



The Messenger

January 2021

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 1028
400 Highland Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Priest Musings

Happy New Year!!

May 2021 be filled with health, happiness, holiness and much joy for us all.

I share with you a wonderful Christmas Poem from the Rev. Howard Thurman (1899-1981), a noted preacher, teacher, theologian, writer and civil rights activist for most of the twentieth century. You can read about him here: https://www.pbs.org/thisfarbyfaith/people/howard_thurman.html

His words speak to me of the heart of what we celebrate on the Sundays from Epiphany to Ash Wednesday when the season of Lent begins. The lectionary texts focus on 'manifestation'. That is, the ways in which God shows up in startling, holy and surprising ways that help us to have faith that there is more going on around us than we realize. The manifestation of God is not just the miraculous; it is also the moral and the immediate. Thurman's poem reminds us that Christmas is literally born in us, in our spirits. We bring the love of God into the world by word and deed. We are vessels through which the Spirit of God shines and brings blessing, healing and forgiveness. Let us enter 2021 with a sense of renewed faith in Christ whose life, death and resurrection has sealed for us the truth that God is with us, God loves us and that all our hope rests in Jesus' hands.

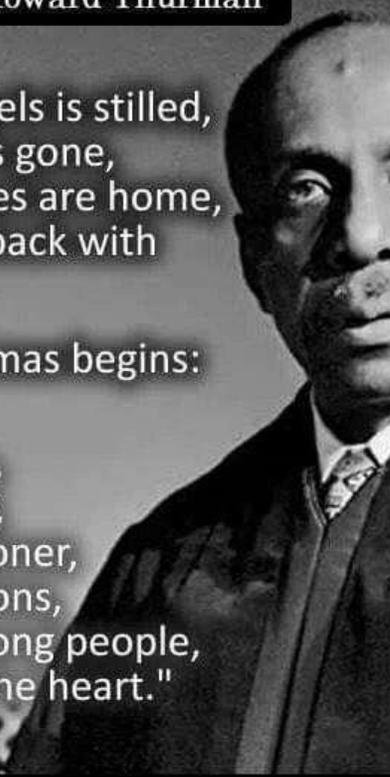
Blessings, *Patti*+

The Mood of Christmas by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with
their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart."





Q: How will we have an Annual Meeting in 2021 when we cannot gather with more than six people??

A: This has been on the mind of many of the clergy and lay leadership of the Diocese! On December 17, Nancy Lee Stewart and I attended a ZOOM meeting with Diocesan leadership for guidance on how we can fulfill the terms of our By-laws, do the work of an Annual Meeting and also keep everyone safe. We were first asked to review our By-laws and determine: What is the 'bare minimum' that must be done at an Annual Meeting? For Emmanuel the 'bare minimum' is the election of new Vestry members and Delegates to Diocesan Convention. Reports on all the happenings from various ministries of Emmanuel will be done in written form and distributed. The 2021 Budget will be decided upon by the current Vestry in partnership with the Finance Committee and ministries reports. But how shall we vote?

Our Solution:

The Vestry decided at our meeting on Dec. 18th that we will email out a ballot to the members of the parish in good standing, which lists the names of those standing for election to Vestry and Delegates. It will include space for write-ins. Print out a ballot for every eligible voter in your household. Vote. SIGN your ballot and return the ballot by mail or drop it off in the office by **January 24th**. Ballots may also be picked up and filled out in the office any time after January 8th. Hard copies will also be mailed out to those who do not have email. A 'quorum' in our By-Laws consists of all who are present at an annual meeting. We have been given latitude by the Diocese to interpret our By-laws in a way that will accommodate the restrictions necessary because of the pandemic. In this case, a quorum will consist of all those who return their ballot by the **January 24th** deadline. All written reports are due to the office by **January 24th** so that Kerri can compile them and make them available thereafter.

In these ways we will fulfill all the necessary obligations of our Annual Meeting and we will all be properly socially distanced and safe.

Music Ministry

As 2021 dawns, the musical prayer John Henry Hopkins penned brings resounding hope and faith:

*"Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!"*

With songs in our hearts, may we find and know the blessings of that perfect light this New Year!

Kate



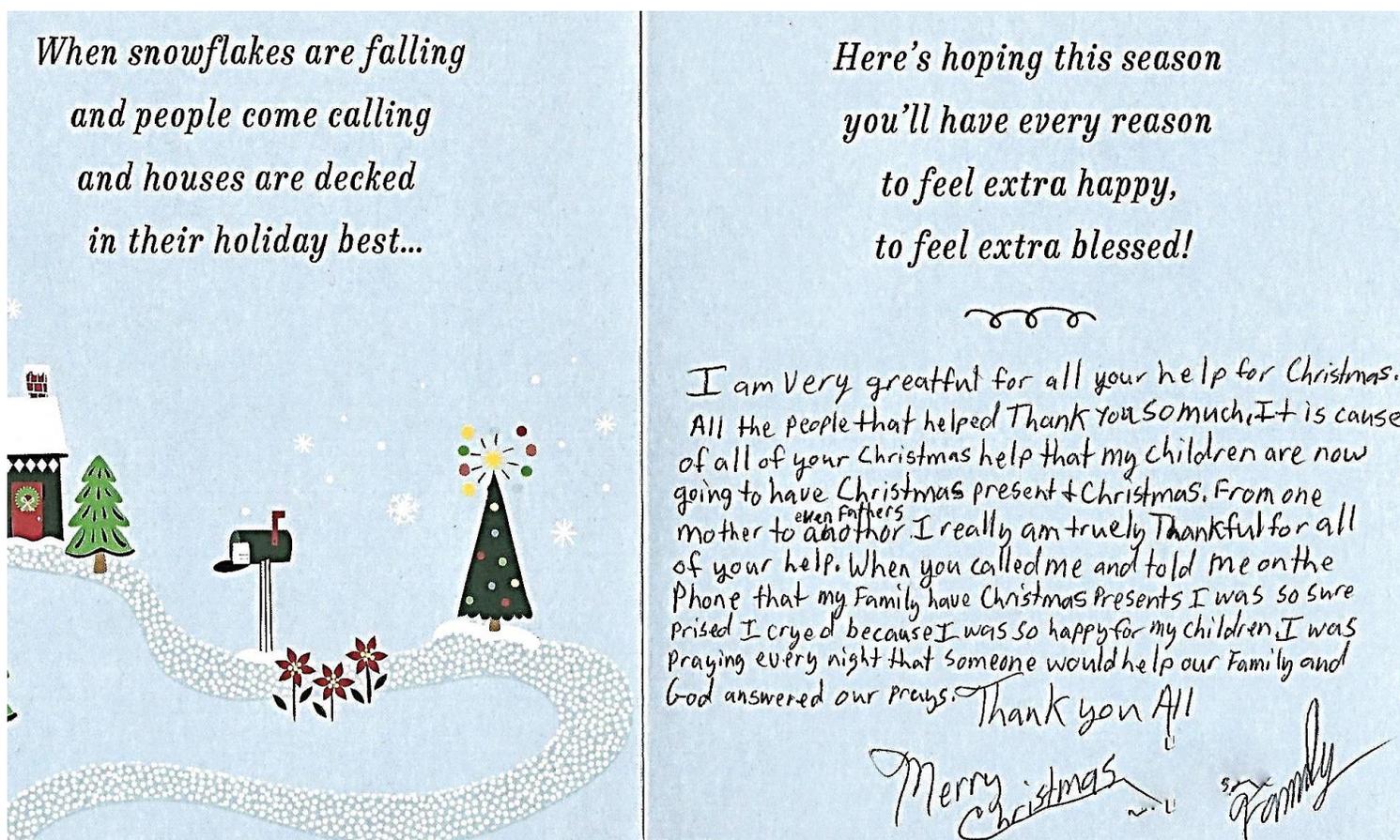
Emmanuel's Christmas Baskets: A great source of teamwork & joy!

Wow! 31 Christmas Baskets (for families with 87 children, total) prepared and distributed. That is an amazing feat! It was great to see all the helpers who donated, shopped, wrapped, and distributed the baskets.

Our community was also a great support – schools, businesses, etc. Books by the Bay donated many books and gave us a 30% discount on the books we purchased! We greatly appreciate their support. It was wonderful to also be able to give Christmas Baskets to all the families at the Little Pirates Preschool Promise, located on our site. Many parents expressed their great appreciation – saying their prayers had been answered that they would have a Christmas for their family after all. There were many tears of joy. What a great way for Emmanuel to Outreach into our community.

Thanks to everyone who helped, especially Patti Nichols, our Christmas Basket Coordinator Extraordinaire!

~Submitted by Nancylee Stewart, Senior Warden



Coos Food Cupboard

Thank you for all of your support of the Coos Food Cupboard in making it possible for us to not only serve a Community Thanksgiving Dinner but to also provide an additional 100 Christmas food baskets to families this year! Donations of cold cereal for the month of January would be greatly appreciated. *Thank you!*



Dear Friends of Bishop Elect Diana Akiyama,

The Transition Committee for the 11th Bishop of Oregon is excited to announce that required consents from the Standing Committees of The Episcopal Church have been received, and the Ordination of our Bishop Elect will proceed according to schedule. In celebration of our new Bishop Elect's Ministry among us, we would like to invite you to offer gifts that will directly support her work and presence with us. Gifts in support of the purchase of Vestments and Episcopal jewelry for the Bishop Elect or for general use in the transition process would be particularly welcome.

If you are interested in making such a gift, please make your check payable to THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OREGON and indicate in the memo line or in an attached note if you would like to direct your gift to a specific category. Please mail checks to the following address:

The Episcopal Diocese of Oregon
11800 S. Military Lane
Portland OR 97219-8436

All gifts will be acknowledged and a list of donors will be published unless a donor requests otherwise. The Transition Committee has been grateful for the support and generosity of members of the Diocese throughout the search and transition process and looks forward to celebrating the ordination of Bishop Elect Diana Akiyama with you on January 30, 2021.

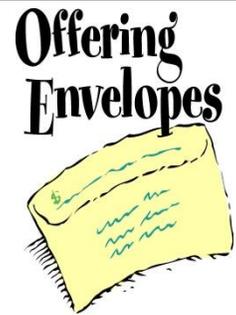
Although attendance will be limited due Covid-19, the ordination will be livestreamed so that we are all able to witness this sacred ceremony.

Offering envelopes are available for pickup in the parish office.

If you prefer your envelopes to be mailed, please email Kerri at administrator@episcopalcoosbay.org.

Friendly reminder: the parish office is closed 1/1/2021 for the New Year's holiday but will reopen Monday, 1/4, for normal operating hours.

Office hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM



Patti Nichols & Jerry White Anniversary - January 2

Ingrid Sullivan Birthday - January 5

Chuck Wall Birthday - January 5

Grant Cable Birthday - January 8

Brian Sullivan Birthday - January 15

John Whitty Birthday - January 18

Kathy Bennett Birthday - January 20

If you would like to share your birthday and/or anniversary with us and be included in the prayers during service, please email the parish office.

*****February Newsletter Submissions Deadline is Friday, January 22nd*****