

TIDINGS

God Given Responsibility to Influence—By Fr. Richard Menees, Interim Rector

Dear followers of Jesus,

Remember the definition that I have previously recommended:

“A leader is a person with a God-given capacity and a God-given responsibility to influence a specific group of God’s people towards His purposes for the group.”

As you search for your next rector think deeply about the **“a person... with a God-given responsibility,,,”** clause of the definition. In our Anglican polity the person who has the God given responsibility to lead a parish must be a priest. To be called as a priest a man must first be baptized and confirmed. Then he must believe God has called him to the responsibility of priesthood. The man who becomes the leader of a parish starts as a member of another parish because leaders learn to lead by first learning to follow.

But it needs more than just a man feeling called. His calling must be recognized by the rector and the vestry of his home congregation. Further, the bishop and the commission on ministry must discern God’s call, after thorough examination of the candidate. The bishop plays the ultimate human role in this process because he is the one with the God-given responsibility to ordain. That’s why the bishop is called the **ordinary**.

Before the bishop ordains, he must see that the candidate is educated and trained. Generally

priestly training is given at a seminary which teaches, tests and recommends the candidate by granting him an ordination degree. The Bishop, too, will test the candidate by ordination examination. Bishop Menees examines candidates in concert with a cluster of bishops in our western region of the ACNA.

Our bishop will help Christ Church by vetting the candidates

Make Disciples, Plan for the Future—

By Laura Gillespie, Senior Warden

Farewell to the Lord’s Year of 2020 and know with all the tribulations our Lord and Savior continues to watch over Christ Church. This New Year is the time to reflect and look forward to a brighter world. Our doors remain open and we continue to serve our members.

What is our future-what should we do-What accomplishments do we want to advance?Year 2021 has a hefty “to do” lists with finding a New Rector, returning to regular services, and beginning a capital campaign for church property, to name a few. To accomplish these tasks constant prayer is required. But disciples are required as well.

Our Search Committee and

bona fides. But then the search committee and finally, the vestry, must also look into the history of the candidate, including his performance in his previous ministries if he is not but recently ordained. Your duty is to discern carefully and diligently, together with your bishop, that God has given your next rector the capacity and the responsibility to be your priest.

Vestry has met and will soon be working together to prepare our church profile. We are directed to look at our church and who we are and what we can offer our New Rector. Please pray for the Vestry and Search Committee to quickly accomplish this task.

Our Mission Statement tells us “make disciples...” I am reaching out to advance membership and attendance by encouraging your immediate family, friends or neighbors to join us at church. Be the good disciple-volunteer your time, your expertise and know-how. Discipleship will give growth to Christ Church in 2021. I pray Jesus guides us in 2021. God Bless.

This and That at Christ Church

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church is Sunday, January 17 after the service.

The new women’s Bible study, “Jesus the One and Only” by Beth Moore will begin next Wednesday, January 20, at 10:00 in the Parish Hall. Laura Gillespie will moderate. Please call and let her know you will attend.

The catechism class will resume Sunday, January 24 at noon.

Epiphanytide: The “Ordinary” Season after Epiphany

— By Joshua Steele—January 5, 2020 — From “The Anglican Compass”

The feast of Epiphany on January 6 is both the final celebration of Christmas/Christmastide and the preview of Epiphanytide, also known as the Season after Epiphany.

This season is the season of light. It is the time when we recall the Gospel story of Christ as the Light of the World to all peoples. It is a time in which we focus on the Transfiguration and glory of Christ, the mission of the Church to reach all the peoples of the earth, and the great gift of God’s grace in revealing healing truth and light to the world.

The Season after Epiphany and the Season after Pentecost are often called “[Ordinary Time](#).”

(As with many things within Anglicanism, there is some debate

about whether or not Epiphanytide is a proper season, however. Consider that the 1979 Book of Common Prayer designates Sundays *after* Epiphany, while the 2019 BCP calls them Sundays *of* Epiphany.)

The word “ordinary” seems odd, because we wonder why any Christian season could be ordinary as in “normal” or even “boring.” It may suggest to us that this season is unimportant or lesser, or that it is a liturgical free time.

But the word ordinary here means “numbered” as in “the 6th Sunday after Pentecost” or “Proper 9” (think *ordinal* numbers). Ordinary time points us to the reality that all time is God’s time. If the calendar did not include ordinary time in reality no season

or feast day would be special. But by the inclusion of ordinary time, the Church Year reminds us that even the everyday, mundane portions of our time are sanctified. Christ has claim to all of it. So we think of ordinary time as a good time to go about our daily lives in the name of Our Lord, to drink in the light of his Word and teaching, and to be about the business of the King.

Pray for a New Rector

Book of Common Prayer – page 648

Almighty God giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose the Rector for Christ Church Anglican Mission that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ACW News—By Cathy Siegel, ACW President

The month of December was a whirlwind in relation to the activities of the ACW! Our plans were simple, but nothing was simple. COVID just about did us in! Several key people were out with the virus or in quarantine because of exposure to others, but the Lord was watching over us.

We were able to finish the clothing protectors (adult bibs) for delivery to Valley Christian home; we were able to deliver Angel Tree gifts to 13 children as well as large purses filled with personal clothing items and toiletries to women in two of the Kings County shelters; and we were able to decorate the church fellowship area and provide appropriate adornments for the

sanctuary and altar in an activity that we call “Greening of the Church.”

Leading up to Mission Sunday, February 7, our January and February ACW meetings will have presentations by two ladies, Jillian Gipson and Deborah Cotterman, who have made mission trips or served as missionaries. Fr. Richard Menees, our Interim Rector gave a similar presentation in October.

The ladies of the church are currently meeting via Zoom on the 2nd Monday of each month. If and when the church re-opens we will meet in the Parish Hall until it is safe again to meet in people’s homes. Stay safe, and pray for a healthy and peaceful new year.



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