

# Thameside Thinking



**Summer 2016**

**The Magazine of Christ Episcopal Church  
Norwich, Connecticut**



# From the Rector

Dear Friends,

## What if Our Mission Was “To Keep People from God?”

Mark Yaconelli is a writer, speaker, retreat leader, spiritual director, community activist, youth worker, storyteller, husband, and father. He is spending 6 months as "Missioner in Residence" with the St Asaph Diocese in North Wales and recently shared this account of his experience there.

Sitting with church leaders recently, I asked, “In practical, everyday language, what is the purpose of the Church?” Many responses were given, but the one that stuck was, “To bring God to people and people to God.” I then asked “If our mission was to do the opposite, in other words, if our mission was ‘To keep people from God,’ how would we accomplish this reverse mission?” Laughter erupted. “Done!” someone exclaimed, “We know exactly how to accomplish this mission!” I asked the group to list the activities needed to meet this reverse mission. Here is a sampling:

- Speak in coded language so that a person outside the Church would feel alienated and confused
- Make sure the church building is cold and without bathrooms
- Provide uncomfortable seating
- Have inconvenient meeting times, particularly for families
- Make sure everything is done very prim and proper so that outsiders are easily embarrassed
- Give the impression that everyone is doing very well so that newcomers feel unsafe to share their shortcomings and problems
- In all church worship gatherings there should be a sense that you are being judged and found wanting
- Do not welcome people when they come in the door
- Notice boards should be inaccurate
- People should be expected to come into the church building, make no effort to go out to them
- Anxiously remind people that they are responsible for meeting the needs of the church (building upkeep, church finances, etc) so that they understand that the mission of the church is to maintain the church
- Avoid providing a safe space for people to confess their needs
- Find ways to continue programs that are burdensome and uninspiring to those involved



- Never sing music nor play instruments less than 100 years old
  - Talk continuously about the failings of The Church, rather than the needs of the people and the freedom and possibilities of life with God
- There was much laughter, self-recognition, and humility as people listed the activities and attitudes that would keep people from the Church and from the faith. This laughter was a sign of health. The conversation then shifted to discussing the concerns and needs of the people in Northeast Wales. Here are the main items listed by the church leaders:

- Food
- Self-worth
- Acceptance
- Belonging
- Respect
- Financial security
- Safe place for children
- A sense of purpose (and good work to do)
- A safe place to tell the truth
- Possibilities for how life could be lived
- Unconditional love
- An ongoing experience of a God who offers compassion

They decided that if we could focus on meeting these needs, the real needs of the community instead of the anxieties of the church institution, God would be felt and known.

You can read more of Mark's Blog at <http://stasaph.churchinwales.org.uk/mark-yaconelli/an-american-in-wales-reflections-from-mark/>

With all best wishes,  
Hugh James  
[hughjames1784@att.net](mailto:hughjames1784@att.net)

## Summer Schedule

We will be starting our Summer Schedule on Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. The 8am service will continue as usual throughout the Summer. There will be no 10am services. Instead they will be held at 9am. This is because the sanctuary gets so hot during the months of July and August that it is uncomfortable to hold services there, especially as it warms up as the day goes on. There will be a coffee hour after each service. Cold drinks will also be available. There will be no Adult Forum over the Summer, and that will resume in September.

On Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup> there will be no services at CEC as we will be holding an outdoor eucharist in Mohegan Park at the Field Pavilion (same place as the last 2 years). The service will begin at 11:00am (later than last year) and will be followed by a picnic and games. People coming are asked to bring either a salad or a dessert to share. The church will provide hamburgers and hot dogs.

Last year we experimented with a service at 5:00pm on Saturdays in the chapel. It was decided not to do this again this year. Though the service had been successful at first, people stopped attending as the weather got warmer, and the chapel became unbearably hot.

For anyone who wishes to try a Saturday evening service, there will be one at St David's, Gales Ferry at 5:30pm. St David's are extending an invitation to anyone from neighbouring churches to attend. On some occasions this service will be led by our rector, Hugh James, as well as by Rachel Thomas, the priest in charge of St David's. This service will start on Saturday July 9 and continue through July and August.

Our normal pattern of services (8 and 10am) will resume on the first Sunday of September.



## LGBT: Bible and Church

July 30 9am - 1pm

Christ Episcopal Church, Washington St, Norwich, CT

Come and join us in the Pine Room to learn more about this important topic. The Rev'ds Sarah Ofner-Seals and Hugh James will be leading a study workshop on LGBT references in the Bible, and the Church's place in the LGBT debate in society.

Everyone is welcome.

The workshop will end with a short act of worship followed by light refreshments.

Admission is free (but any donations to cover food will be gratefully accepted).

## An invitation to "Ring in Summer"

Many of us enjoy hearing handbells and think, "That might be fun to try." Now is your chance to do just that. No pressure to perform in church, just fun learning to ring.

Beginning on July 5th, Jane Nolan will have summer bell opportunities every Tuesday evening at 7:00p.m. in the "air conditioned" music room at St. David's Episcopal Church, 284 Stoddards Wharf Road, Gales Ferry.

The ability to read music is helpful, but not essential. If you are interested, please call St David's church office at 860-464-6516 to sign up.

## Craft Group

The craft group meets in the pine room on Monday nights at 7:00pm. All are invited to join us for fun and companionship. Bring your ideas along with you. We are always looking for new fun things to do. Hope to see you there.

## Electrical Work

We were recently awarded a Maintenance and Repair Grant of \$10,000, from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, towards electrical system upgrades. We have to match this with \$10,000 from our own funds, but the cost of the whole project will be about \$32,000 when completed.

At the end of 2014 GNCB Engineering conducted an assessment of our roof. Other systems were examined at the same time, revealing the serious state of our electrical system. "The electrical power distribution is old, not in good condition and in some cases: not safe." The report recommended that we urgently replace the service entrance, then the main distribution panels, followed by the subpanels and branch circuits. We consider that this repair work is essential in order to preserve this historic building from the risk of fire. Prime Electric of Norwich provided the most competitive estimate to replace and update the main electrical service with new breaker-protected equipment where the supply enters the church behind the old organ loft, to replace an electrical panel in the basement below the narthex, and replace old panels in the "lair" next to the Pine room. The first part of this, in the organ loft, was completed at the end of 2015 and the rest was completed in June. The electrical installations now look much neater and are much safer.

## The Narthex

The Narthex (church speak for entrance porch!) is now looking greatly improved. Many thanks to the volunteers whose labor has made this possible: Bob Luppert, Steve Dufilie, Jim Baltzell, Jay Deming, Dave Anderson, Sarah Vertefeuille and others. A few months ago part of the ceiling in the main entrance to the church had collapsed. This led us to advance our plans for renewing this part of the church, which had not been high on our agenda. But it is important as the Narthex is the first impression that most of our visitors get when they come into the church. And, let's be honest, it looked tired and weary. So the ceiling has been replaced. Insulation has been installed, where previously there had been none. So it should be warmer in winter and cooler in summer. New, and more, light fittings are in place. A chandelier has been provided by Rozeanne Sobieski. Phil Bjornberg donated a television which will shortly be in place showing a continuous stream of pictures of church life and/or information about upcoming events. The walls have been sanded down and repainted and electrical outlets installed. Sarah Vertefeuille is preparing more detailed decorations to enhance the "new look". And the vestry has approved a new floor (possibly stone tiles) to replace the worn-out carpet. We are having a brief period of consultation about what material to use for flooring. If you have any views on this please speak to the Rector, Jim Baltzell or one of the wardens before Sunday July 10. Thank you to all those who have made this possible.

## Christ Episcopal Church Food Pantry New Hours 11:00am to 12:15

Schedule for July & August:

July 8	Closed	August 5	Closed
July 15	Open	August 12	Open
July 22	Open	August 19	Open
July 29	Open	August 26	Open



# Watercolor Painting Party Fundraiser

For the year long mission trip by Jourdan Johnson with  
The Episcopal Young Adult Service Corps

Join us by reserving your spot

**JULY 23, 2016**

6 PM – 9 PM

**WE WILL BE PAINTING AN INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE IN WATERCOLORS  
(BEGINNER TO ADVANCED)**

Snacks and soft drinks provided.

\$40 per person (\$35 goes directly for the program costs)

RSVP to Sarah V. at 860-887-2918 (Reservations required)

Photo is just an example. More info to come!

## Playground

The Vestry needs to decide what to do about our playground, and it is a subject on which there are strongly held views both for getting rid of it and for maintaining it. Please make your views known to our vestry members so that we can make a better-informed decision.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT  
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

## Diocesan Convention

Each year elected lay and clerical representatives from all the episcopal churches in Connecticut meet together to pray, worship and make decisions affecting our common life. This year the convention will be held in Hartford on Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup>. The following Sunday (11/20/16) all episcopalians are invited and encouraged to join together at the Convention Center in Hartford to worship and pray together at 10:30am. The preacher at that service will be the Most Rev'd Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. (see <https://www.episcopalct.org/news-and-events/annual-convention/2016/> for more details.)

We have to decide how to respond, and will be discussing it at our next vestry meeting (August 16).

Possible options include:

- Cancel our services at CEC and go to Hartford (bus or carpool)
- Hold an early service at CEC for those who can't go to Hartford, cancel the 10am and go to Hartford.
- Hold a Saturday evening service or a Sunday evening service for those who can't go to Hartford.
- If it is made possible by the Diocese, arrange for a live video feed of the service to be watched at the church by those who cannot make the journey to Hartford.

If you have views about this, please let your vestry members know them. You may be the one who comes up with a brilliant idea that nobody else has thought about!

## Sunday Schedules

### July 2016

Date	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
<b>8:00 am</b>					
<b>Acolyte</b>	Kayla Mills	David Anderson	Rose Anderson	Ron Crouch	Irene Landis
<b>Lector</b>	Joan Good	Ron Crouch	Dale Eichholz	Joan Good	Ron Crouch
<b>Euch.Min.</b>	Peter Sepowitz	Chuck K. Norris	Ron Crouch	Peter Sepowitz	Chuck K. Norris
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Gloria Luth	Andersons	Sepowitz	Dale Eichholz	Bob Campbell Ron Crouch
<b>9:00 am</b>					
<b>Ushers</b>	Judy Huntley Rozanne Sobieski	Judy Huntley David Norman	Christine Murtha Judy Huntley	Rozanne Sobieski Mary E. Lang	Christine Murtha Terri Nash
<b>Crucifer</b>	Will Schramm	Stu Cosby	Rozanne Sobieski	Will Schramm	Stephen Kimball
<b>Torchbearers</b>		Meghan Gallivan			
<b>Server:</b>	Will Schramm	Stu Cosby	Rozanne Sobieski	Will Schramm	Stephen Kimball
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Stephen Kimball Judy Huntley	Dawn Erardy Alice Harding	Stu Cosby Dawn Erardy	Sarah Vertefeuille Stu Cosby	Alice Harding Judy Huntley
<b>Lectors</b>	Eileen Akers Valerie Matters	Cathy Cosby Jim Baltzell	Betty Hinsch David Norman	Janet Koch Ruth Stanley	Eileen Akers Rose Lillpopp
<b>Intercessor</b>	Rose Lillpopp	Eileen Akers	Judy Huntley	Janet Koch	Rose Lillpopp
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Dot Briggs Valerie Matters Alice Harding Janet Koch	Pam Jaxheimer Judy Huntley	Debbie Kimball Dawn Erardy	Pam Jaxheimer Judy Huntley	Carol Sepowitz Cathy Molocko Alvina Williams Elaine Coletti
<b>Counters</b>	Debbie Baltzell Will Schramm (DI)	Lisa Carr Judy Huntley (DI)	Cal Edgar Jay Deming (DI)	Bruce Jaxheimer Dawn Erardy (DI)	Stephen Kimball Judy Huntley (DI)
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Christine Murtha Sarah Vertefeuille	Debbie Baltzell Debbie Kimball	Terri Nash Janet Koch	Karen Stone Dawn Erardy	Christine Murtha Sarah Vertefeuille

### August 2016

Date	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
<b>8:00 am</b>				<b>No services at CEC today – outdoor eucharist and picnic at Mohegan Park</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Kayla Mills	David Anderson	Rose Anderson	
<b>Lector</b>	Dale Eichholz	Joan Good	Ron Crouch	
<b>Euch. Min.</b>	Ron Crouch	Chuck K. Norris	Peter Sepowitz	
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Gloria Luth	Andersons	Sepowitz	
<b>9:00 am</b>				<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	David Norman Terri Nash	Judy Huntley Christine Murtha	David Norman Mary E. Lang	Judy Huntley Rozanne Sobieski
<b>Crucifer</b>	Stephen Kimball	Stu Cosby	Rozanne Sobieski	Stephen Kimball
<b>Server</b>	Stephen Kimball	Stu Cosby	Rozanne Sobieski	Stephen Kimball
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Dawn Erardy Judy Huntley	Stephen Kimball Alice Harding	Sarah Vertefeuille Dawn Erardy	Will Schramm Alice Harding
<b>Lectors</b>	Stu Cosby Betty Hinsch	Louise Lillpopp Rose Lillpopp	Valerie Matters David Norman	Ruth Stanley
<b>Intercessor</b>	Eileen Akers	Valerie Matters	Judy Huntley	Janet Koch
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pam Jaxheimer Judy Huntley	Dot Briggs Valerie Matters Alice Harding Janet Koch	Debbie Kimball Dawn Erardy	Carol Sepowitz C/A Molocko Elaine Coletti
<b>Counters:</b>	Christine Murtha Jay Deming (DI)	Terri Nash Judy Huntley (DI)	Rozanne Sobieski Jay Deming (DI)	Karen Stone Dawn Erardy (DI)
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Debbie Baltzell Debbie Kimball	Terri Nash Janet Koch	Karen Stone Dawn Erardy	PICNIC

## Tuesday Morning Prayer Schedule: July - September 2016

Date	Officiant	Saint	Psalm	O.T.	N.T.	Gospel	Ach (Ecclesiasticu
July 5	Dale	John Hus	119: 113- 120	Job 22: 21-30	Revelation 3: 1-6	Matthew 23: 34-39	
July 12	Jay	Nathan Soderblom	133	2Kings 22: 3-13	I Corinthians I: 10-18	John 13: 31-35	
July 19	Ruth	Macrina	119: 97-104	Sirach Ecclesiasticus 51: 13-22	Philippians 3: 7-11	Matthew II: 27-30	
July 26 (HE)	Dale	Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary	132: 11-19	Genesis 17: 1-8	I Thessalonians I: 1-5	Luke I: 26-33	
Aug 2	Jay	Samuel Ferguson	119- 9-16	Sirach Ecclesiasticus 51: 13-26	2 Peter I: 16-21	John 3: 1-15	
Aug 9	Ruth	Herman of Alaska	148: 7-14	Sirach Ecclesiasticus I: 1-10	2 Timothy 1: 3- 7	Luke 9:46-48	
Aug 16	Dale	Samuel Johnson, Timothy Cutler & Thomas Bradbury Chandler	32: 8- 12	Sirach Ecclesiasticus 24: 1—8	I Peter 2: 1-10	Matthew 16: 13-20	
Aug 23	Jay	Martin dePorres, Rosa deLima & Toribio de Mogrovejo	9: 9-14	Sirach Ecclesiasticus 7: 12-36	James 2: 1-8, 14-17	Mark 10: 23-30	
Aug 30 (HE)	Ruth	Charles Chapman Grafton	134	Sirach Ecclesiasticus 50: 16-21	Revelation 5: 7- 10	John 10: 11-16	
Sept 6	Dale	Elie Naud	30	Daniel 6: 10b-16; 19-23	James 1: 2-4, 12a	Matthew 15: 21-28	415
Sept 13	Jay	John Chrysostom	49: 1-8	Jeremiah 42: 1-6	1 Corinthians 12: 31-13:7	Luke 21: 12-25	
Sept 20	Ruth	John Coleridge Patteson and his Companions	119: 49-56	Jeremiah 22: 1-4	I Peter 4: 12-19	Mark 8: 34-38	
Sept 27 (HE)	Dale	Vincent DePaul	37 27-33	Amos 8: 4-6	I Corinthians I: 26-31	Matthew 9: 35-38	

(HE) Holy Eucharist

### Grounds Maintenance

There is a schedule on the notice board for people to sign up to help with grounds maintenance. There are two sections to this: grass cutting and flowerbeds. We would be grateful if members could sign up to this as we are trying hard to maintain our grounds in an attractive way, without having to pay others to do it for us.

### Historic Church Leaflet

When we first applied for an Historic Preservation Grant we agreed to produce a leaflet which would be placed in visitor centers promoting our church as an historic building. That leaflet has been done and our thanks go to Phil Murtha for designing and producing it.



## Alcohol Policy

Every Episcopal Church in Connecticut is expected to have a policy on the serving of alcohol on church premises and at church events. The Diocese produced a draft policy which our vestry has now adopted with a few small changes to make it more appropriate to our specific situation. When it is typed up, copies will be available at the church office or on our website. The policy will be binding on any groups or individuals who hire any part of the church. It will also apply to any church-organised event. Most things in the policy are the same as our current practice, but we simply didn't have them written down in an official document. There are some items that are new to us. For example, the policy states, "No business or open discussion of issues is conducted during or after the serving of alcohol". So at our June Vestry meeting when we had a picnic at Dave and Rose Anderson's home, we made sure we had the business meeting before we ate and drank. The policy also makes clear that our responsibilities include "assuming responsibility for persons who become visibly intoxicated and providing alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive is visibly impaired". Fortunately, that did not apply to anyone at our vestry meeting!

## Downtown Mic @ CEC

The dates for open mics for the fall are:

Sept 24

Oct 22

Nov 19

Dec 17th

## News from Christ Church School of the Arts (CCSArts)

Congratulations to our School of the Arts on a successful concert program this year and on two recent fundraising events. The walk for music was held on Saturday May 14 and raised \$1,927 towards the scholarship fund.

And then on Sunday June 26 Jennifer and Greg Johnson held an Hors d'Oeuvres Reception at their home also in aid of the scholarship fund and raised \$650. This event could not have had better weather, which was a welcome change after last year's rain and drizzle. Many thanks to the Johnsons and all others who support our school.



## July & August Calendars

### Sunday, July 3, 7th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:00am Sung Eucharist

### Tuesday, July 5

9:00am Morning Prayer

### Wednesday, July 6

6:00pm Tops

### Thursday, July 7

6:00pm Bible Study

### Friday, July 8

11:00am-12:30pm Food Pantry

### Sunday, July 10, 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:00am Holy Eucharist

### Tuesday, July 12

9:00am Morning Prayer  
6:00pm Social Action Group  
6:00pm Lions Club Meeting

### Wednesday, July 13

10:30am Eucharist at Norwichtown Conv. Home

6:00pm Tops

### Thursday, July 14

6:00pm Bible Study

### Friday, July 15

11:00am-12:30pm Food Pantry

### Sunday, July 17, 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:00am Sung Eucharist

### Tuesday, July 19

9:00am Morning Prayer & Eucharist  
6:30pm NO Vestry Meeting in July

### Wednesday, July 20

10:30am Eliza Huntington Communion Service

### Thursday, July 21

6:00pm Bible Study

### Friday, July 22

11:00am-12:30pm Food Pantry

### Saturday, July 23

6-9pm Watercolor Painting Party Fundraiser

### Sunday, July 24, 10th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:00am Sung Eucharist

### Tuesday, July 26

9:00am Morning Prayer & Communion  
6:00pm Lions Club Meeting

### Wednesday, July 27

6:00pm Tops

### Thursday, July 28

6:00pm Bible Study

### Friday, July 29

11:00am-12:30pm Food Pantry

### Saturday, July 30

9am-1pm LGBT: Bible and Church Workshop

### Sunday, July 31, 11th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:00am Sung Eucharist

### Tuesday, August 2

9:00am Morning Prayer

### Wednesday, August 3

6:00pm Tops

### Thursday, August 4

6:00pm Bible Study

### Sunday, August 7, 12th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:00am Sung Eucharist

### Tuesday, August 9

9:00am Morning Prayer & Eucharist  
6:00pm Social Action Group  
6:00pm Lions Club Meeting

### Wednesday, August 10

10:30am Eucharist at Norwichtown Conv. Home

6:00pm Tops

### Thursday, August 11

6:00pm Bible Study

### Friday, August 12

11:00am-12:30pm Food Pantry

**Sunday, August 14, 13th Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:00am Sung Eucharist

**Tuesday, August 16**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
6:30pm Vestry

**Wednesday, August 17**

10:30am Eliza Huntington Communion Service  
6:00pm Tops

**Thursday, August 18**

6:00pm Bible Study

**Friday, August 19**

11:00am-12:30pm Food Pantry

**Sunday, August 21, 14th Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:00am Holy Eucharist

**Tuesday, August 23**

9:00am Morning Prayer  
6:00pm Lions Club Meeting

**Wednesday, August 24**

6:00pm Tops

**Thursday, August 25**

6:00pm Bible Study

**Friday, August 26**

11:00am-12:30pm Food Pantry

**Saturday, August 27**

7:00pm Downtown Mic

**Sunday, August 28, 15th Sunday after Pentecost**

No Services at the Church today  
11:00am Outside Eucharist & Parish Picnic at Field Pavilion in Mohegan Park

**Tuesday, August 30**

9:00am Morning Prayer & Eucharist

**Wednesday, August 31**

6:00pm Tops

**Thursday, September 1**

6:00pm Bible Study

**September 4, 16th Sunday after Pentecost**

Return to normal service schedule from this Sunday onwards  
8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:00am Adult Forum  
10:00am Sung Eucharist

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Birthdays: July**

3 Peter Sepowitz  
4 Edward J. Deming  
David Anderson  
6 Sarah Matters  
7 Joshua Ziemsk  
8 Charles Erardy  
9 David Deming  
10 Jonathan Lillpopp  
Lloyd Schramm  
12 Lauren Lillpopp  
19 Austin Michael Shirley  
21 Linda James  
Susan Bjornberg  
25 Kaila Gromko  
31 Tara Banning  
Connie Burk-Buckler

**Anniversaries: July**

2 Michael & Tammy Shirley  
7 Richard & Judy Huntley  
9 Bob & Marjorie Howe  
26 Deb & Jim Baltzell

**Birthdays: August**

2 Anastasia Lillpopp  
3 Cassie Babcock  
Lisa Carr  
4 Craig Babcock III  
John Carr  
7 Sheila Maudsley  
9 Jeong Sanders  
12 David Norman  
Cynthia Adams

15 Robert Shirley  
17 Rozanne Sobieski  
18 Dorothy Rhodes  
Emily Gromko-Adams  
20 Robin Cantwell Moore  
27 Bryan Matters  
Sean Buckley

**Anniversaries: August**

6 Martha & Kent Ingves  
13 Chris & Phil Murtha  
26 Dorothy & William Briggs  
28 Patty & Charles Russell  
29 Sarah Vertefeuille & Will Schramm

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NORWICH, CT 06360

