

FRIDAY UPDATES

October 5, 2018

BAZAAR work continued this week. Five ladies worked banding tickets and stuffing envelopes, along with the letter explaining the raffle. Your raffle tickets will be in the parish hall this Sunday. Please look for your envelope. We hope to not have to mail most of the letters in order to save money. We have said this in the past few years, but we feel this will likely be the last year for a fall bazaar. With little participation in the planning and working toward presenting a successful fund raising endeavor, other ways for fund raising need to be explored. Next Thursday we will clean the ECW closet and begin pricing and tagging items received for the sale.

TOMBOLA GAME- we are hoping to collect 200 bottles of something good to use in the English game of chance. Pay a dollar, pick a number, win a bottle of something nice. Please make your contributions to this game. It's always fun. Some prizes are silly and some are fun, but all are useful in some way. Everyone enjoys this game at the Bazaar. We will start collecting your bottles this Sunday and will continue until the Bazaar. New, unused items, please. Shampoos, soda, wine, mouthwash, tea, juice; anything in a bottle.

THIS SATURDAY IS OUR FIRST CONTEMPORARY SERVICE- Please come join us at 6:00pm for our first Contemporary Service! The music is upbeat and uplifting and there is a Children's Homily before the regular sermon. A service good for the entire family!

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE AND THE MOVIE NIGHT – On 10/13, the Contemporary Service will be at 6:00; the movie night will show the movie at 7:00. Social hour with Pot Luck Dinner will be 5:00 to 7:00 so you can attend the contemporary service if you wish, then come to the movie and eat popcorn. The movie will be Hocus Pocus! Thanks for understanding and sharing the evening.

STEWARDSHIP- Welcome to the Blessed to Be a Blessing Stewardship Narrative Series, designed to complement and support your congregation's annual giving campaign. Six contributing writers explore stewardship as a response to the blessing of who we are and all we have received in connection with Mark's Gospel beginning Sunday, October 7th through November 11th. God's initiative is always to bless, and that blessing is never earned, it is freely given. Christians primarily know the blessing of God's grace in the gift of our baptism. The Book of Common Prayer tells us that in our baptism the bond that is established cannot be dissolved. We share the same blessing given to Jesus in his baptism: "This is my beloved, in you I'm well pleased." By virtue of our baptism, we are blessed to be a blessing. God blesses what God creates. As the Book of Genesis reminds us, the recital of God's blessing is infused into the created order. Each day of the creation story ends with the refrain: it is good, it is good, it is good. We too are part and parcel of the created order, each of us designed for goodness and blessedness. The Hebrew word for blessing is barak, which means "the life force of creation itself," says Walter Brueggemann. Through God's blessing, all of creation is destined for abundant well-being. Through God's blessing, there is always enough. We, in turn, bless God by offering praise and thanksgiving for the goodness of gifts given. To worship God is to offer something of value. We offer praise and thanksgiving not only with our lips but with our lives. The annual pledge campaign can be an opportunity to bless God and bless the community from the offerings of the labor of our lives. Through our commitment to proportional giving, we offer a pledge of thanksgiving for all we have received and for all we will become as we grow into the image of Christ. The first Sunday of this year's stewardship narrative series will begin on October 7, the day that many congregations will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis. In honor of the saint's pledge to care for creation, people from throughout the church will bring their animals—dogs, cats, goats, bunnies, hamsters, even horses-- to be blessed. We experience great delight in bringing our beloved creatures forward for a blessing, recognizing how their sheer presence blesses our lives. My hope is that these reflections will spark conversations and exploration of all the ways we praise God through whom all blessings flow—including our intentional proportional giving

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - Nina Oates (7th), Cecelia Morgenstern (9th), Nancy Burdette (9th), Jake Sommer (12th), Hazel Boettcher (13th).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY- Robert & Annie Etter (4th), Hank & Callie Benedict (13th).

PRAYER – Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in the dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.* (bcp, pp 833, No. 62. Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi.)

Heavenly Father we thank you for our many blessings; for health and healing and for successful treatments and surgeries. We ask your blessings on those who are suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Comfort all those who are struggling in any way, to give their worries to God, and to accept things in His time. Help all to keep the faith. We ask these things through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*