

THE ANGELUS

Volume 67 Number 10/11

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

June/July 2017

From the Rector

Dear People of Christ Church,

I am still trying to catch up with the realization that we are at the end of this program year. It's summer! We have said congratulations to our high school and college graduates who head on to their next adventures. We also have baptized several infants who are entering into a new life with the grace of God and the family of the church supporting them as they begin the growing-up process. I am grateful, again at the end of this program year, for the parish staff and the lay leadership who have helped us, the community of faith, be able to serve our Lord in our worship, formation, outreach and fellowship.

The end of the program year snuck up on us because there has been so much going on at Christ Church! We had a nice welcome gathering in May to visit with some new families. Thanks to the Roberson family for hosting that event. We have had to bid farewell to longtime friends. We have been busy catching up on facility upkeep. We continue to have the privilege of working together on our various feeding and outreach programs, supporting our youth going on pilgrimage to England, and hosting wonderful concerts to show off our organ. We had a great time on our annual Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont. Thanks to all of you for your participation and support of our parish life.

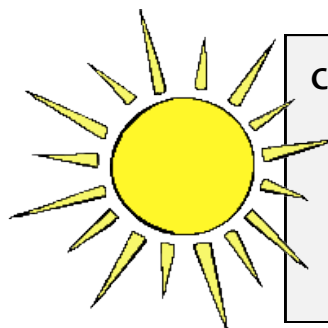
Looking ahead to the summer, there are a couple of things I want to mention. You may have noticed that this is the June AND July Angelus. The next issue will be published at the start of August and will include information about the new program year—especially Christian Formation offerings and the Bishop's visit on September 10th.

Our largest parish event of the summer is Vacation Bible School in July, which reaches out to over 250 children from all over the Winchester area. We still need adult and youth help and I would encourage anyone who can cut paper, assist or teach children, push a broom, or help organize craft supplies, to contact Margery Wingenbach to volunteer. (See p. 5 for details.)

Also, thanks to Noelle, our communications coordinator, we will continue to make sure that event reminders and new events and news are communicated out through our weekly Thursday email, and through special emails if the information is time-sensitive. We do have some potential projects and programs being worked on for the summer, and we will let you know once we confirm the events. If you have not signed up to receive our emails, please be sure to do so with Noelle.

In the summer, while we may be in and out of the office, we still want to make sure that you can communicate with the clergy at all times. While I hope this does not happen, should you find yourself in the hospital and you want me or Bridget to know, please have someone call the Church Office. The hospital does not

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From the Rector

inform us, even if you tell them you are an Episcopalian. If you cannot call, please let one of the hospital chaplains know and they will get in touch with us. Please do not assume that we will find out through other means! Bridget and I check our voicemails when not in the office, so leave a message on our voicemail to let us know.

I hope you have a wonderful summer, spending time with family, relaxing, traveling... I'll look forward to seeing you when you are at church or around town.

Faithfully,



The Very Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
rector@christchurchwinchester.org

The Christ Church "OWls" (Older, Wiser Laity)
will host a newcomer welcome on
Sunday, June 18, at the church
from **3:00 – 5:00 pm** for adults new to
the Christ Church community.



Please call the Church Office
(540-662-5843)
to RSVP or with any questions!

Highlights from the May Vestry Meeting

- Outreach Committee ministry review is underway, including looking at each ministry, its mission, its objectives, and its upcoming plans/needs. Jeremy Becker-Welts will present information to the Vestry at the June meeting.
- Representatives from Panda Pantry met with Bright Futures - Frederick/Winchester to learn more about their work providing food to local school children and how we might work with them in conjunction with Panda Pantry. Bright Futures is a non-profit organization that helps schools connect student needs with resources that already exist in the community.
- Bill Pifer shared a rendition of the new porch for the Old Rectory, which will be submitted to the Winchester Board of Architectural Review. Hopefully, we will have permits by June.
- The Vestry agreed to host First Night again at the end of 2017 and will discuss ways to encourage volunteers from the parish to staff the event.
- The sale of parade seats during Apple Blossom raised \$2000 for the youth pilgrimage. Thank you to all who helped with chairs.
- Parish Life committee meets on June 4, 2017 after the 10:30 am service.

From the Assistant Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

On a recent Wednesday, at our Noon Holy Eucharist, our Gospel text came from the 15th chapter of John. A familiar passage for many of us, John 15:1-17 is a portion of Jesus' Farewell Discourse. As you may recall, we read through texts from the Farewell Discourse on Sunday mornings during the latter part of the Easter season. I like to think of the Farewell Discourse as the great final lecture of a beloved and respected professor. In it, Jesus uses both familiar and new words to share all of those things that are of greatest importance for the disciples to hear again before he leaves them. Jesus uses the image of a vine, saying to the disciples, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."



When Jesus speaks of our interconnectedness through the vine, I picture how vines twist and turn together, creating beauty. Even when vines are not in the process of bearing fruit, there is a unique beauty to them. What the disciples would understand, in their agrarian society, was how vines need to be directed and shaped. Jesus speaks of God as the vine grower, the one who plants and tends the vines, the one who prunes and guides the vines to be their most fruitful. What Jesus is expressing is that in order to maintain the health of the branches of the vine, the branches need to maintain their connection to the vine, their life source. The branches also require pruning.

For the disciples and for us today, the pruning of life can seem scary. We don't necessarily like to think of pieces of our life having to be trimmed back, of having to cut off things we may have in fact nurtured into being. But what Jesus is pointing to, the things that need to be pruned from the lives of disciples of every age, are all that keeps us from being in authentic relationship with God, with ourselves, and with others. Pruning in order that we may grow in our life of faith and learn to rely on our interconnectedness.

Pruning out the assumptions we have learned is opening the way for new, deeper understandings of who we really are as beloved people made in God's image. Each and every one of us, regardless of race, economic class, gender, or our pasts, is equally beloved and made in God's image. And, we in turn are called to be people who love with that same kind of expansive all-inclusive love.

Again and again, God teaches us what love truly is. Love is more than just an emotion or a feeling. God's love is a verb; it's an action. Love is a characteristic of human life. But we often forget, misunderstand, or distort love, and we hurt one another by not loving one another. Fundamental to the Christian understanding of love is that God first loves us. Before all things, and in all things and through all things – God is loving us. Love is the pure grace of the one who created us, who came among us and suffered with us that we might live in this love. God's love prunes us, shapes us, directs our growth, and abides with us.

The imagery of the vine, the branches, and the one who tends to them all reminds me just how important our interconnected abiding love is to how we live this life. We do not do it alone without the love of the God who created us, or without the support of one another. Being connected to the vine reminds us that we do not find ourselves growing, a branch, in isolation.

Our world praises being self-sufficient. Yet, what the Gospel reminds us is that we are all connected and that we depend on one another, on Christ, on the Holy Spirit, and on God in order to learn, to grow, to live a life that bears fruit! We manifest God's love most fully when we love others as we have been loved by God, fiercely and without hesitation, reaching beyond the walls and preconceived notions we have, and loving them for who they truly are—another human being made in God's image.

Blessings,

The Rev. Bridget Coffey, Assistant Rector
bcoffey@christchurchwinchester.org

Worship

Preparing for the Bishop's Visit

Please mark your calendars for our annual Bishop's visitation to Christ Church on Sunday, September 10. The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston will be joining us for the celebration of confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation and to join with us in fellowship and conversation.

What exactly is the significance of the bishop's visitation, aside from the fact that it happens once a year? It has to do with our theology concerning bishops. The significance of a bishop has to do with our understanding of the larger Church as the body of Christ in a couple of ways. First of all, as a current community of faith, Christ Church is not the only congregation following Jesus. The theology of a bishop is the symbolic connection of all of the churches and who we are as a church family. The bishop helps to represent that connection.

The connection is also one which looks beyond this generation of the church to all of the generations of the church before. It is a notion of the theology called apostolic succession. That action of the laying hands and praying for the Holy Spirit which one generation of bishops does to the next generation, building an idea of connectedness all the way back to the first disciples.

Thus, the sacramental action of a bishop when laying hands on candidates for confirmation/reception/reaffirmation as an outward and visible sign of God's inward and spiritual grace involves the full family of the community of the baptized, from long ago until today and from all directions of churches around the world. Perhaps a way to sum it up is the bishop represents an understanding about being a disciple of Jesus – we are not the center of God's church. Jesus is.

Questions also arise about what we mean by confirmation, reception and reaffirmation. What is confirmation? Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands. What is required of those to be confirmed? It is required that they have been baptized, are sufficiently instructed in the Christian faith, are penitent for their sins, and are ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. As part of our Christian formation program at Christ Church, adults and the youth in 10th grade and older who have not been confirmed before are asked to consider participating.

What is reception? Reception is the action of a person who has made an adult profession of faith in another denomination being received into the Episcopal Church. We recognize this reception by the person receiving prayers from the bishop in front of the congregation. This process also involves a time of preparation and is a wonderful way to learn more about Christian living, the Episcopal Church, and personal service to our Lord.

What is reaffirmation? Reaffirmation is the opportunity for those Episcopalians who would like to reaffirm their faith and service to Jesus Christ. While Holy Baptism happens only once, people find the need at various times in their life to reflect and renew their awareness of how they are called to live out their baptism. This process of preparation is similar to the processes of confirmation and reception, but with a different focus on renewal. Those seeking reaffirmation will also stand before the bishop to receive a prayer for renewal and empowerment from the Holy Spirit.

If you are interested in confirmation, reception or reaffirmation, please contact the rector, The Rev. Webster Gibson. You can contact him via phone (540-662-5843) or email (rector@christchurchwinchester.org).

Christian Formation

Sunday School News

Our **summer schedule** begins June 4th. Throughout the summer, our nursery and toddler rooms, on the second floor of the Parish Hall, will not be staffed, but will remain available during the 10:30 am service for anyone who needs a break during the service. As always, there will be Eucharistic Prayer booklets that can be colored and taken home, and additional coloring sheets matched to the readings in the brightly colored Sanctuary Sacks at the back of the church. Look for baskets of more coloring materials under the choir loft stairs on the pulpit side of the Sanctuary. Crayons are provided. A separate basket of toddler cloth books and other materials is located beside the Sanctuary Sacks.

If small children need a wiggle break, parents are welcome to take them to the Fairfax Room downstairs (beneath the Sanctuary, using the stairs in the back of the church) where parents can still hear the service and the kids can move around for a few minutes, get a drink of water, or use the restroom.

Sunday School classes and Children's Chapel take a summer break until we begin our fall session.

The Sunday School classes would like to thank and recognize the adult leaders who have worked so faithfully with our children and youth in Sunday morning classes in the 2016-17 session. Our great team consisted of Julie Constantino, Rebecca Gibson, Sue Jarvis, Betsy Pondelik, Barry Schnoor, and Amy Stock. As you see them over the next few weeks, please thank them in person for answering the call to this vital ministry. Our team of Ashley & Steve Haines, Betsy & Tom Pondelik, and Amy Whipkey has led the Children's Chapel through the year and with the assistance of our youth. Many thanks to them for their ministry to our children and parents!



Vacation Bible School: July 10—14 will be here sooner than we realize. Preparations are well underway for *Passport to Peru: Discovering God's Good Gifts*, our week of worship, learning and fun! All children from ages 2 through current 6th graders are invited to be a part. Neighbors, cousins, and friends are more than welcome! We would love to have youth, who are currently in 7th grade, or older, serve as helpers in the classrooms and at games. This year's New Testament stories teach us how Jesus gives us hope, courage, love, direction, and his power. We'll enjoy snacks; relax and play at game time; enjoy all sorts of activities, and sing classic worship songs and brand-new praise songs.

Registration is underway. Registration forms are in the Tilford Room at coffee hour or you can print one from the church website (www.christchurchwinchester.org). You can also register at Grace Lutheran Church on the morning of July 10, beginning at 8:30 am.

Now is also the time to **volunteer** your help, and we always need adult help in many ways. It takes all of a congregation, and in this case, two congregations, to make this huge outreach to our local children possible. Think and pray about how you are called to help. Check out the volunteer jobs listed on the volunteer form online and contact Margery Wingenbach at 667-0386 for more details.

More... While much of our Sunday morning children's programming is taking a summer break, consider how important the **home** is in nurturing the Christian formation of our children. Take a few minutes to check out the website www.buildfaith.org under the home practices tab. It's a formation website from the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary. The *Home Practices* page is full of quick and easy ideas to help you practice your faith at home with your children. The suggestions are not limited to families with children. We can all find something there to support our faith practices!

Calendar and Upcoming Events

Church Services

Sunday

Holy Communion Rite I 8:00 am
Holy Communion Rite II 10:30 am

Wednesday

12:00 pm Pilgrim's Chapel
(Healing Service 3rd Wed)

Second Monday

6:30 pm Special Needs—Sanctuary

June/July

June 10	Men's Fellowship Meets
June 12	Special Needs Service
June 18	Newcomer Welcome Event
June 28	Salvation Army Dinner
July 4	Independence Day—Office Closed
July 10	Special Needs Service
July 10-14	Vacation Bible School
July 19-26	Youth Pilgrimage to England
July 23-28	Christ Church hosting the Pipe Organ Encounter for students

(Many groups are on summer vacation June to August.)

Committee & Group Meetings

Adult Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Alleluia Singers	Sun: 8:45 am
Daytime Faith Study	2nd/4th Thurs: 10:00 am
Knit Unto Others	3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
Men's Fellowship	2nd Sat: 7:30 am
Outreach Committee	4th Tues: 7:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
Treasure Box	Wed & Fri: 10 am-4 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Women's Bible Studies	Tues: 10:45 - Noon Thurs: 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm
Youth Group	2nd/4th Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm



**Look for
Christ Episcopal Church Winchester
and like us to stay up-to-date on the latest news!**

**The Rector's day off is Friday.
The Assistant Rector's day off is Monday.
Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843**

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

June

1 Woody Baker, Jim Taylor
 2 Bernice Brown, Nancy Tabaka
 3 June Davies, Jeannine Raymond
 4 David Bicking, Scott Barnes
 5 Sherri Dastjerdi
 6 Bryan Fairbanks, Calum Lewis
 8 William Armstrong, Jr.
 9 Amanda Matthiesen
 10 Gerry Kiefer
 11 Evelyn Gibson
 12 Kay Jones
 16 Gerald Crowell, Harper Fritz
 18 Jim Wiedower
 19 Dennis Bromley, Hannah Jacobsen
 20 Lindsay Trant
 21 Suzanne Pettit
 22 Christopher Francis, Frank Armstrong, IV
 23 Kathryn Schain
 25 Walter Jagiello
 26 Bill Wiley
 27 Stephanie Pearson
 29 Rusty Holland
 30 Cameron Crowell



June 7 Bo & Eve Brown
 June 8 Bill & Katy Wiley
 June 9 Tim & Cathie Waldie
 June 9 David & Margery Wingenbach
 June 9 Tom & Lori Ellington
 June 12 Jim & Martha Griffin
 June 13 Rob & Susan Ross
 June 14 Bill & Sandy Armstrong
 June 16 Don & Betty MacDonald
 June 16 Bob & Nancy Mitchell
 June 18 George & Roberta Gunnell
 June 19 Bill & Anne Drury
 June 19 Nelson & Barbara Keech
 June 20 Mark & Judy Pennypacker
 June 21 Clay & Susan Morris
 June 26 Ashley & Betty Futral
 June 29 John & Polly Nelson
 June 29 Doug & Lucia Thomas

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

July

1 Ann Crocker, Mary Estes, Stephanie Fairbanks
 2 Betty MacDonald, Susan Morris
 3 Gil Kesser
 5 Jim Laidlaw, Mark Pennypacker, Sr.
 6 George Gibson
 7 Sydney Barton, Nick Nerangis, Philip Sargent
 9 Eve Brown, Bob Mitchell
 11 Pat Leinbach
 13 Abigail Dodd
 14 Kirk Gibson, Linn Power
 15 John Claybrook, Ron Mislowsky
 17 Julie Read, Timothy Shows
 18 Karey Starnes, Rebekah Wiedower
 19 Stacy Talbott, Luke White
 20 Emma Martin
 21 Chelsie Pearson, Mary Pyles, Kylie Russell
 22 Graham Becker-Welts, Braden Raymond, Holt Roberson, Aaron Shows
 23 Robin Koneczny, Cathie Russell
 24 Jeffrey Davis, Katherine Miles, Amber Strosnider
 25 Arthur Sperry
 26 Ashton Dodd
 27 Dillon Holland
 28 Linda Meade
 29 Karen Dains
 30 George Stierhoff, Doug Thomas
 31 Tim Whipkey

July 1 Bill & Kay Jones
 July 6 Webster & Rebecca Gibson
 July 7 George & Tricia Glass
 July 7 Jim Greene & Wendy Oesterling
 July 9 Gary & Susan Sheppard
 July 16 Jim & Diedra Kriewald
 July 22 Pete & Mary Pat Gronauer
 July 24 Tim & Amy Whipkey
 July 30 Steve & Loretta Johnston
 July 30 Roger & Pamela Lamborne

celebrate!

Finance Committee

Financial Report

Well, either due to 1st quarter reminders sent to pledge payers, or perhaps just timing of gifts received compared to the budget plan, we are back on track! Actual pledged revenue in April surged, resulting in moving from behind by about \$10,000 year-to-date through March to now being ahead by about \$3,000. In addition, unpledged contributions are ahead of budget by about \$4,000. Finally, all other revenue is below budget by about \$1,300. The end result is that Total Revenue is now about \$6,000 above budget year-to-date!

As for expenses, two categories (Property/Maintenance and Outreach) are both under budget by a total of about \$7,200 due to timing (actual contract expenses and actual donations are expected to catch up to budget in the next month or two). All other expenses are either slightly ahead or behind such that total expenses are now in total about \$7,200 below budget. Our budget had planned to have expenses exceed revenues by about \$23,500 through April, and we are actually in the negative by about \$10,250. The table below shows Actual to Budget performance through April 30.

Year to Date Through April 30, 2017	Actual	Budget	Difference Actual-Budget
Revenues			
Operating and Budgeted Income			
4000 - Contributions - Pledged	162,932.64	159,862.00	3,070.64
4001 - Contributions - Unpledged	18,662.10	14,400.00	4,262.10
4XXX - All Other Revenue	6,719.25	8,030.00	(1,310.75)
Total Revenues	188,313.99	182,292.00	6,021.99
Expenses			
Total Personnel	146,228.38	146,739.55	(511.17)
Total Utilities	10,966.09	11,570.00	(603.91)
Total Property/Maintenance	10,014.87	14,260.00	(4,245.13)
Total Office Expenses	9,610.37	8,887.00	723.37
Total Christian Education Expenses	1,883.19	1,886.00	(2.81)
Total Music Expenses	4,782.58	3,875.00	907.58
Total Worship	635.94	780.00	(144.06)
Total Stewardship	178.95	75.00	103.95
Total Outreach	13,186.97	16,122.00	(2,935.03)
Total Pastoral Care	160.00	80.00	80.00
Total Parish Life	342.80	750.00	(407.20)
Total Communications	570.70	766.68	(195.98)
Total Expenses	198,560.84	205,791.23	(7,230.39)
Net Total (Revenues - Expenses)	(10,246.85)	(23,499.23)	13,252.38

About the Investment Funds: The Columbarium Fund

Established: 2004

Restrictions: Currently used for Columbarium and surrounding area maintenance, repair and upkeep

Purpose: to accumulate funds from the sale of niches and pay for general upkeep and repair of the Columbarium and surrounding area

Recent Contributions: 3 niches purchased by congregation members in 2016

Recent Uses: Repair of weather-related damage to stonework in 2012

Market Value: \$35,300 on 12/31/16

Mission & Outreach

Youth Pilgrimage 2017

From July 19-26, the youth pilgrimage team will be in England and will visit some of the most sacred sights of our Anglican heritage. This includes cathedrals in Canterbury and London, and a visit to Winchester. We ask that you keep these youth, their leaders, and their families in your prayers for safe travel and for greater awareness of God's presence on their journey. They send thanks for the care and love of the parish community who has graciously supported them on this journey. Please keep an eye out in July for updates from the pilgrims via the weekly email!



Meals Delivered



News from Rise Against Hunger:

"We are delighted to announce that the meals from the Christ Church meal packaging event on April 22, 2017 have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our National Capital warehouse. The meals will be received by our in-country partner Convoy of Hope in El Salvador."



Panda Pantry Preparing for Summer

The Outreach Committee and Panda Pantry are providing supplemental food for the Panda Pantry kids over summer vacation. We collected 75 food bags in May, filled by generous parishioners, which we will deliver to Frederick Douglass Elementary school before school ends in June. The school will distribute one bag per week to families who have requested assistance during the summer months. The bags include staples such as crackers, soup, cereal, etc.

As always, thanks for your generous support of Panda Pantry!



Parish News

Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont



Make a joyful noise!



Parish News

Men's Fellowship Meets

In June, the Men's Fellowship meets at our regular time on Saturday, June 10th, at 7:30 am, in the Tilford Room, where we will welcome representatives of the Winchester Men's Rescue Mission. We are exploring ways that our fellowship can give back and help men from all ages in their journey of recovery from drug or alcohol addiction. The Rescue Mission will be on hand to explain their role in our community and to answer any questions. Breakfast will be served and all men of the parish are welcome to attend. There is no meeting scheduled for July.

The Treasure Box

The Treasure Box volunteers greatly appreciate the many donations this spring! We have an especially good selection of men's jackets, shirts, and slacks, also women's tops and athletic wear. Some items we would like for restocking are women's purses, nice sets of bath towels, and cookware. Best sellers are always stylish, clean clothing in good condition, scarves and purses. We also welcome new volunteers. The Treasure Box is a great outlet for applying all kinds of skills and talents and using those gifts to directly benefit community non-profit agencies, filling needs such as food, clothing, shelter, medications, etc. If you are new to the church or are looking for a new way to be involved in Christ Church ministries, contact Paulette Jennis (540-662-0436).



114 W. Boscawen St.

CCAP Collection for June and July



In June, we will collect **bug spray & insect repellent** for CCAP clients to use this summer.

in July, we'll collect **peanut butter and canned meats** to fill the pantry at CCAP.

CCAP (Congregational Community Action Project) is a ministry of 46 worshiping communities in Winchester and Frederick County that have come together to support our neighbors in need with financial, material, and other assistance. There is a bookshelf in the foyer of the Parish Hall marked CCAP. Please leave items there and thank you for your generosity!

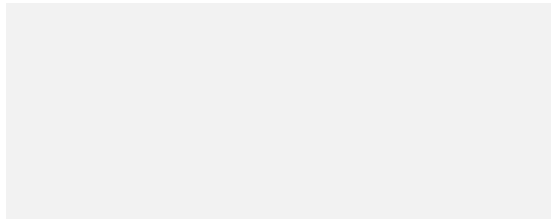
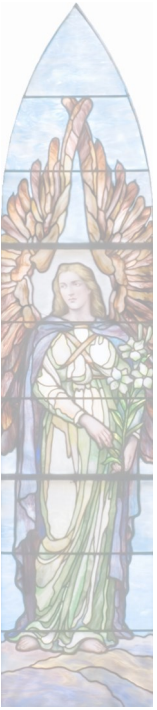
Congratulations to Cameron Crowell, son of Cheryl and Gerald Crowell, who graduated in May with a Masters degree in Materials Science Engineering from Virginia Tech. He will remain in Blacksburg following his graduation.

And congratulations to Miranda Schnoor and Patricia Sousa who are members of the graduating class of 2017 at James Wood High School!



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Parish Nurse Musings

I have two items to share with you this month. Some of you know of my love for butterflies. It goes way back to the Lakota Nation in South Dakota where they had a saying, “If a butterfly lights on your shoulder, you are the closest to God, until you die.” I love that. Andy Andrews wrote about “The Butterfly Effect: How Your Life Matters.” It explores that every action we take has a “butterfly effect” on someone or something. How might your action cause a butterfly effect today, tomorrow, or next month?



Second, at the parish nurse retreat recently, one of the speakers talked about how we think about life. Every time we say “I have to do something!” change that to “I get to do that something!” You are paying bills, cleaning the house, shopping, going to work, helping your family because you are fortunate enough to have those things and people. Rejoice that you get to do them, instead of having to do them. This week, I used this way of thinking and was astounded by how much better I felt about doing my chores. See you next month!

Your Parish Nurse, Helen