

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."



Rev. Charles E. Wilson, Jr.

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this month's edition of the Chronicle, Election Day will have passed even if we don't have any final results. That will be awkward and strange as so many of us have been accustomed to knowing on election night what was voted during the day. Whatever happens or however it goes down, one thing we can be sure of is even more anxiety for us all.

It's not supposed to be this way. That is a true statement held by well, everybody. The Church holds that the world is not supposed to be this way. The turning of the world right-side up is a promise sung about by no one less than Mary the mother of Jesus as she contemplates her arrangement with G-d. Our brothers and sisters in the many other faiths of the world share that idea with us that, to paraphrase Elton John, "between them and us, things can only get better".

And yet here we are. And how we vote and how we live is how we try to ensure and assure that the way we think it needs to be stays that way. I remember once at the beginning of our country's longest war being asked what Jesus would think. An easy answer, "We know what he thinks." The reply was quick and complex: "Well, we got a good thing going on over here, we have to defend it". Somehow Jesus fell out of the equation.

If it isn't supposed to be this way, riots in our streets, the poor getting poorer, institutions losing their voice and authority, our places losing their placating effect, and resources hoarded and consumed even as they dwindle, then how is it supposed to be?

A thing to remember, I think, is that those rioters, those poor, those institutions, the spots in which we stand, and the natural response to what Nature is telling us are all speaking their vision of the way things are supposed to be, not just for each patchwork piece of the quilt, but for the whole comforter.

Each of us has an idea how this whole thing is to work. But each way is not the right way.

I am not a big fan of the "Evil Halloween" scene. The gore and more and celebration of sin are really kind of tired and trite (at least I think so). Still, since there is fear of an evil time we are in, I will offer this thought: that in our fears of the rioters and poor, the know-it-alls and have-it-alls, in our angst about whether is enough, try to discern who benefits best from such fear and division?

If we consider that, then we might gain insight as to why things are not the way they are supposed to be for you and for me.

(Continued on page 2)

Dear Friends

(Con't from page 1)

By the time you read this, Election Day will be over. And Halloween, too. This is good news. For it means the time of posturing and the posing has ended. And the work of making things they way they should be can begin. May it be so, that, enthused by influx of so much chocolate and sugar, and the Holy Spirit, too, we will take this opportunity and move as Jesus invites.

See you in church.

Charles +

Special days in November

November is filled with reminders of the high cost of freedom, the privileges and responsibilities of those who enjoy it and examples of human nature at its finest.

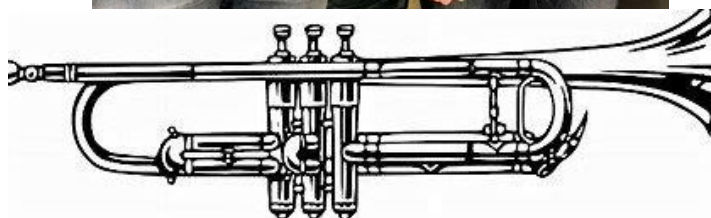
Election Day is surely a critical moment in a free society. "We the people" determine how power will be exercised and by whom.

November 10 is the 222nd birthday of the U. S. Marine Corps, established by the Continental Congress in 1798.

November 11, Veterans Day, formerly Armistice Day, marking the cessation of hostilities in World War I at 11 o'clock on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. In 1954, President Eisenhower changed the name to Veterans Day to honor the veterans of all wars for their patriotism, love of country and sacrifice for the common good.

November 26, the National Day of Thanksgiving, established by President Abraham Lincoln October 1863, in the midst of the Civil War. Lincoln invited fellow citizens to observe the last Thursday of November as "...a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father and to implore the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and return it to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union."

One other truly American celebration occurs November 18. That will be the 92nd birthday of Mickey Mouse, the animated cartoon character created by Disney Studios in 1928.



Music men in Mechanicsburg

Leo Compton and Will Boeck represent the spirited Mechanicsburg High School Marching Band which is touring with the Indians' undefeated football team to Division IV playoff games this month. At press time, the outcome of the playoffs is unknown but the Mechanicsburg band is always a winner.

Almighty God, mercifully
accept the prayers of your people

For the Hardin family

How quickly things can change. We recently helped celebrate Ed Hardin's father's 100th birthday. September 25 Paul and Brittany Hardin presented Rev. Nancy and Ed with their first grandchild, Nora Ann. In early October we learned that while visiting his father in Indiana, Ed had suffered a stroke and was being treated in an Indianapolis hospital.

Ed is now in rehabilitation at an Ohio Health facility associated with Riverside Hospital in Columbus but may be home soon. Rev. Nancy suggests that cards or notes for Ed be sent to his Urbana address, 116 Lafayette Avenue.

Ed has some left-side paralysis, which we are told, in no way affects his thought processes or his unquenchable sense of humor. Prayers are speeding Godward and coupled with the Hardin family's deep faith, can provide the strength that will lead to full recovery. We'll be there with bells on.



*Ed met his granddaughter,
Nora Ann, in September*

For the Stadler family

Those who mourn the October 26 death of William Randall Stadler, 93, of Boca Raton, Florida, include his brother, Chuck Stadler, and nephew and niece, Marc and Shary Stadler all of Epiphany. The family still grieves the loss of Joanie Stadler, Chuck's wife of 60 years, who passed away in September. We pray that they "may cast their cares on God," and feel his presence ever near, bringing hope in this time of sadness.

At one time and with one voice

What we call the first Thanksgiving, was held by Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians sometime between September and November in 1621. Edward Winslow was there and wrote this to friends in England:

Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that we might, rejoice together after we had gathered the fruits of our labor...many of the Indians coming amongst us---King Massasoit, with some ninety men. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time... yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want.

Thanksgivings also celebrated military victories; adoption of a state constitution; safe harbor after a harrowing voyage. In 1777 Sam Adams made the first national proclamation:

It is therefore recommended...to set apart Thursday, the eighteenth Day of December, next, for Solemn Thanksgiving and Praise. That at one Time and with one Voice, the good People may express the grateful feelings of their Hearts and consecrate themselves to the Service of their Divine Benefactor.

May we, at one time and with one voice, speak and show our gratitude for abundant life this Thanksgiving, understanding that God's abundance embraces all experience, and trust that His unfailing mercy and love will ease the hard paths that lead to purpose and joy.

For the Renkert family

Richard Renkert, husband of Barbara Renkert and stepfather of Cynthia Heffner, all of Epiphany, passed away Saturday, October 31. Dick, Barb and Cindy formerly attended Holy Trinity Church in Bellefontaine. At the close of Holy Trinity, they became members of Epiphany. Cindy is currently Epiphany's Senior Warden. May the love of your Cluster family comfort and strengthen you in the days to come.

Our Saviour provides food and warmth



Fifty guests satisfied their appetites with a hearty supper of homecooked beans and ham, cornbread, fruit and cookies at Our Saviour's October Community Meal. A tip of the chef's hat to Sarah Bradford. She prepared a big roaster of navy beans and ham that simmered fragrantly all afternoon. Rev. Charles was holding office hours at the church that day and kindly gave the beans a look and a stir.



Sarah Bradford

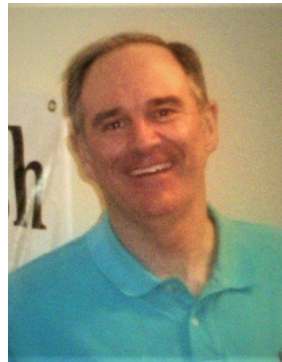
In addition to Sarah, the servers included:



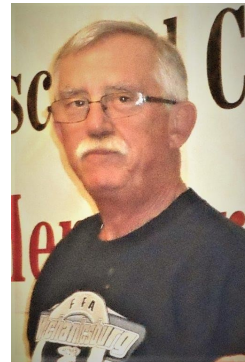
Todd Boeck



Amy Boeck



Jay Keely



Greg Kimball



Dusty Hurst

And there's more!

The Mechanicsburg community is invited to browse Our Saviour's boutique of free, gently used, winter outerwear during Community Meal hours or by appointment.

Amy Boeck reported that while the October supper was being served, three coats, two hats and a pair of scarves found new owners. The collection of gently used coats, jackets, hats, snowsuits, gloves and scarves includes adult and children's sizes. If you can't get to a Community Meal, you can arrange to see the inventory by calling Jodi Compton (937-689-3986) or Amy Boeck (740-610-5234).



Give thanks for everything

Paul exhorts the Philippians — “In everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” The church at Philippi, founded by Paul on his second missionary journey, had sent him a financial gift and he is responding with gratitude and encouragement for these people.

Our national day of thanksgiving nears. Would Paul urge us to be thankful for everything in the midst of an uncontrolled pandemic that has taken the lives of a quarter of a million Americans; no longer fifty states but a country tarnished by hatred, inequality and division within, environmental crises without. Really—give thanks for everything?

When Paul wrote this letter while imprisoned, there were only two outcomes, death or release. If killed, he would be with Christ. If released, he could continue his ministry. Paul was not worried about his future but was mighty disturbed that Christians in Philippi were no longer “of the same mind.” That selfish ambition, conceit, self-interest, arrogance and pride were creating division and disunity in this Christian community.

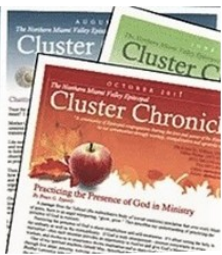
If Paul were a witness to 21st century America, he would discover that its citizens are no longer “of the same mind.” No longer pursuing a more perfect union. No longer sacrificing for the common good. And he would find the same selfish ambition, conceit, self-interest, arrogance and pride, division and disunity that he deplored in the church at Philippi.

According to Peter Edmonds, a tutor in Biblical studies at Oxford University, Paul’s short letter to the Philippians is considered the most attractive of his epistles. One reason is the solid pastoral advice he had for these people struggling to follow Christ. That being, whatsoever things are true, honest, pure, just, lovely, of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things, and the God of peace shall be with you.

Mr. Edmonds explains that Paul’s philosophy was similar to the Stoics, but with one big difference. They relied on their own resources. Paul had Christ. Thanksgiving 2020 will not be the traditional celebration because of the increase of Covid cases and deaths, the despair of unemployment, lack of food and medicine; possible eviction; continued racial conflict; improvised worship services and schooling, western wildfires turning towns and vast rural acreages to ashes, coastal communities washed away in fierce storms.

May we be advised by Paul. Look for truth, honesty, purity, justice and beauty. Believe there is virtue and something to be praised. Because of that one big difference. We have Christ.

Cluster Chronicle enters tenth year



As of August 2020, the Cluster Chronicle began its tenth year of publication. It was August of 2011 that Matt Loges and Sally Johnson took over the Chronicle that had been written and produced by Rev. Tim West until he retired.

It had a new look. Matt’s artful format provided an appealing setting for Sally’s text and photos. The partnership continued via email after Matt moved to Englewood, but he soon became manager of a residential facility in Columbus and we sadly bid him farewell.

Cluster Administrator Amy Boeck, also a whiz with the computer, agreed to do composing and now also gets mailed copies on as well and posts each issue online. Amy is also our only reporter! We have relied on what the editor could cover, submitted material, info, photos and tips from clergy vestries and congregants. Now with contact curtailed, we count on all of you even more. Do keep in touch, addresses and phone numbers are in each issue.

We have never missed an issue but have been late from time to time when personal lives had to take priority. And, while each issue is twice proofed, the mischievous typo or other miscue still gets into print. But no publication ever had a more encouraging, appreciative readership, so deserving of quality. We are grateful.

Meal features lasagna from McAuley Center

Guests of Epiphany's October Community Meal enjoyed the ultimate in service on a mild, damp evening, its grayness relieved by the brilliance of fall foliage.

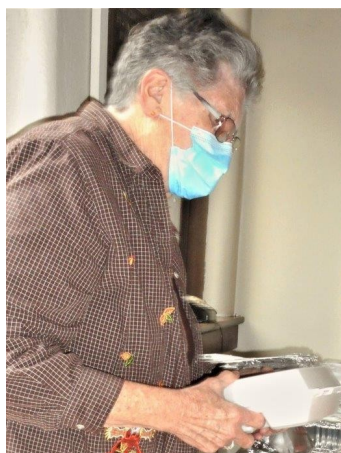
People had only to drive to the curb at the Kenton Street entrance, give their order and, within minutes, boxed dinners (lasagna, green beans, garlic bread and crème de menthe confections) bottled water and tableware were handed through the car window. A total of 32 meals were distributed between 5 and 6 o'clock. The food was provided, prepared and delivered to Epiphany ready to eat by

the staff of Mercy McAuley Center, a long-time partner in the church's monthly meal program. Epiphany volunteers who took over from there were Heather Angus, Sharon Applegate, Paddy Barr and Mary Neal Miller.

Urbana resident Christine Pickering was escorted by Honey, her charming long-haired, Dachshund, the color of her name. Honey and all other guests were invited to return 5 to 6 p.m. November 18 for the annual pre-thanksgiving meal. Urbana's Main Street Car Care, formerly Brugh Auto and Tire, will be the meal sponsor with Paddy Barr as on-site manager.



Clockwise from left: Christine Pickering introduces Honey, her canine companion; Pre-prandial social distancing on the stairs, l to r, Paddy Barr, Heather Angus, Mary Neal Miller and Sharon Applegate; Mary Neal welcomes a friend; Paddy, left, and Sharon box food; Mary Neal carries a boxed supper to a guest.



Communion protocol

Bishop Breidenthal's approval of the return of the celebration of Communion to weekly worship services includes these guidelines:

1. Worshippers will come, one at a time, to the altar.
2. The celebrant will place a wafer in each person's hand.
3. The worshipper will return to his/her seat, briefly raise facemask and consume wafer.
4. Communion will not include wine.

Cluster Administrator Amy Boeck reminds that we are to continue to follow previously issued guidelines for worship services. Protocol for these practices is determined by the number of Covid cases in Ohio, shown by a color-coded system: yellow the fewest cases advancing through orange to red to purple, the highest number.

Masking, social distancing and hand washing are critical. We learned that Melbourne, a city in fully-masked Australia, recently recorded zero cases. It can be done!

FROM ACROSS THE POND



Americans share concerns for the Pandemic with every country. An email from friends in Wales explains that their lives are also on hold. And confirms that government's inability "to pull together for the good of the country" may also be a worldwide affliction. Read on.

Hello Sally,

We hope we find you safe, well and in good spirits considering the state that the world is in. We in Wales are in total lockdown, not officially allowed out of the house other than to attend a doctor's surgery, hospital, or to collect food. Fortunately, we are able to get home food deliveries and lucky to have our daughter living next door should we need anything urgently. We hope those who are allowed out for necessary work will abide by the restrictions our National Health Board has imposed and that an anti-virus can be found soon so that this dreadful pandemic can be brought under control.

We are so disappointed with our politicians. With the seriousness of the Coronavirus and Brexit, we had hoped support from all political parties would pull together for the sake of the country. Instead, opposition politicians with their "degrees in hindsight" are critical of all decisions the government makes without any useful alternatives.

Love to you and your family, Barrie and Judy

Prayer services at noon via Facebook

Starting Nov. 4, Rev. Charles will lead a virtual prayer service at noon on Wednesdays via Facebook. Participants need not have Facebook accounts. It will work the same way we accessed Rev. Hoster's Sunday sermons.

Just click on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Miami-Valley-Episcopal-Cluster-102488944741549>

Cluster Administrator Amy Boeck will email the link and reminders to us each week.

What's a pandemic?

Why is the Coronavirus that has invaded our planet and, as of October 2020 claimed 900,000 lives, called a pandemic? Pandemic, along with many other English words, comes from the Greek: *pan*, meaning *all* and *demos* meaning *people*. Something affecting or with potential to affect *all people*.

A pandemic, says Merriam Webster, is an outbreak of infectious disease that has spread across a large region, multiple continents or worldwide.

This is opposed to the term epidemic which refers to a widespread disease with a more stable number of infected persons such as the seasonal flu.

One more similar term, endemic, describes a disease or condition native to or regularly found among people in a certain area, e.g., malaria is endemic to tropical climates.



Parish hall constructed 100 years ago

Epiphany's parish hall was added to the original church in 1920. This picture of the work in progress, taken by an unknown photographer standing in Kenton Street, shows the east wall, doorway and windows framed up and the brick façade partially laid.

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*Then shall the trees
of the wood sing out
at the presence of the
Lord. O, give thanks
unto the Lord.*

I Chronicles 16: 29

