

The Church Messenger

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Joke!

Poor Noah! Imagine having to live on a wooden boat for months on end with two woodpeckers flying around!

Bible Study: Prayer

Examining the Prayers of the Saints

The next study will be on the topic of prayer; and we will begin after Thanksgiving. This will give the bible study group in the Parish of Kent time to finish their study of the Book of Ezekiel and then Chris+ will lead this study on prayer in both Kent and Lancaster.

We will examine the prayers of Jesus, and the prayers of both OT and NT saints. Not only will we learn more about the people and narrative of Scripture, we will also explore how their example, and the teachings of Jesus, should shape our own prayer life.

It is my hope that our study together might end with a day retreat for members of both parishes to attend together with a focus on prayer. An outline and schedule for this bible study will be in the next Church Messenger.

Vestry Meetings

Parish of Lancaster & Parish of Kent

Parish of Kent: 3 Quarter Business, October 19 @ 7:00 PM
Ministry & Mission, November 9 @ 7:00 PM

Parish of Lancaster: 3 Quarter Business, October 17 @ 9:00 AM
Ministry & Mission, November 14 @ 9:00 AM

Our Ministry & Mission meetings have an intentional focus on deciding how we will best serve the Lord and share the gospel both within and beyond the walls of the church. We bring our hopes and ideas while we identify the needs of our people and the wider community and then see if we can find ways to join God in what he is already doing. Business meetings focus on how our buildings and budgets can serve and support what we decide at our Ministry & Mission meetings.

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Parish of Kent Church Hall - 150 Browns Yard Church Rd.

This annual supper will take place on Saturday, October 10, 4:00-6:00 PM. The cost is \$20 per meal. All are welcome!

Reflection on Matthew 18:21-35

We can all relate to Peter's impulse to put a limit on forgiveness; we all have a breaking point when it comes to being wronged. But Jesus' response is unsettling - giving Peter a number meant to indicate that grace should have no limit. We are to practice boundless forgiveness.

And this teaching is not about handling minor annoyances or personality clashes or hurt feelings; those are occasions for simple grace.

Rather, Matthew 18 addresses the objective, destructive sin that rightly fractures relationships. When someone sins against you in a way that is truly damaging, forgiveness will be required of us. But this does not mean pretending the sin didn't matter or that it's okay. True forgiveness means both naming and canceling the debt; no longer holding it against the offender, all while still exercising wisdom regarding behavioural patterns or abuse.

This is only possible when we remain rooted in the Lord, recognizing that God has forgiven us. Since we have received unmerited mercy, we are compelled to extend mercy to others. When we forgive, we let go of the bitterness and desire to punish, trusting that true reconciliation is rooted in the Lord's power to bring about change.

Youth Connection

Parish of Lancaster - Church of the Good Shepherd

This is a shared, Friday night, youth ministry between the Church of the Good Shepherd (West) and Stone Church (Uptown) for students in grades 5-10. Youth in grade 11 or older are also welcome but will have more of a leadership role and a separate devotional time. Start date: September 18. Stone Church will do most of the hosting until more Good Shepherd and west side youth get connected. CGS will host for the first time this year on October 2nd, 6:00-8:00 PM; and then once a month on the following dates: November 13; December 11; January 8; February 5; and March 19. (More dates to come.) Youth Connection provides a shared meal as part of the evening.

Praise & Plates

Parish of Kent - Browns Yard Church Hall

We're happy to announce Praise & Plates will continue this year. This ministry will be a casual, fun, and meaningful gathering where we share a meal, fellowship, and a brief, interactive worship service and teaching time for all ages. It's a wonderful way for families of all shapes and sizes to connect and grow in faith together in a relaxed atmosphere. Once again our first gathering this year will be Halloween-themed and take place on Wednesday, October 28th. Put on your costumes and join us for an evening of food, games, and fellowship. We'll be serving a gluten-free spaghetti and tomato sauce meal for everyone to enjoy. Doors open at 5:00 PM, dinner will be served at 5:30 PM.

The Gospel Trail

Parish of Kent - Be sure to enjoy it this Fall!

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the beauty of creation and for the faithful hands that have prepared a new trail through the woods. We dedicate "The Gospel Trail" to your glory. May this trail be more than a walk in the woods; may it be a journey of faith. As your people move from the promise of the incarnation to the power of Pentecost, we pray that they will have an encounter with you, LORD, at every waypoint. Holy Spirit, abide with those who walk the trail that it may be a sanctuary for the weary, a teacher for the seeking, and a source of renewal for the whole body of Christ. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

Diocesan Synod - Christ Church Cathedral - November 7

Almighty God, giver of all and ruler of all that is seen and unseen; we ask for continual divine grace to your Church and especially to this Session of Diocesan Synod. May we walk in your way, leading lives worthy of our calling, in humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love and maintaining the unity of your Spirit in the bond of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.