

Cluster Chronicle

"A community of Episcopal congregations sharing the love and power of the Risen Christ in our communities through worship, evangelization and apostolic service."

Dear Friends,

This missive will be the last one from me to you. As of the end of the month, I will no longer be amongst or with you. My how nine months go by!

I have actually been able to get this month's message to the wonderful Sally and her able assistant Amy sooner rather than later. I will not be with you on the sixth (D-day!) as our family will be gathering at Wolfe Park in Columbus to celebrate my daughter Olivia's graduation. So, Fr. Don Duford will be with you that day. As I have noted before: I love G-d, I serve the Church, but I am married to Julie Barry!

Oftentimes as I raced along the highways and byways to get to church on time, I would listen to something on my Pandora playlist. Or Spotify. Or even TuneIn. That is, I would listen to those channels if I wasn't following the conversation of Straight Talk live on 95.5 FM.

And in the midst of all those choices and tastes, I sometimes listen to soundtracks. Such as the one from Star Trek the Wrath of Khan. Or any of the new Star Trek



movies. Or Raiders of the Lost Ark. Or, of course, Doctor Who. As well as many other oldies but goodies.

And what I often think about as I drive along is why that piece of music was chosen. And how that composer was picked. And, then, finally, how did it come out all right and pretty exact to the story? How does the match get made? Aside from John Williams of so much movie music magic (Star Wars, Superman, Raiders, and more) how does a composer get picked? What makes one decide to take a chance on some unknown whistler with a tap to his or her step?

I wonder how many composers work on any one theme music at a time. How many are given the script and told to go make some-

thing of it? Or is it the case that they pick one maestro to make music for the movie? Putting all their eggs into the orchestra pit at once.

It seems to me this is a question that relates to all of us, too. How is it that we are chosen by G-d to write a soundtrack that works? To make music and to fit in the grand symphony of Creation? And Creation has an amazing soundtrack that does all fit together. Think for a minute about those times outside. Do the sounds of Nature ever sound discordant? Any clanging or clonks come from we humans trying to find or make a place. Even, sometimes, trying to bend the sounds into our own direction, oftentimes turning music into noise.

I often wonder what sort of songs and tunes get turned down or left out when producers seek that one piece that's perfect for their picture. How disappointed a composer must feel at not having his/or her work chosen to be part of the next blockbuster.

I do believe that with what we are given and with what we are blessed, we are obliged to make some music

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and some noise. To find a place in the symphony of sound that is, I think, the voice of G-d speaking to us, all the time and all around us.

Once upon a time in my life, I was the singer in an Irish-Folk music duo. Much of our music was taken from the works of Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy. I strummed a tenor banjo and my friend Ben carried us on his guitar.

One of the Makem-Clancy tunes we liked and sometimes played had these words as their refrain:

All G-d's creatures got a place in the choir,

Some sing low and some sing higher,

Some sing out loud from the telephone wire,

And some just clap their hands, their paws, or anything they got...

The song is a celebration that we all have a part in making our voices heard, that our voices matter, and that we belong. Even if sometimes our masterpiece and hard work isn't recognized or chosen.

I am glad that as we wind down together music and singing are taking their place back in our common life of prayer and worship. I have been happy and have enjoyed being with you these past few months, to be part of the band of NMVEC.

I'll take your tune where I go next, adding it where I can. All I ask in return is that as you regain your voice to sing again, sing it loud and proud so that others may hear and come join your band.

Peace and Friendship, and thank you,

Charles +



Fr. Charles suited up for his role as Chaplain of Mt. Carmel Hospital East.

The Order of the World is no Accident.

There is nothing actual which could be actual without some measure of order.

The religious insight is the grasp of this truth:

That the order of the world, the depth of reality of the world, the beauty of the world, the zest of life and the mastery of evil, are all bound together, not accidentally, but by reason of this truth: that the universe exhibits a creativity with infinite freedom and a realm of forms with infinite possibilities; that that this creativity and these forms are together impotent to achieve actuality apart from the ideal harmony, which is God.

---Alfred Lord Whitehead

Saluting our graduates



Evan Callicoat

Cecilia Elizabeth Bradford of Our Saviour received a diploma from Mechanicsburg High School during graduation ceremonies June 6. Cecilia is the daughter of Chris and Sarah Bradford. She will be a freshman at Ohio University this fall, majoring in psychology.



Cecilia Bradford

Evan Callicoat graduated from Ohio State University May 9. Son of Ty and Robyn Callicoat of Our Saviour, Evan earned a Bachelor of Science in his major, Agricultural Business and Applied Economics, with a minor in Political Science. He anticipates working with government in some capacity on behalf of America's agricultural interests.



Aaron Callicoat

Aaron Callicoat, brother of Evan, son of Ty and Robyn of Our Saviour, graduated from the Auto Services component of the Springfield Clark Career Technology Center. Aaron's mastery of the technological course earned the Jaguar Award, a distinction given only to the top senior in the program.



Tabitha Moelle

Tabitha McCall Moelle, daughter of Sharon McCall of Epiphany, was a June graduate of Ohio University. She and her husband, Dustin, a 2020 graduate of Ohio U., live in Circleville where he is associated with a transportation logistics firm.



Olivia Barry-Wilson

Olivia Barry-Wilson, daughter of Rev. Charles and Julie Barry, graduated from the Columbus School for Girls June 6. This fall she will be enrolled at the University of St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland, studying Environmental Science. St. Andrews is an Episcopal school, operating under the auspices of the Diocese of Southern Ohio.



Olivia, her parents, Julie Barry and Rev. Charles Wilson displaying the Scottish flag.

The University of St. Andrews The oldest university in Scotland and the third oldest in the world.



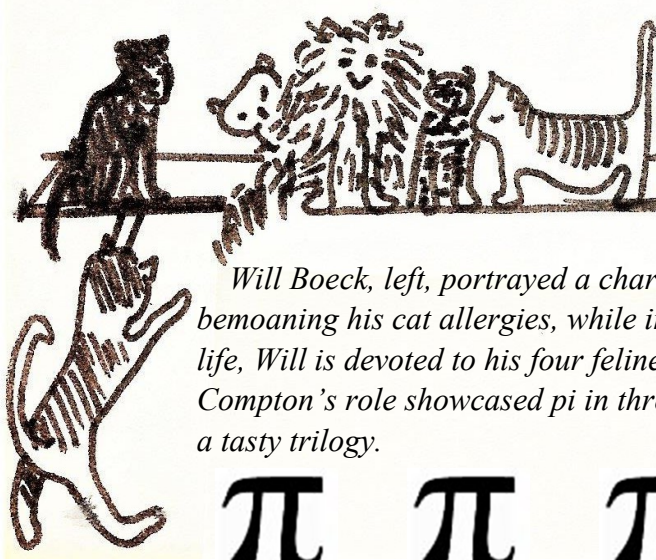
Einstein, the musical

Mechanicsburg High School staged *The Theory of Relativity* as its 2021 spring musical with Will Boeck and Leo Compton of Our Saviour offering their talent and experience. Veterans of several high school productions they showed an unusual grasp of the deeper dimension of this interpretation of Relativity.

The name is, of course, borrowed from Albert Einstein's conclusions, but playwrights transposed Einstein's investigation of cosmological and astrophysical connections to the interrelationships of the human race.

The ensemble cast included individuals of varying ages, occupations, attitudes and experience. Unknown to one another, the characters appear separately in vignettes, spoken or sung, displaying the human nature and emotions that unite them with all mankind. The result is not shallow entertainment, but a satisfying, fully-shared experience. Understanding flowed from actors to audience and back again.

While the authors can claim an original format for a musical and the cast is young, the subject matter is ancient, recorded in history, literature, art and music. It is likely that Will and Leo, their castmates and directors, have grown during this experience. Their ability to tap their own feelings invested their roles with Truth. They were, in a sense, speaking for themselves, from themselves, deepening insights, enlarging capacities to see, tolerate, understand and forgive. Thank you, Leo and Will and your fellow actors, for a thundering good production and a lot of reasons to love and hope.



Will Boeck, left, portrayed a character bemoaning his cat allergies, while in real life, Will is devoted to his four felines. Leo Compton's role showcased pi in three parts, a tasty trilogy.

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The flowering of the Cluster

It's a joy to see fresh flowers once again reverencing the altars of Our Saviour and Epiphany. We thank the donors of these memorial tributes. They are named in the pew bulletins each week but deserve a wider acknowledgement.

Beginning with May, donors at Our Saviour were Gloria Westfall, Sam Zook, Phyllis Dingey, Jim Westfall and Emily Rozmus; at Epiphany Laura Milton, Diane Kremer, Jerry and Ronda Heffner, Chuck Lattimer and Matt Loges.

June floral remembrances at Our Saviour will be gifted by Georgia Bumgarner, Nancy Bullard and family, Pat Turpening and Todd and Amy Boeck. At Epiphany June flowers donors will be Charles Stadler, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Rees, and Dorothy Headlee.

If you would like to honor someone dear to you with altar flowers, please contact Larry Rammel at Our Saviour (740-506-1041), and Mary Neal Miller (marynealvision@woh.rr.com) at Epiphany.



Let us welcome the newly baptized

Parents John and Elizabeth Risen Wing and godparents Jim and Susie Westfall presented Isabel Eliza Wing to receive the sacrament of baptism Sunday, May 23, at Our Saviour. They committed to “seeing that Isabel is brought up in the Christian faith and life,” and that “by prayers and witness to help Isabel to grow into the full stature of Christ.” All with the help of God. With much rejoicing, Isabel was received into the household of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ’s own forever. There were prayers of gratitude and supplication for the blessings of the Christian life, an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love God and the gift of joy and wonder in all God’s works. Isabel’s brother Jack and sister Amelia were happy witnesses of the traditional ceremony.

Gathering after the ceremony for a formal photograph are, l to r: Susie Westfall, godparent; Elizabeth and Isabel Wing; Jim Westfall, godparent; John and Amelia Wing and Jack Wing.

America, the phenomenon

The founders of this country believed that people have the capacity to govern themselves. They understood that each would share the responsibility for success or the blame for failure. The late Eric Hoffer, self-educated longshoreman, research professor at the University of California at Berkeley and author of four books, wrote in *The Temper of Our Time*, published in 1964, that America is a phenomenon.

He believes that while several have been well up to the mark, our leadership hasn’t been brilliant. After two centuries, we suspect that the goal of “a more perfect union” will probably never be realized. But we have learned to value tolerance, compromise, on occasion accepting the lesser evil in order to achieve the larger good. Mr. Hoffer writes that “free men are aware of the imperfections inherent in human affairs, that constant modification renders final solutions of basic human problems unlikely. But free men are willing to fight and die for freedom, justice and equality, even if imperfect. A good life can be compounded of tolerance, compromise, imperfection---always groping toward the perfect.”

Kitchen crew all smiles

Our Saviour's May Community Meal provided much to smile about! Mask wearing guidelines have eased and 70 guests shared a bountiful supper of spareribs, scalloped potatoes, Cole slaw, fruit and apple pie. Bill Miller, our master chef, provided and prepared the succulent ribs. Boxing and serving duties were performed by Sarah Bradford, Dusty Hurst, Emily Rozmus, Todd and Amy Boeck.

Former Mechanicsburg mayor Greg Kimball presided at the dishpan for the post prandial cleanup! Amy revealed that his honor can be found in suds at the sink after every monthly meal, relieving a weary committee of this task and earning their profound gratitude.



Volunteers show their appreciation for former Mechanicsburg Mayor Greg Kimball who takes over the washing up after every monthly Community Meal. Smiling their regard for Mr. Kimball, center, are l to r, Sarah Bradford, Dusty Hurst and Emily Rozmus.

May was the first month of the next ten years of the Community Meal outreach at Our Saviour. Enthusiasm and resources for the project have not diminished and expectations are high as vaccination permits a gradual return to a way of life on hold for more than a year. The sharing of food and encouragement will continue at Our Saviour and that day will come when hosts and guests will again gather face to face and heart to heart.

They licked the platter clean

The number of guests for Epiphany's Community Meal has been gradually increasing, reaching a high of 40 for the May meal. Every serving of the hearty pasta and meatballs in tomato sauce entree, salad and garlic bread was happily consumed. The hearty meal was purchased from In Good Taste Catering with cookies provided by the church.

Epiphany's faithful outreach team of Sharon Applegate, Paddy Barr, Mary Neal Miller, Julia Robinson and Carol Wapplehorst organized the May event and filled requests from people who came to the Kenton Street entrance by car or on foot.

In Good Taste, a catering service and specialty market at 16 South Main Street, Mechanicsburg, is owned and operated by Amy Forrest, one of a fifth generation farm family. She holds a degree from the OSU College of Agriculture. Her business evolved from the concept of stewardship, also a core principle of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany.

Amy and Epiphany stand together on another goal---that of building community. Amy markets locally grown foods directly to consumers, offering produce and meat at their peak of nutrition and taste. These rural/urban enterprises make friends and embody opportunities to learn and appreciate the knowledge, skill, hard work and faith that it takes to create and sustain a diverse, healthy, principled community. Epiphany's June partner will be Café Paradiso, one of Urbana's favorite eateries.

A time of remembrance, gratitude and faith

The observance of Memorial Day and Independence Day are 34 days apart in real time but exist simultaneously as courage incarnate. Within their boundaries lie those who created and defended the United States of America in times of peace and peril for over two centuries.

History overflows with trying moments. That very phrase was uttered by Ben Franklin in 1786 when he and President Washington were at their wits end, trying to get representatives from each state to meet “to rescue our General Government now reduced to the most awful crises”. The Articles of Confederation were “defective.” The Constitution not yet written. Congress had no power to resolve issues involving all the states.

Franklin the sage, the diplomat, kept his calm and shrewdly promoted the convention as “an Assembly of Notables; if it does not do good, it must do harm.” The meeting was held, attendees behaved as the advertised Notables, “errors were mended” and much was achieved. Franklin wrote to Thomas Jefferson, “The Philadelphia meeting breathes a spirit truly foederal (sic) and contains an effort to support our General Government, cooperating in this trying moment.”

Imagine the founders’ insight, forbearance, patience, faith, cooperation and grasp of the magnitude of their undertaking. They mentally walked through a system of government that had never before existed, then wrote a constitution of standards for its success. They handed over to us this marvel of a working entity that has endured with modest adjustment and great personal sacrifice, for over 200 years.

What has happened to the “Spirit Truly Federal”? Who now has the courage to say, “Our government is reduced to the most awful crisis?” Where is the insight, forbearance, patience, faith, cooperation and grasp of the magnitude of the undertaking?

We’ve been warned time and again, but none more relevant than Paul’s second letter to Timothy: “The time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine....men will be lovers of self and money, proud, arrogant, abusive, ungrateful, unholy, slanderers, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit. They will turn from Truth and wander away to myths...”

Paul’s advice to Timothy and the Christians: “...be steady, endure, do the work of the evangelist, fulfil your ministry”. Borrowing Father Charles’ coda, let it be so.

News from the West Coast

Former Epiphany members Bill, Diane and Tom Kremer who moved to California last October are well and happy. Diane Kremer sends word that they live in Rancho San Diego, near El Cahn, a 15-minute drive from son Joe and daughter-in-law Maggie Kremer and grandson Ben.

“We really love it out here and I forgot how much I missed Joe,” Diane wrote. “It’s wonderful to be able to see him often. The best thing, of course, is seeing our grandson, Ben. He is an active, very talkative four-year-old. Currently he is interested in dinosaurs, the solar system as well as lizards and various insects!”

“We kept Ben for three nights and four days when Joe and Maggie took a long weekend in Palm Springs, playing golf, sightseeing and shopping. I have to admit I was glad when his parents returned. But we did have a wonderful time together.”

They are all vaccinated and may go mask-less where permitted. Diane had planned to attend St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in La Mesa, but the pandemic changed that. Now that the restrictions are lifted, she hopes to become a regular at St. Andrews. That is after knee surgery. Diane said she is “plugging along painfully,” but will see an orthopedic surgeon soon and anticipates the relief a new knee will bring.

Diane would love to hear from Cluster and community friends. You can reach her at 2033 Seca Street, El Cajon, CA 92019-4160 or by email at dianekremer55@gmail.com. Let’s don’t let our friendship fade.

Living authentically with joy

When we finish our formal education, we have some idea of our talents and interests. But how to use them? Author Shannon Hayes has some thoughts about making the most of life---at any age.



We live in a society that has divided into groups: some produce food, some produce education, some produce goods and some produce services. Maybe more carrots can be grown, more books written, more art created, more children schooled if one person plants carrots, another writes books, another paints pictures, another teaches children and yet another cooks the carrots.

But that doesn't take into account your need to be fully human. To feel whole, we need to feed our minds and bodies, spirits and natures. How can you come closer to your God-given humanity? Whatever productive work you decide you're best fitted for, leave some space for the things you didn't choose. Do your work---but don't forget play and quiet time. Try creating, teaching (we're all teachers) and learning (we learn forever), eating healthy and maybe growing something in a field, garden or flowerpot. Then you'll be connecting with your whole self and ultimately your planet, your universe and your Creator.



THE CHRONICLE

A publication of the Northern Miami Valley Episcopal Cluster

230 Scioto St.

Urbana, OH 43078

Printed by



1333 N. Main St.
Urbana, Ohio 43078



*For I know the plans
I have for you, declares the Lord.*

Jeremiah 29:11