

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."

Where Everybody Knows Your Name

by Fr. Derrick Fetz

This iconic theme song from the popular TV show *Cheers* is more than a catchy tune. It speaks to a fundamental reality as Carla, Sam, Diane, Cliff and Norm interacted with one another---community is formed as they share laughs at times and tears at other times. And they certainly know one another by name.

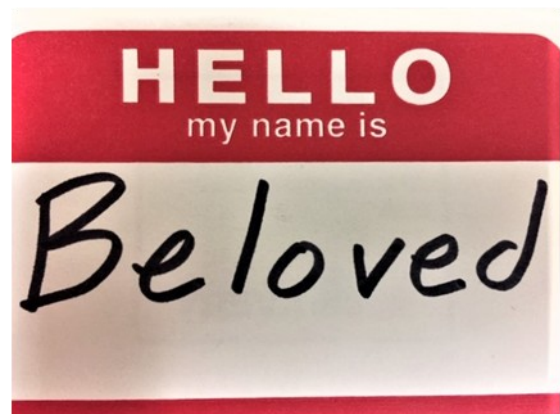
Based on my limited interaction with Epiphany and Our Saviour, I can see how important the gift of community is to those who have made one of these congregations their spiritual home. You embody the *Cheers* theme song. You know one another by name and you "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." (Romans 12:15 NRSV) Jamie, Mari and I look forward to joining this expression of authentic community. How might we celebrate this gift of community? How might we grow closer to one another? How might we become an open community where more and more people will join us in experiencing and sharing God's abundant love?

We will be spending some time answering these questions in the months ahead.

Before those questions can be discussed, I want to get to know you by name! I have been praying for each of you by name for the past three weeks and it

will be nice to associate that name with a face and a life story. Beginning on September 19, name tags will be provided at worship services to help accomplish that. And, as I have shared in my weekly messages, I want to get to know more about who you are and your story. Please stay tuned for some opportunities for us to meet up.

Yes, each of us has a name. Because we are God's children, we share the name "Beloved." YOU are God's beloved. At the baptism of Jesus, God called him "Beloved." (Matthew 3:17) How might we view and treat others if we always called them "Beloved?"



Beloved, please know that you are always loved by God and always remember that "Beloved" reflects your truest identity in the eyes of God.

Homecoming Sunday, 2021

“Together Met, Together Bound”

by Fr. Derrick Fetz

“Welcome home.” Since making the announcement of my return to Champaign County, I have heard this warm greeting from many people, including some of you. For me, this simple two-word statement gives me a profound sense of peace and joy. It is my hope that we can create an experience at both Our Saviour and Epiphany that all of you can feel something similar every time you enter the door. This does not mean that everything will be to one’s liking all the time or that we will avoid discussing uncomfortable topics for the sake of a cheap feeling of peace. It does mean that we want all to feel at home to some degree.

On October 3 at Our Saviour and October 10 at Epiphany, we will have an opportunity to say “welcome home” to one another and to those who may be returning to one of our communities after being inactive for a season, a year or a decade. This will be known as Homecoming Sunday. This theme will be woven throughout our worship service, including some of our prayers and sermon. As I have brought up on more than one occasion, our first priority as we begin our common life is to focus on the gift of community and build quality relationships. This effort includes those who have been less active or those we have not seen over a period of time. The leadership of each parish will be intentional in inviting those folks---we might have several who come, one or none.

Regardless, we will celebrate that we are together in the household of God, and our commitment to extending warm hospitality to all who enter our doors. Please see “How to Welcome People Back: A Top six List” to help all of us get ready for Homecoming Sunday and any Sunday we have the opportunity to say “welcome home” to those who come to us.

More details about Homecoming Sunday will be shared via Sunday morning announcements and email. Stay tuned! Prepare to be uplifted.

Whom will you invite to Homecoming Sunday?

**You are welcome to invite those who have not been around for a while
or friends who have never experienced our worship or our community.**

COVID GUIDELINES UPDATE

In response to the dramatic increase in the spread of the Delta variant of Covid-19, and to avoid confusion, I am revising the [previous guidelines](#) and restricting communion to one kind, that is consecrated bread only. Unfortunately, sharing a common cup or dipping the bread into it (intinction) does not adequately prevent the spread of contagion. However, the celebrant may continue to receive the cup as previously recommended. I will be monitoring health advice on this issue and report any new guidelines as they become appropriate.

Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith

The rest of the story

Borrowing the concept from a series by radio broadcaster the late Paul Harvey, we have the rest of the August Chronicle story of Barb Renkert's gift of a second handrail at the right side of the steps of Epiphany's west entrance. It was made and installed by Joe Rees, owner of Joe Rees Welding in Urbana.

Barb recently reported to the congregation that when asked for the bill, Joe said there wouldn't be one. It was his pleasure to donate his work and the materials. Barb, overcome by this generous gesture, quickly protested, but Joe said no. Realizing that Joe's gift was from the heart, Barb graciously accepted with all the thanks she could muster.

While Barb was denied the funding of the improvement, her son, Rick Heffner, volunteered to repaint the original, much weathered, handrail. Did we mention that Joe had made the railing for the right side an exact reproduction of the design, size and finish of the original? Such care and devotion hallow the ordinary, its creation and use. The church, its congregants and friends are safer and blessed by Barb, Joe and Rick. And that's the rest of the story.



MANY HAPPY RETURNS

Smiling siblings John Wing and Emily Wing Rozmus of Our Saviour were honored on their 50th birthday August 15 with a lovely brunch. They represent the fourth generation of the Wing family to worship at Our Saviour; their children, Jack, Amelia and Isabel Wing and JP, Sam and Grace Rozmus, the fifth.

Rest in peace, good friends



Annajean Owen

Annajean Owen, 94, lifelong resident of Mechanicsburg and friend of Our Saviour, passed away August 12. She was a charter member of Mother's Memorial Circle. It gave countless hours to the needy and served Community Meals. Annajean and her friends often attended monthly meals.



Russell Hardin

Russell Hardin, 101, a retired veterinarian and father of Ed Hardin of Epiphany, passed away August 4. His work ethic, character and community service will forever bless Ed and Nancy, grandsons Paul and John and great-granddaughter, Nora Ann.

Proclaiming the Dream

2021 Diocesan Convocation

Saturday, September 25

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Procter Center

Fun, formation and fellowship for all ages. Games, children's activities, arts and crafts, music and more.

Purchase food there or bring your own. More info on

Diocesan website: <http://dsoepiscopal.org>

New partner for Epiphany

Community Meal volunteers opened for business promptly at 5 p.m. August 18, ready to distribute home prepared meals by Urbana Hearth & Home Assisted Living. This is a new community business to support Epiphany in this program. And, Residence Manager Corey Thomas says the firm looks forward to more collaborations in future. Heartfelt thanks to Manager Thomas and his staff on behalf of community meal guests.

Hearth & Home website notes that among its amenities are homecooked meals with appeal for a variety of tastes and appetites. The August menu was a sample of their delicious, nutritious cuisine: an entrée of shredded chicken sandwiches and a yummy pasta salad, everybody's favorite potato chips with a sweet finish of cookies and brownies. Bottled water was also available for the asking.

With experts advocating continued observance of some Covid restrictions, meal guests are asked to drive up to the Kenton Street entrance between 5 and 6 p.m. for immediate curbside service. Planning, set up and serving were efficiently accomplished by Sharon Applegate, Paddy Barr, Mary Neal Miller, Laura Milton, Julia Robertson and Carol Wapplehorst. Many thanks to our faithful volunteers and Urbana Hearth & Home!



Awaiting meal guests, clockwise from top right: Laura Milton, Julia Robertson, Paddy Barr, Sharon Applegate, Carol Wapplehorst and Mary Neal Miller.

Right, Bill Oder, a family friend of Paddy Barr's, stops for a chat and a meal.

Below: Laura delivers a meal to a guest on wheels.



A carryout rush wipes the platter clean

Amy Boeck reports that a tasty meal of ham, green beans, fruit, dinner roll and choice of cookies, apple pie or Kay Keller's chocolate brownies was a big hit. Opening Our Saviour's August Community Meal at 5 p.m., a steady stream of guests kept volunteers on their toes until 5:40 when the deluge of carry-outs ended---and so did the food! But food and folks came out even, so no one went home without.

Volunteers Sarah Bradford, Greg Kimball, Dusty Hurst, Todd and Amy Boeck, used the rest of the hour to clean up. Gratitude to all who contributed and, once again, thanks to Kay Keller. If the dozens of dozens of chocolate brownies she has produced for Community Meals and other events were laid end to end, they would sweeten Champaign County from border to border. See you in September.



The grandeur of maintenance

A little excitement was added to the Epiphany Community Meal by the flashing red lights of an Urbana police car parked diagonally across Kenton Street, blocking traffic into the intersection. Accompanied by the roar of heavy equipment, a crew of neon-garbed workers were repaving Scioto Street. A half-block long yellow CAT was laying down a pristine layer of hot asphalt passing in front of the church. The black stuff streamed from the massive rig and lay gleaming peacefully in late afternoon sun.

It reminded of what a favorite author, Eric Hoffer, longshoreman, philosopher and teacher wrote in 1966. He noted that we're constantly at war with nature. Its beauties and marvels are valued and appreciated, but natural forces, age and use, wear down, damage and destroy. Maintenance is often thought a boring necessity. Eric Hoffer sees it differently.

There is a phase of the war with nature which is little noticed but has always impressed me. To me, there is an aura of grandeur about the dull routine of maintenance. I see it as a defiance of the teeth of time. It is easier to build than to maintain. Even a lethargic or debilitated population can be galvanized for a while to achieve something impressive, but the energy which goes into maintaining things in good repair day in, day out, is the energy of true vigor.

Such energy is evident in Cluster churches. They faithfully maintain, renew and restore to high standards parish buildings and their contents. Congregants reverently polish brasses and mend linens. How fitting. These venerable houses of worship were literally handmade, drawing on founders' energy and abilities. Mr. Hoffer is surely correct. The day in, day out attention to infrastructure, the environment and our own health, reveals true vigor, of a parish, a community and a country.

Master Gardener volunteers

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program is offering Champaign County residents "broad instruction in horticulture".

Beginning October 1, online training described as "self-paced modules and in-person, hands-on laboratory sessions," will be given. Those who complete the course become Master Gardener Volunteer interns. They assist with educational programs and activities arranged by the local Ohio State University Extension Office.

For more details and applications, contact Extension Agent Douridas at Douridas.9@osu.edu or call 937-772-6012. Cost of the course is \$200. Fee and application are due Sept. 10. The Covid situation is being monitored and course activities will be adjusted if needed.

Master Gardeners, from left, Marsha Hess, Paddy Barr of Epiphany and Jeanette Enyart, helped plant and cultivate these Urbana Community Gardens. Info and photo courtesy of the Urbana Daily Citizen.



How to Welcome People Back: a Top Six List

by Fr. Derrick Fetz

People leave churches for multiple reasons including burnout, change in routine, Covid-19 concerns, disagreement with the priest or someone else, the church no longer meets spiritual preferences or needs, loss of a loved one, relocation, direction of the parish, church politics and abuse. Sometimes people find the courage to make their way back to the community they left. They may feel afraid, embarrassed, guilty or timid as they contemplate the possibility of coming back. They may fear that those who stayed will judge them or ask awkward questions. Our Christian faith invites us to fully embrace those who return without judgment. I have no doubt that the people of Epiphany and Our Saviour will warmly say “welcome back.” We have to do this with intentionality and I invite you to consider a few things to help us do just that.

1. Avoid saying things such as “Where have you been all this time?” or “It’s about time that we see you here.” Instead, say, “Welcome back,” and/or “It’s great to see you,” and/or “How have you been?” and/or “Let’s get together and catch up.”
2. It’s certainly fine to invite those returning to fellowship events and formation events; however, it may not be so welcoming if we invited them to join a committee or ministry right off the bat. ☺
3. Avoid providing commentary on what’s not going well at the church. Instead, share why you enjoy being part of the church.
4. Ask if they have any questions about the church. If you are unable to answer a question, please bring them to a Warden or to me.
5. This isn’t the best time to slip a pledge card in their bulletin or to give them a Vestry nomination form. Our goal is to get them to return, right?
6. Make them feel just as welcome the second, third and fourth times (forever) IF they come back. Many will make a big deal of their first Sunday back, but we want them to know that their presence is ALWAYS appreciated. ☺

What else needs to be added to this list? Please relay to me (derrick.fetz@gmail.com).

Fr. Derrick’s contact information

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Home: 440 Lafayette Avenue
Urbana, OH 43078

Cell phone for pastoral emergencies
after September 15: 513-313-6269

Email: an email address will soon
be released!

September altar flower donors

EPIPHANY

- Sept. 5 Mrs. Paddy Barr, in thanksgiving for her family
 Sept. 12 Mr. & Mrs. Art Baer, in thanksgiving for
 grandsons Lavi, Isaiah and Mayim
 Sept. 19 Mr. & Mrs. Robert McConnell, to the glory of
 God.
 Sept. 26 Jennifer Murphy, in thanksgiving for her family

OUR SAVIOUR

- Sept. 5 Cathi Mehl
 Sept. 13 Susan and Gary Lantz, in memory of family
 Sept. 19 Mary Lee & Wendy Simpson, in memory of
 Florence Spangler
 Sept. 26 Rita Anderson, in memory of Mary & Bob
 Cushman

Family camp

By Isaac and Angela



Procter campsite and farm opened its unique acreage and opportunities to diocesan families in August. Epiphany's Angela Murray and son Isaac made the most of everything offered. And recorded it all so nicely. We are delighted to share Angela's splendid photos and commentary.



Isaac holds the tree-bark, flower-decorated boat he made. After Eucharist, the evening ended with launching of the campers' handmade, candlelit boats.

Sewing was offered for those 10 and up. Each week a quilt was made. Angela helped sew this one. Quilts are shown in Procter Conference Room.



Left, Isaac with the new pavilion under construction. Center, some of Procter Farm's many acres of field crops, vegetables and flowers. Right, Isaac gathered eggs and petted the pigs.



Cluster goes to the fair



Champaign County displayed its best and brightest at the county fair in August, Cluster representatives claiming top prizes. Our Saviour's Leo Compton won first place in the 4-H category titled "Makeover". He redesigned and furnished his room in a tailored, linear style, carried out in neutrals. Sheer, white window treatment allows maximum natural light in the low-ceilinged room. Leo's defining wall and ceiling juncture with electric lights is purely original and cleanly decorative. Well done, Leo!

The Cluster's extended family also took home prizes. Drew Hurst, nine-year-old nephew of Dusty Hurst, a long-time volunteer for Our Saviour's Community Meal program, claimed Reserve Champion Beef Steer. A first-year 4-H member, Drew said that his mother has been his ongoing inspiration. His favorite project outcome was becoming friends with his steer. Epiphany's Paddy Barr had winners in a granddaughter and step great-grandson. Jennifer Barr's handwork took prizes in several knitting classes. Her entry in the children's sweater category won best of show. Jennifer often dyes the yarn herself. She used walnuts to color the sweater.

Paddy's great-grandson Bryden Ankrom claimed Overall Grand Champion Market Dairy Steer. Bryden, a seventh grader at Mechanicsburg, spoke of the hard work of training an animal and had sage advice for fellow exhibitors: "Work with your animals nightly, get to know them and their needs. And have fun." You have set a splendid example, Leo, Drew, Jennifer and Bryden. Just what A. B. Graham had in mind when he urged us to engage "head, hands, heart and health" in every endeavor.

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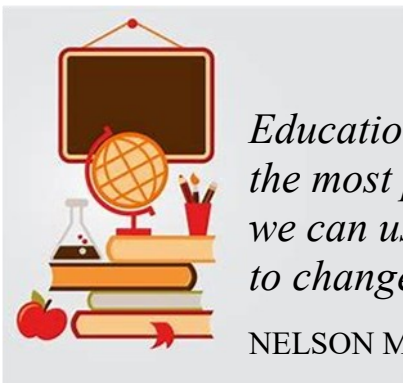
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*Education is
the most powerful weapon
we can use
to change the world*

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