

AUGUST TIDINGS

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August 2022

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Inside this issue:

Priests' Reflection	1
Backpack Blessing	1
Fundraising for Ukraine	2
The Mission Plate	2
August Birthdays	2
General Convention	3
Daughters of the King	4
August Sundays	4
VBS at HTC	5
Adult Spiritual Formation	5
Lambeth Conference	6
Financial Summary	6



*See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.*

[Isaiah]

A Reflection from your Priest-in-Charge

Whenever I groan within myself and think how hard it is to keep writing about love in these times of tension and strife that may at any moment become for us all a time of terror, I think to myself "What else is the world interested in?" What else do we all want, each one of us, except to love and be loved, in our families, in our work, in all our relationships. God is Love.

- Dorothy Day

I came across this passage by Dorothy Day as I was reflecting on what to write for this issue of Tidings. I wasn't "groaning within myself," but her words startled me. I know that I am not alone in being haunted by this question almost every day: *What can I do?* Images from Ukraine, vitriol and mockery in our public speech, stories about unanticipated economic hardship and recurring illness from my own friends and family, repeated questions about what "church" means today:

What can I do?

The answer is simple: Love. To love is our natural inclination, to be loved our deepest desire. As a result, we are capable of inventing and sharing a thousand different ways of loving. If we have run out of ways

to love or if we have lost sight of any signs of love, we need only be still, and in the silence we will glimpse a new way to love, hear an unexpected expression of love.

It is the one guarantee of this life – that we will witness love. We have the eyes to see and the ears to hear and the voice to speak, if we will but allow ourselves to be surprised.

Loving is what we *do*, created in the image of a God who is Love, reborn into the Body of Christ, Incarnate Love.

Judith+



Blessing of the Backpacks
August 28th





Fundraising for Ukraine

Homemade Lemonade sale continues through August – I have been selling – for a donation - the very best homemade lemonade – as first made by our very own VBS team many years ago. So far I have collected well over \$450 – this money and any more collected through the end of August will be sent to World Central Kitchen, which is currently providing thousands of meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) every day to Ukrainians in Ukraine and refugees in surrounding countries. Please get in touch with me if you would like some lemonade – it's available most Sundays in a quart container to take home.

Thank You to our parishioners who have enjoyed the lemonade and embraced this call to Stand with Ukraine. You may reach me directly by text at 774-200-4279 or email abritinusa@gmail.com

With every best wish and blessings,
Tamsin Lucey, mother-in-law to a Ukrainian living in Boston.

The Mission Plate For August -St Luke's Guesthouse-

We are all familiar with the help and hospitality that is provided at St. Luke's Guesthouse. But we all are impacted by rising costs of food, housing, and gas! They too face these issues in maintaining the guesthouse for those who are homeless. We may feel stretched at times, but many of us are very blessed. St. Luke's depends on donations, and we have supported their work all along.

Please, let us now pull together to help support the staff and guests with their goals of providing temporary housing, meals to nourish, and projects that promote self-sufficiency. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we offer our prayers and offerings for St. Luke's Guesthouse during July and August.

Suzanne Sharp,
member of the Mission & Outreach Committee



3—Phoebe Reith-Lowery
8—Robin Yates
11—Emilynn Bousquet
11—Linda Spooner
14—Jared Burns
17—Suzanne Sharp
17—David Monroe
20—Colleen DeMings
20—Lucy Burns
25—Braden Bullard





The Episcopal Church General Convention: What is it and why does it matter?

The General Convention is the governing body of the Episcopal Church. It meets every 3 years to discuss and pass resolutions, some of which will affect the canons and the people in the pews directly, and others that set a course of action for the “mind of the church”, as guided by the Holy Spirit. The convention meets in two houses: the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops, much like the structure of our federal legislature. Every diocese elects 8 deputies, 4 clergy and 4 lay, to the House of Deputies and all bishops, retired or not, are eligible to sit in the House of Bishops. Resolutions are discussed in both houses; and to pass, both houses must concur.

The 80th General Convention met in Baltimore on July 8th - 11th, 2022. This was a one year delay and a significantly shortened convention due to COVID. Most of the debate/discussion about the 425 resolutions, usually done during convention, was done on Zoom prior to convention, and some resolutions were postponed until General Convention 2024.

80th General Convention: shortened, masked, tested, legislated -- a few highlights:

- * approved the first reading of a constitutional change to clearly define the Book of Common Prayer. If the change passes at the 81st General Convention in 2024, this would define the Book of Common Prayer as “those liturgical forms and other texts authorized by the General Convention.”
- * two women will lead the House of Deputies for the first time in history. Ayala Harris, president and the Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton, vice president, are the first people of color serving together as leaders of the House of Deputies.
- * passed Resolution B003 – Regulating Ghost Guns and 3D Printed Guns proposed by Bishop Fisher. This resolution will be sent on for action to Office of Government Relations, and members of the [Episcopal Public Policy Network](#).
- * passed Resolution D083 “affirming that all Episcopalians should be able to access abortion services and birth control with no restriction on movement, autonomy, type, or timing.”
- * continued reckoning with the church’s systemic racism by passing Resolution A125: “to establish a voluntary Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice among dioceses, parishes, organizations, and individuals dedicated to the work of becoming the Beloved Community.”
- * The House of Bishops issued a statement during the final day of General Convention naming the climate crisis as the overarching issue that affects all the other issues of social justice that convention has considered.

Susan Howland

Daughters of the King News

On July 10th, our church was blessed with a visit from Graciene Riche. Graciene is Lorraine Brumskine's sister who is visiting from Liberia. Graciene runs a children's ministry in Buchanan, Liberia which is affiliated with St. John Irving Episcopal Church there.

In reflecting on our mission partnership, Graciene expressed how grateful the people of the community are for our continued support of their children's ministry programs. During coffee hour, Graciene presented a slide show showing the "love in action" of her ministry. They are in the process of building another boarding school for these children. The need is great to shelter, feed, and educate them. The churches run the boarding schools in Liberia. The boarding schools are a safe haven for them in what can be a harsh world. Graciene stated that the building of the new boarding school is slowly coming together as funds become available to continue the construction. If you missed Graciene's presentation, it is available for viewing on our church's website.

We are very fortunate to have this dynamic relationship in our mission partnership with Liberia. How often do we give to a charity in another country and never know the impact of what our gifts mean to those living there? When I viewed Graciene's presentation, I saw the happy faces of these same children who are receiving our donations. The supplies that we donate—the clothing, school supplies, toiletries, and PPE supplies—help sustain these same precious children. The presence and glory of God binds us in His work on earth. "He's got the whole wide world in His hands."

We sent out our latest shipment of two large barrels of supplies on July 20th. Please continue to send in donations of supplies. Every little bit helps these children living in poverty. Donations can be dropped off in the foyer before and after our church services or during office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am to 1:00pm.

August Sundays

- August 7th** The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord [transferred] / Healing Prayers
- August 14th** The 10th Sunday after Pentecost
- August 21st** The 11th Sunday after Pentecost
- August 28th** The 12th Sunday after Pentecost
Family Worship Sunday – Backpack Blessing & VBS Songs



Vacation Bible School at Holy Trinity

**Tuesday August 2nd &
Thursday August 4th
3:00—6:00 P.M.**



Let's take a stroll down VBS Memory Lane as we revisit Maker Fun Factory and Cave Quest exploring the themes of years past. Crafts & Dinner included.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Practicing Our Faith: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices

We will meet on **August 4th & August 18th**. . Our topics for August are the Holy Eucharist & the Sacramental rites of Confirmation, Marriage, and Ordination. Copies of the Book of Common Prayer are available for participants

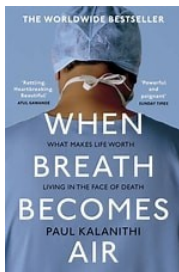
Facebook Reading Group

Each month we read a different book together, each offering a different perspective on the basic questions of meaning and purpose in our lives. These books will be drawn from different topics, genres, faith traditions, and cultures.

August: *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalinithi [Random House, 2016]

In-person discussion: Wednesday August 24th 7-8 pm

This memoir was written after Kalinithi, a neurosurgeon, was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer at the age of 36. Kalanithi explores the meaning of living and working on the threshold of life and death. Kalithi wrote: *Human knowledge is never contained in one person. It grows from the relationships we create between each other and the world, and still it is never complete.*



September: The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World by Laura Imai Messina
[Overlook Press, 2021]

In-person discussion: Wednesday September 28th 7-8 pm

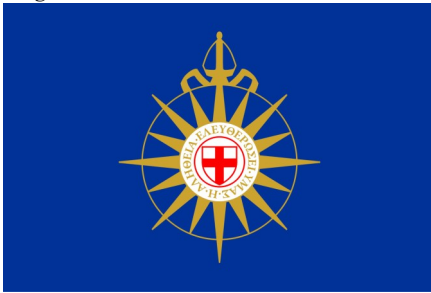
The international bestselling novel sold in 21 countries, was inspired by a real phone booth in Japan with its disconnected "wind" phone, a place of pilgrimage and solace since the 2011 tsunami. Known as the "Wind Phone," the disconnected rotary telephone allows grieving family members to speak, in a way, to loved ones who have passed on. The novel is an eloquent meditation on loss, grief, and the mystery of living through death.



Healing Prayers on the First Sunday of the Month

We will resume this practice beginning on August 7th.

You are invited to come to the back of the church for healing prayers during the Offertory,.



Lambeth Conference:

July 26—August 8, 2022

**God's Church for God's World:
Walking, Listening, and Witnessing Together**

Every bishop of the Anglican Communion is invited to the Lambeth Conference – which is convened by The Most Reverend Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Present in 165 countries around the world, the Anglican Communion is a network of independent and interdependent churches. The Lambeth Conference convenes every ten years, and it is a significant event in the life of the Anglican Communion. The conference will explore church and world affairs. Outcomes of the conference will shape the life of the Anglican Communion in the decade ahead.

It's my prayer that, inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Lambeth Conference will reinvigorate the Communion with the vision and resources to bring the transforming love of Jesus Christ to every level of society across the world. It will be a time of addressing hurts and concerns; of deepening existing relationships and building new ones; of grappling with issues that face the Church and the world. We will listen to each other; we will seek God's wisdom to find ways to walk together; we will build each other up as leaders.

- from The Archbishop of Canterbury

Financial Summary: as of June 30, 2022

The good news is income is over budget by \$8,677. The following are contributing factors:

- The pledges are over budget with the addition of a couple of pledges received after the budget was voted on.
- Plate offerings are over budget being back to in-person services all year.
- The budgeted unfulfilled pledges is over budget because our committed parishioners keep up with their pledges.
- There was a donation received and the donor had no restrictions.

Additional good news: we are under budget with expenses \$2,960. The following are contributing factors:

- We have delayed ordering oil in hopes that the prices will come down.
- The hospitality budget is over budget because of returning to coffee hour and the decision to return to our green initiative by using more eco-friendly disposable cups and dishes.
- The capital improvement account includes the repair to the undercroft stairs and the repair to the thermostats to the boiler.

We should celebrate the unbudgeted Mission Accounts because these accounts are in/out accounts.

Ukraine Medical Supplies	\$2,963.10
Ukraine Episcopal Relief and Development	\$ 548.25
Mission Plate	\$ 428.72
Lenten Collection Human to Human	\$ 352.00
Food Share	<u>\$ 145.00</u>
Total	<u>\$4,437.07</u>

Upcoming Capital Expense: The building inspection required having the fire escape inspected by a structural engineer. The quote to repair the fire escape is \$9,600.

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Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

unless otherwise noted

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Judith Lee
Priest-in-Charge

Dates to Remember

August 2nd & 4th	3pm - 6pm	VBS
August 2nd	6pm	Family Worship Planning
	7pm	Executive Committee
August 4th	6 pm	Spiritual Formation Steering Committee
	7pm	<i>Practicing Our Faith</i>
August 10th	7 pm	Vestry Meeting
August 18th	7pm	<i>Practicing Our Faith</i>
August 24th	7pm	HTC Reading Group



Website



Facebook



Tithely—Giving