an idea for a new ministry?



Tell Out

Lay Ministry encompasses the various ways in which the laity (that is, us) fulfill our baptismal covenant. Here is a partial list of contacts and their ministries – call soon.





October Birthday Wishes



Watch over your child, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Catherine Mace	10/02	Ava Bennett	10/17
Laura Lee-Chin	10/03	Pastor Jeri Gray-Reneberg	10/21
Elizabeth Harper-Lawson	10/04	Michael Tipton	10/21
Cathy Nickalou	10/08	Anne Harris	10/21
Felix Cardona	10/09	Albert Martinez	10/24
Cindy Denbo	10/12	Earl Morgan	10/28
Patricia Malcolm	10/13	Bob Hines	10/28
G. Barrett Mace	10/15	Richard Baker	10/28
Karen Childers	10/15		





O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church. Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Fred & Jacqueline Moore	10/01
David Powell & Alexandra Blouin	10/10
Merry & Dan Phillips	10/25



Did we miss your special day? The staff apologizes for our time perception disorder with any omissions of birthdays and anniversaries. Send your special day information to:

christchurcheureka@gmail.com

We want to acknowledge and celebrate your special day next year!



The October 2025 Cycle of Prayers

for our Diocese and the Anglican Communion

Please pray for the diocese, congregations, and clergy listed below on the Diocesan and Anglican cycles of prayer as well as those prayers requested by our Bishop, Dean and Diocesan Search & Transition Committees.

Every Sunday, the Diocesan Transition Committee requests that we pray for our bishop.

Every Sunday in September, The Very Rev. K. Lesley McCloghrie, Dean of our Semper Virens Deanery, has asked us to pray for the people of Christ Episcopal Church, Eureka.

Intercessor: We pray for the congregations of our Deanery. This month, we pray for Christ Church, Eureka. Give the people of Christ Church Eureka the grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that we/they may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfect joy. Amen.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.



October 5

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

Trinity Episcopal Church, Sonoma The Rev. Cindy Beck, Interim Priest

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

The Anglican Church of Tanzania The Most Rev. Dr Maimbo Mndolwa Archbishop of Tanzania and Bishop of Tanga

October 12

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

St. George's Episcopal Church, Carmichael The Rev. Ray Hess, Priest-in-Charge The Rev. Bob Olsen, Deacon

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

The Church of the Province of Uganda The Most Rev. Stephen Kaziimba Archbishop of Uganda and Bishop of Kampala

October 19

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

St. James' Episcopal Church, Yuba City The Rev. Richard Laughman, Priest-in-Charge

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

The Episcopal Church
The Most Rev. Sean Rowe
Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

October 26

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

St. James' Episcopal Church, Lincoln The Rev. Anne Slakey, Long-Term Supply

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

The Church in Wales
The Most Rev. Cherry Vann
Archbishop of Wales and Bishop of Monmouth

November 2

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, Chico The Rev. Tammy Smith-Firestone, Rector The Rev. Annie Ryder, Associate

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

The Church of the Province of West Africa The Most Rev. Dr. Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith Primate of the Church of the Province of West Africa And Bishop of Asante-Mampong

If you wish to offer prayers daily for the church in the world, our Anglican Cycle of Prayer has a daily list of diocese and clergy who would benefit from your prayer ministry. This list can be obtained via this website: https://www.anglicancommunion.org/resources/cycle-of-prayer/download-the-acp.aspx. If you do not have a computer, I would be glad to make a copy of the 2023-2026 Anglican Cycle of Prayer for you. Deacon Anne.



October 2025

Church Office • 625 15th Street • P.O. Box 861 • Eureka, California 95502-0861
Office Hours • Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday—9 am to 1 pm
Phone • (707) 442-1797 | Email • christchurcheureka@gmail.com | Website • christchurcheureka.org

The 20th Sunday after Pentecost 8 AM—Eucharist: Rite II Adult Forum—9:15-10:15 AM 10:30 AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ ChristChurchEureka 4 PM Mosaid Vocal Ensemble 5:00 PM—Youth Group	Fresh Produce Sunday	The 19th Sunday after Pentecost 8 AM—Eucharist: Rite II Adult Forum—9:15-10:15 AM 10:30 AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchEureka 5:00 PM—Youth Group	10:30 AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ ChristChurchEureka 5:00 PM—Youth Group	The 18th Sunday after Pentecost 8 AM—Eucharist: Rite II	The Fifth Sunday of Creation 8 AM—Eucharist: Rite II Adult Forum—9:15-10:15 AM 10:30 AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite II https://www.youtube.com/user/ ChristChurchEureka 5:00 PM—Youth Group & Blessing Of the Animals JUST ONE CAN SUNDAY		SUN
	Cen 6:30		Cen 6:30		<u></u>		_
28 Centering Prayer 6:30 PM Chapel	Centering Prayer 6:30 PM Chapel	Writers' Group 12:30 pm Lewis Hall Thomas Merton Redwoods 5:00 PM	Green Team Pierson Room 5:15 pm Centering Prayer 6:30 PM Chapel	14	Writers' Group 12:30 pm Lewis Hall Centering Prayer 6:30 PM Chapel		4
MORNING PRAYER 9 AM Chapel Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Heritage Room		MORNING PRAYER 9 AM Chapel Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Heritage Room	Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Heritage Room	HOLY EUCHARIST	MORNING PRAYER 9 AM Chapel Quilters + 9:30 AM Lewis Hall	MORNING PRAYER 9 AM Chapel 9 AM Chapel Staff Meeting 10:AM Lewis Hall Stewardship Packet Stuffing 2 PM Lewis Hall	\
Bible Study: Book of Acts 12:30 PM Lewis Hall		Bible Study: Book of Acts 12:30 PM Lewis Hall		16	Convention Town Hall Zoom Time TBA		Th
31		24		17	Stewardship Committee 3 PM Lewis Hall	Feast of St. Francis 5 PM Betty's Bayside Villiage	TI
		Vestry Retreat 9 AM 9 Am Business Meeting 1 PM Altar Guild 10 AM	Labyrinth Walk Day 2-5 PM Heritage Room	18 Altar Guild 10 AM	Altar Guild 10 AM	SEMPER VIRENS Deanery Convocation Gather 9:30 am Program 10:00 am Program 6:00 Hall Feast of St. Francis At the Coleman's 4:00 PM Rio Dell	SAT



The Right Reverend Megan M. Traquair Bishop THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Daniel D. London - Rector
The Very Rev. K. Lesley McCloghrie - Associate Priest
The Rev. Jeri Gray-Reneberg - Associate Priest
The Rev. Nancy Streufert - Associate Priest
The Venerable Pam Gossard - Archdeacon
The Rev. Anne Pierson - Deacon

Avery Alexander - Music Coordinator and Organist David B. Powell - Choir Director Dr. Douglas Moorehead - Organist Emeritus

> Mike Robnett, Sexton Shirley Curtis - Administrative Assistant

THE VESTRY

Merry Phillips, Senior Warden; Heidi Erickson, Junior Warden; Peg Gardner, Clerk; Francis Rivinus, Treasurer; The Venerable Pam Gossard, Roni Carlson, Lin Chase, Ian Haynes, Lyn Klay, Royal McCarthy, Steven Preston, Barbara Walser

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