



# THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

February 2023

## Renewal

by Deacon Vicki

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I wonder if you tried on renewal this last month. Did you try any or all of the suggestions? Please let me know if you did. I am curious what you learned or experienced.

In keeping with renewal, I was touched deeply this last week by Fr. Nick's message which focused on this passage from the Book of Micah:

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6: 7-8)*

The prophet Micah is trying to get the people of Israel to remember their covenant with God. They are to do justice and live humbly. God does not want extravagant offerings or sacrifices. In this passage, we witness God having an argument with his people. God is reminding the people about all the wonderful things that have been done for them. The people have gone back to their old ways and are not living their lives in a gracious way. They are no longer humble. Sound familiar? I sometimes find myself doing things in ways which are not helpful or beneficial for myself or others. I suspect we all fall into that once in a while.

What does God require?

It's simple, really. Like Fr. Nick said, "It's simple, not easy, but simple."

Justice "*mishpat*" – fairness and equality in all relationships.

Kindness "*hesed*" – better translated as mercy; loyalty or integrity.

To walk humbly "*hatsnea lekhet*" – a way of life directly opposed to exploitation of power which is seen as the root of corruption and injustice.

How will you honor God by doing justice?

How will you be kind and offer the benefit of the doubt?

How will you walk humbly with God through your faith practices?

As we move ahead, I invite us again to lean into our faith and depend on the Spirit to guide us in order to be brave, courageous, kind, and loving.

In Jesus,  
Deacon Vicki



*You know you're in an Episcopal church when, it's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee hour after the service. Just for the record: we officially recognize only two sacred sacraments, Baptism and Holy Communion as those handed down by Jesus. Five more sac-*

*raments are highly regarded and most of us also acknowledge Confirmation, Marriage, Ordination, Confession (Reconciliation), and Holy Unction (Last Rites). No word on when Coffee Hour might be added, but there is a movement afoot.*





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## Traditions

by Kris Blaney

It's February, we are almost rounding the corner where the snow starts to melt and we start shedding layers to take in that spring sun.

It's also that time where a famous rodent, the groundhog, comes out of his den to tell us whether or not we will have six more weeks of winter.

My husband makes fun of me because every February, around Groundhog's, Day I get so worked up over how people 'buy in' to this urban legend. How could a groundhog possibly tell us if we are having an early spring or not. It's a rodent! Really, whether they see their shadow or not? And how do we know they actually saw their shadow...hmmm?

So, I did some research. The first Groundhog Day was initiated in 1887. According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, it gets scared and runs back into its burrow, predicting six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring.

It turns out that the roots of Groundhog Day actually lie in a Christian tradition called "Candlemas". Clergy would bless and distribute candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be.

The Germans expanded on this concept by selecting an animal—the hedgehog—as a means of predicting weather. Once they came to America, German settlers in Pennsylvania continued the tradition, although they switched from hedgehogs to groundhogs, which were plentiful in the Keystone State. This tradition has grown year to year with a three-day celebration honoring a rodent to predict the weather.

And why did I share this fun fact? Because I like learning and I am intrigued by how traditions are so important to individuals and how they live on or expire.



I think traditions are important, they preserve a culture, a heritage. They also bring comfort in an uncertain environment.

Our church community is full of great traditions: the most common ones we practice every Sunday: scripture and fellowship. They bring us comfort in an uncertain environment.

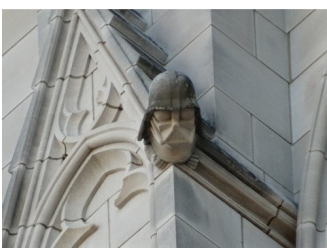
I remember a few times when we didn't have a host for fellowship, and how our church community sprung into action to make sure there was something for fellowship, even if just coffee.

Our church certainly has some long-standing traditions, but I ask, "What new traditions would you like to start at Christ Church?"

Please think about it. Just as Groundhog Day was started in 1887 and continues to this day, how do we start new traditions that will carry our church for the next 10, 20, or 100 years?

Would you be willing to steward an idea? Would you support a new tradition? The options and ideas are endless.

In Christ,  
Kris Blaney  
Jr. Warden



*The National Cathedral in Washington DC is an Episcopal church. Many important funerals, dedications and events are held at the cathedral following the traditional Episcopal / Anglican forms. In the 1980s, while the west towers were under construction, Washington National Cathedral held a decorative*

*sculpture competition for children through National Geographic World Magazine. The third-place winner was Christopher Rader, with his drawing of that fearful villain, Darth Vader. The fierce head was sculpted by Jay Hall Carpenter, carved by Patrick J. Plunkett, and placed high upon the northwest tower*



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Christ church is again a venue host for Big Turn 2023. <https://www.bigturnmusicfest.com/>

Please contact Marm Nihart or Charlie Brown to volunteer to help host this amazing event.

Because this is the Third Friday, you are invited to the concert. There will be no other scheduled activity at church that evening.

DURING THE PERIOD OF LENT, PLEASE JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6PM FOR EVENING PRAYER.

LENT IS THE TIME TO GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST FOR REFLECTION AS WE PREPARE FOR THE JOY AND CELEBRATION OF HOLY WEEK.



**To sign up to bring the treats for coffee hour!  
See the bulletin board in the hallway on your way to the Parish Hall**



*What to do when someone sits in "your" pew: C'mon, you know where "your pew" is don't you. In some churches, when there is a combined service, the 8:00s and the 10:00s end up exchanging very annoyed glances. Which, for an Episcopalian, is like declaring war. But when you don't know the "intruder" here's what to do: Smile*

*and greet them, introduce yourself and make solid eye contact. They may be a visitor. (They may be an angel!) View it as an opportunity to meet a new friend and get out of your rut. Make an extra effort to welcome them and invite them to the fellowship hall after the service.*







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## Youth group time is moving!

**Second Wednesdays—6pm-7:30pm**

We are taking over a space in the building. The old conference room is about to be transformed into the youth room. Stay tuned...

# LOVE

ECW's Lenten Event

## JESUS...A PRETTY HIP DUDE! A DAY TO RELAX, RELATE, AND REFLECT

Presented by The Rev. Chelsea Stanton, Deacon

Saturday, March 18, 2023 – 9am to 3pm

Registration at 830am

Light Breakfast and Lunch provided

## Our New Partners in God's Work: Goodhue County Resource Center



Helping families and individuals access resources in our community.



Sunday 12pm—5pm  
Tuesday 12pm—7pm  
Friday 10am—3pm

- Housing
- Physical & Mental Health
- Chemical Dependency
- Legal Services
- Child Care
- Eviction Litigation
- Transportation
- Education
- Employment
- Pregnancy
- Food
- Social Services
- And More...

## The Hospitality Team Needs Help!



This team of hard-working folks provides hospitality for a number of events throughout the year. We are a small group and we need help from more parishioners.

The duties are quite simple and we need a list of volunteers who would be willing to provide baked goods, and help with cleanup after events.

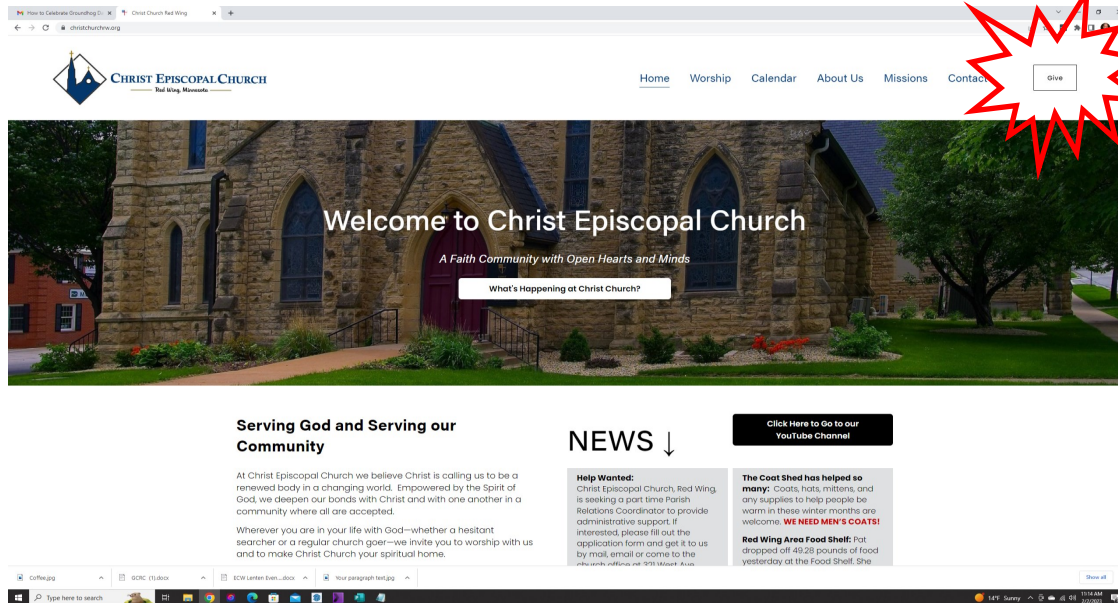
Please contact Marm Nihart at (651) 385-9140 and add your name to the list.



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Buck Foot and I recently upgraded our online giving system and activated it on the new Website. As you can see from this screenshot, the “GIVE” button on the upper right corner of the Home Page will take you to a secure site. There you can make a donation using any Credit/Debit card. So now you can contribute to God’s work AND get airline miles!

You create an account with your username and password and you’re all set. Also note that you can set up your recurring pledge, and also have any donations deducted directly from your account.

It’s safe. We are using VANCO to process the transactions. They are a Minnesota-based company that has been doing secure online giving for non-profits for over 30 years. They currently have 45,000 schools, churches, child care and community organizations relying on them. And they are great to work with.

Thank you for your continuing support of the mission and ministry of Christ Church.

God’s Peace!

*Ron Weitnauer*



*Why our church doors are Red: Sure, it’s a snappy look, but the deeper reason is our firm belief that our church is a refuge. It’s to let the world know what we’re about. Red is the color of Christ’s blood, the symbol of the sacrifice of the martyrs. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit and marks the holy ground that lies through that door. Historically, churches painted their doors red to signal*

*that they were places of asylum, which is part of English Law. As hospitals display Red Crosses, we advertise that we, too, are a place of healing and restoration. Remember that it is our duty to help the wounded, put lives back together, provide comfort in time of need and always be open to all who knock on our beautiful red doors.*



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## February 2023 Scheduled Events

### Wednesday, February 1

9:30am—Eucharist with Discussion  
5:30pm—Hospitality Meeting  
6:30pm—Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 2

6:30pm—MOPS

### Sunday, February 5

8:00am—Eucharist Service Rite II - Rev Chris Beebe presiding  
10:00am—Eucharist Rite II - Rev Chris Beebe presiding

### Monday, February 6

12:00pm—Junior Guild Meeting

### Wednesday, February 8

9:30am—Eucharist with Discussion  
6:00pm—Youth Group  
6:30pm—Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 9

7:00pm—Suicide Prevention Group

### Saturday, February 11

10:30am—Community Engagement Team

### Sunday, February 12

8:00am—Eucharist Service Rite II No Music - Rev Nick Mezacapa presiding  
10:00am—Eucharist Rite II- Rev Nick Mezacapa presiding

### Tuesday, February 14

5:30pm—Property Committee

### Wednesday, February 15

9:30am—Eucharist with Discussion  
6:30pm—Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 16

6:30pm—MOPS

### Friday, February 17

6:00pm—Big Turn Music Fest

### Saturday, February 18

9:30am—ECW Meeting  
6:00pm—Big Turn Music Fest

### Sunday, February 19

8:00am—Eucharist Service Rite II No Music - Rev Nick Mezacapa presiding  
10:00am—Eucharist Rite II - Rev Nick Mezacapa presiding

### Monday, February 20

5:00pm—Vestry Meeting

### Ash Wednesday, February 22

9:30am—Eucharist with Discussion  
7:00pm—Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist - Rev Steve Gheen presiding



### Saturday, February 25

1:00pm—Kathleen Malinchoc funeral

### Sunday, February 26

Clergy's Discretionary Fund  
8:00am—Eucharist Service Rite II No Music - Rev Chris Beebe presiding  
10:00am—Eucharist Rite II - The Rev Chris Beebe presiding

### Tuesday, February 28

4:45pm—Altar Guild

## Mark Your Calendars!



### Day of Reflection

**Saturday — March 18, 9am to 3pm**  
Rev. Chelsea Stanton, ECW

Registration at 8:30am. Light breakfast and lunch provided.

**Volunteer Opportunities**—Help for Sunday morning services:

- Lesson Readers
- Prayer Leaders
- Acolytes
- Greeters

Please sign up on the bulletin board



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## February Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

<b>6</b>	Joseph Tighe	<b>14</b>	Naomi Lenway
<b>10</b>	Sandy Gieseke	<b>19</b>	Clair Hemenway
<b>12</b>	Jenna Bangard	<b>21</b>	Scott Johnson
	Raymond Schafer	<b>25</b>	Clark Knudsen
<b>13</b>	Buck Foot	<b>26</b>	Becky Bangard
	Gordie Gieseke	<b>28</b>	Annie Reinitz
			Linda Hase
			Mary Christensen

### Anniversaries

<b>7</b>	Joan and Buck Foot
<b>21</b>	Margie and Bill Hoyt

## Altar Flowers for February

There are some open dates for flowers on the altar. Please contact Maureen Blue if you want to sign up for a date. Phone 651-385-0574 or email: maureenblue108@yahoo.com

### **February 5**

Chapel	<b>In memory of Jane Smith</b> <i>Ernie and Mary Ann Valentine</i>
Church	<b>In memory of Edwin Stone</b> <i>Jamie and Laura Teele</i>

### **February 12**

Chapel	<b>In memory of Verna Borlie and Lillian Christenson</b> <i>Marilyn Potswald</i>
Church	<b>In memory of Audrey Ferber</b> <i>Sisters - Evie and Marian</i>

### **February 19**

Chapel	<b>In memory of Leon</b> <i>Mary Christensen</i>
Church	<b>In loving memory of Scott "Soup" Campbell</b> <i>Nadine Platson</i>

### **February 26**

Chapel	<b>In memory of Mr. &amp; Mrs. Clarence Grosse, Robert Grosse and Loraine Grosse</b> <i>Marilyn Grosse and Beckie Plaas</i>
Church	<b>In memory of Rick</b> <i>Tari Carpenter</i>