

# the COURIER

Established  
1866

The Newsletter of Christ Episcopal Church  
Dearborn, Michigan

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## Community Gatherings

Beginning September 14 and continuing through November, you and your friends are invited to gather via ZOOM on Monday nights from 7:30-8:30 pm. A series of themed topics will be rotated focusing on Justice, Music, Spirituality, and a game we are making up called, "Stump the Clergy." Justice nights will be focused on some issue relevant to the world today. Music will be led by Matt Sallman who has offered a Monday night music gathering for a couple of years. Music offerings range from Jazz to Blues to Classic Rock and others. Spirituality will offer a topic designed to enhance, deepen, or inform one's spiritual life. And stump the clergy will be an opportunity for people to submit questions for the clergy on scripture, theology, faith, church history, or any topic that pertains to Christian life. The clergy will not know the questions ahead of time and will try to answer from memory or take a wild guess. Will they provide the right answer? Come and find out. Each of these nights should be fun and engaging, with time to socialize. Invite others to attend. A zoom link will be sent out for these evening gatherings.

### September

- 7 Labor Day
- 14 Justice: Book group, Economics, housing and race
- 21 Music: Matt Sallman
- 28 Spirituality: Praying with icons

### October

- 5 Justice: CECD IDI and Intercultural Development Continuum
- 11 Music: Matt Sallman
- 18 Spirituality: Scripture and the Book of Common Prayer
- 25 Stump the clergy: submit questions to Erin in the office. Someone will be appointed to choose questions to ask Terri and Halim who will answer from memory or take their best guess. The person asking the question will have the correct answer

### November

- 2 Justice (All Souls' Day): topic to be determined
- 9 Music: Matt Sallman
- 16 Spirituality: to be determined
- 23 Stump the clergy

*In Peace,  
Pastor Terri*



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## HOUSE CHURCH

House Church – an opportunity to gather with a small group of people, in your home if you wish or using zoom, to pray and have conversation. Each house church will need someone to be the convener who will call the group together and host it. Members of the group will decide who leads what portion of the worship. Terri and Halim will provide materials for you to use including prayers and scripture; but you are free to adapt these anyway you wish in order to make the house church worship time meaningful for you and your group. You can have just a simple prayer and time to talk. You can have music and poetry and time to talk. You can have a more formal prayer service; the choice is yours. Plan on meeting about once a week from the middle of September until the end of November, which is when Advent begins.

If you are willing to be a convener of a house group let Terri and Halim know. If you would like to be part of group but not the convener, let us know that too. It would be great to have 5 conveners and about 25 people who would like to part of a house group so that each group has about 6 people. People do not need to be parishioners, you can create a group with others

that you know so that the group feels comfortable.

Elaine Belz will serve as trainer and coach for House Church Conveners and House Church participants. Email the church office to sign up to be a convener and/or participant and we'll get you organized with Elaine.

Elaine is an adjunct professor of theology at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Detroit. She is a member of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, where she became an Episcopalian just over 20 years ago. She also sings in the cathedral choir.

Elaine earned her PhD at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. While in California, she worked as a verger at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, where she was intimately involved in liturgies of all kinds. She routinely led Evening Prayer, as well as Morning Prayer and occasionally Ante-Communion, and served as lay assistant in weekday Eucharist services. She also directed the Altar Guild.

Elaine currently lives in Detroit

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## JULY FINANCE UPDATE

*By Kevin Green, Treasurer*

I am pleased to report that, due to the generosity of our parishioners and the decreased expenses resulting from our more limited operations because of the Covid-19 restrictions, we beat the monthly budget for July by \$5,400 and we are approximately \$2,500 ahead of budget through the end of July as shown in the accompanying table. Please remember, however, that our budgeted deficit for 2020 is \$64,000, so we still have a long way to go.

Thank you for continuing to support Christ Church during these difficult times.

7/31/2020	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	2020 BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>	\$125,082.18	\$128,415.73	\$240,983.00
<b>EXPENSE</b>	\$172,545.59	\$178,329.90	\$305,072.96
<b>NET</b>	(\$47,463.41)	(\$49,914.17)	(\$64,089.96)

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## FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

*From Nick Bell and Carolyn Blackmore*

As many of you know, after living in Dearborn for the last 27 years, we are moving to Ann Arbor. Downsizing has been hard over the past few months, but it has been harder not to be able to see our many good friends in person to say goodbye.

August 23 was our last Sunday before we moved. We hope to join you again in a Christ Church coffee Zoom time later in September.

Christ Church has played a significant role in our lives, and in the lives of our children: Elli, Victoria and Charles. Christ Church helped us feel at home here in US, and we shall certainly miss the many friends we have made.

Thank you all.

We are still contactable through our email and cell phones. Please keep in touch.



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## A WORD FROM OUR CURATE

### LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

By Curate Halim Shukair

On August 4, a massive explosion rocked the city of Beirut, Lebanon. Improper storage of 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate — an extremely explosive chemical that is found in fertilizers caused an explosion that left 135 people dead, over 5,000 wounded, and displaced over 300,000. Damages are estimated to be approximately \$15 billion.

This day hit very close to home as I lived my whole life in Beirut before I moved to America in August 2015. My home in Beirut, where my mother, my sister and her family lives is around 2.6 miles from the blast site. My family and our home in Beirut are all safe and I spoke with my family and friends the day of the catastrophe to learn that the exposition damage had affected them all emotionally and mentally. The next day I also spoke with the priest of All Saints Episcopal Church in Beirut, my home parish, over 1.4 miles from the explosion site, and

found out that the parish hall and the sacristy were damaged badly by the explosion. This tragedy has led to a great need for basic supplies like food and water.

The cause of the explosion is not yet known —the official statement says it was 2,750 tons of Ammonium Nitrate, a highly explosive material, left in the middle of Beirut seaport, right at the edge of the busiest and most crowded place in the capital. And the government knew all about it. So while the cause still isn't clear, the reason, the responsibility is obvious: A corrupt government of leaders whose only concern is to stay in power. The event is undoubtedly catastrophic, but hopefully, it will lead to changes that the Lebanese people desperately need and deserve.

*Continued on page 4*



Photos of All Saints Episcopal Church Beirut, with windows blown out from the force of the explosion, from more than a mile away.



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## LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

*Continued from page 3*

The next day volunteers came from all over the country to Beirut. Mobile stations and first aid tents were set up and armadas of primarily young people descended on the affected areas with brooms, shovels, buckets, and an incredible spirit of hope. Hundreds of Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians, and people of many other backgrounds are all working side-by-side to respond to the disaster. These volunteers of different ethnicities, religious views, sexual orientations, genders, and nationalities came together to support those who have lost everything. They forgot about their differences and focused on what matters: our shared humanity.

Amid this horrible situation stories of hope started to emerge and I would like to share one of these stories with you.

Stepping into the delivery room where his wife Emmanuelle was about to give birth, Edmond Khnaisser meant to capture their son's first moments on camera. Instead, he recorded the instant the biggest blast in Lebanon's history sent whole windows crashing onto his 28-year-old wife's hospital bed.

"I saw death with my own eyes...I started feeling 'is it over?' I was looking around and at the ceiling, just waiting for it to fall on us," Emmanuelle said, recollecting the direct aftermath of the massive blast that injured 6,000 and killed more than 170 people in Beirut on Aug. 4.

Brushing off blood and shattered glass, medical staff instinctively carried Emmanuelle into the corridor, fearing another explosion could follow.

About to faint and shaken to the core, Emmanuelle said she knew she had to focus on giving birth.

"He has to come to life and I have to be very strong," she told herself.

Right after the blast, Stephanie Yacoub, chief resident of obstetrics and gynecology at St. George Hospital University Medical Center, had run out of the room to help an injured nurse.

But it was too late and the nurse died. Yacoub hurried back to Emmanuelle straight away to help her give birth, along with Professor Elie Anastasiades

and a team of medics.

"There was no electricity and the sun was starting to set, so we knew we had to get this done as soon as possible. And with the use of people's phone lights, he came into the world," she told Reuters a week after the blast.

Seventeen people died in St. George hospital right after the blast and dozens were injured, including Edmond Khnaisser's mother, who suffered six broken ribs and a punctured lung.

Running back and forth between his wife and his mother, Khnaisser said he had one objective in mind, to get his new son George to safety.

As they got into strangers' cars and out of the blast's perimeter, the extent of the destruction started to sink in.

They eventually made it to a hospital right outside of the capital where George was finally bathed and cleaned.

"George is very special. He is the light in the darkness, a birth in the wreckage," Edmond said, showing pictures of his son on the Instagram page he created for the boy they now call "miracle" baby George.

(<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-lebanon-security-blast-baby/baby-george-born-amid-beirut-blast-is-light-in-the-darkness-idUSKCN2582HH>)



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## SEASON OF CREATION

By Pastor Terri

Beginning Sunday, September 6, our worship services will focus on creation. Christianity has a long tradition that embraces the created world as the body of God. The book of Genesis begins with the creation story, the creation of Paradise and the humans who lived there. For one thousand years Christian theology and art emphasized Paradise and the belief that God created this world and its creatures to be a heaven on earth, God's kingdom here and now. Many early Christian practices focused on love of the earth and rituals that valued land, water, wind, sun, moon and stars. There was a shift in Christian focus with the reign of Charlemagne in the 900's. This leader fought a vicious battle with the Saxons (in the region of what is now Germany and Austria) to subdue them and take over their lands. He forced baptism on the Saxons and held them accountable for the crucifixion of Jesus. Fascinating stories and narratives reveal how Charlemagne and leaders who followed him changed the dominant Christian narrative from a focus on life in Paradise to the violent death and the oppression of people by imperialist leaders in the name of Christ and the cross. The Season of Creation runs from September 1 to October 4, ending with the feast day of St. Francis of Assis and the blessing of the animals.

To honor this season we plan to hold the 10am service outside on the plaza. We will pray outside and conclude the service with Holy Communion. Singing softly with a mask on is possible outside so long as we are spaced at least 6 feet apart. Please bring your own chair or blanket, bring a mask as well. Face masks only need to be worn when you are closer than 6 feet to another person, sing or hum the hymns, and when you come to receive communion. Communion will be wafers only and will be distributed as people leave the service. Please sit at least 6 feet from anyone else. Be prepared for cooler temperatures as fall moves in. The service will stream on Facebook and we will try to also use ZOOM. How we broadcast the service may change depending on what works or doesn't work.

The 8am service will continue in person and on Facebook in the Chapel. Holy Communion will also be offered at the 8am service. We'll see how this works and make adjustments as needed. Please participate only as you feel safe and comfortable.

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## September Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

John Dolega	SEPT 1
Karen Marzonic	SEPT 2
Gwendolyn Logan	SEPT 5
Hannah Wolf	SEPT 13
Monica McLeod	SEPT 15
Elijah Lamb	SEPT 18
Aziah Lamb	SEPT 18
Matt Quam	SEPT 18
Jonathan Gray	SEPT 19
Maximus Stanis	SEPT 21
Lovetta Pawa	SEPT 25
Martha Amis	SEPT 25
Barbara Hall	SEPT 27

### ANNIVERSARIES

John and Eleanor Dolega	SEPT 2 (65)
Peter and Lynn Kenney	SEPT 18 (48)
Kent & Vicki Rogers	SEPT 22 (30)

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## COMING SOON! A PICTURE DIRECTORY

By Erin Biggs

Our church management software allows us to add pictures to our directory. Please take and email a picture of those in your household, to have them included in our directory. Email pictures and any updates to your contact information to the office:

[office@christchurchdearborn.org](mailto:office@christchurchdearborn.org)



### OCTOBER COURIER SUBMISSIONS

Submit news and articles for the October issue of the Courier by September 21st to [office@christchurchdearborn.org](mailto:office@christchurchdearborn.org). Please add Courier to the subject line.



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#### OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

**The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry**, Bishop  
**The Rev. Terri Pilarski**, Rector  
**Lynn Becker**, Sr. Warden  
**Dale Taylor, Jr.**, Warden  
**Kevin Green**, Treasurer  
**Matthew Sallman**, Clerk

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**Erin Biggs**, Office Manager  
**Tess Dowgiallo**, Children's Choir Director  
**John Jones**, Sexton  
**The Rev. Halim Shukair**, Curate

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