



Sixth and Main Streets
Clarksburg

The Good News Weekly

February 9, 2014



721 Hall Street
Bridgeport

Your Priest's Ponderings

The journalist Charles McDowell once wrote:

*“Thirty days hath September
April, June and November
All the rest have thirty-one
Except February, which is endless”*

Some things aren't funny, and February is one of them. I had a dear friend say very bluntly today on his facebook post, “ February and fun do not belong in the same sentence. February is tricky, deceitful, and crafty. Go ahead and think it's going along just fine for once and you'll see.”

Remember February is the month when all the excess Christmas spending comes home to roost. February is the month your boss is surly and so are you. February has the capacity to allow you to enjoy the first daffodils of the season one day and the next day you're shoveling eight inches of “wintry-mix”.

We thought January was tough. February can be tougher. But February has always been this way. Back in the last century, February was the month that the hens stopped laying eggs and the firewood ran out. February, as my friend proclaims, has always been the longest month.

Some smart theologian brought us the season of EPIPHANY. During these darkest (longest) months of winter we can bask in the LIGHT of CHRIST. Sometimes we lose sight of Christ's light shining because the bright lights and flashy signs of the world seem to shine brighter. Sometimes you have to search for the light in the darkness to remember it is there. If experience has taught me anything we always manage to make it to March and April and May.... Hang in there friends.

FYI

*This afternoon Anne West and Nancy Cotten will attend our quarterly Deanery meeting at Trinity Church, Morgantown. The Rev. Julie Murdock, Rector of St. Thomas a Becket, is the Dean of this Deanery and Nancy Cotten is the President of the Deanery. These quarterly meetings are important in the life of the Diocese to keep us connected and supportive of Episcopal ministry that is carried on all around the state.

*Anne writes a monthly article for the Bridgeport newspaper.

*After having only one *Thankful Tuesday* gathering in January due to weather we will surely be Thankful to gather on the 11th for food for both the body and soul.



Special Olympics Spaghetti Dinner

At Christ Church
Sunday, February 16th
Starting at noon



Facilities Update:

Through the generosity of Ben and Jeanie Hardesty our Choir Room and Nursery at Christ Church have been given a fresh coat of paint, a good cleaning and some new window blinds. Katie Del a Cruz Wiegand has loaned us one of her delightful collage art works to hang in the nursery. Both spaces now have a new welcoming look. Thank you Ben, Jeanie and Katie.

It is a challenge and a necessity to keep up with our facilities. They make a first impression to our visitors. I have always believed that the way our facilities look is an outward and visible sign of how we feel about our community.

What else around here needs refreshed? We would love to hear your suggestions?

Serving Ministries

For Sunday, February 16th

8:00 am at Christ Church

Chalicer/Lector, Guy Gage

Usher/Greeter, Ben Hardesty

10:30 am at Christ Church

Chalicer/Lector, Chuck Critchfield

Ushers/Greeters,

Kitty Clovis and Jody Morse

Crucifer, Caleb Limbers

Altar Guild, Jody Morse, Carol Rogers

5:30 pm at St. Barnabas

Chalicer/Lector, Doyle Sickles

Altar Guild, Kipp Martin

Usher/Greeter, Joe Martin

A Note from Guy Gage

The Bible constantly reminds us to be thankful, and for good reason: it protects us from minimizing or not noticing the blessings that are ours. A grateful heart makes us aware of and thankful for even the smallest of things. Come Tuesday evening to make thankfulness one of your regular routines.



You can make angels in the snow.

“Stewardship is what we do once we say we believe”
Here is a look at our Annual giving numbers for 2014.

It is good for all of us to be aware of the financial needs of this community.

2013			2014			
Number of Pledges For 2013	Total pledged	Average of Pledge	(Amount)	Number of Pledges For 2014	Total pledged	Average of Pledge
0	0	0	0	1	10,800	10,800
1	9,000	9,000	9,000 -9,999	0	0	0
0	0	0	8,000 – 8,999	1	8,400	8,400
1	7,800	7,800	7,000 – 7,999	1	7,200	7,200
2	12,600	6,300	6,000 – 6,999	0	0	0
4	20,480	5,120	5,000 – 5,999	6	31,180	5,197
3	13,160	4,386	4,000 – 4,999	3	12,960	4,320
5	16,640	3,328	3,000 – 3,999	10	33,280	3,328
8	18,600	2,325	2,000 – 2,999	6	14,060	2,344
17	22,030	1,296	1,000 – 1,999	11	14,530	1,321
4	2,220	555	500 – 999	7	3,880	554
2	730	365	1 - 499	10	2,858	286
47	\$123,260		Totals	56	\$139,148	

15 New Committed Pledges
\$15,058.00

20 Increased Pledges
\$14,580.00

5 Decreased Pledges
\$4,810.00

5 Not Pledging in 2014 – Now Giver of Record
\$5,900.00
(life changes)

8 Not Expecting Offering in 2014 -Budgeted in 2013
\$3,420.00