



Monday, 05 October 2020, Volume V, Edition 2

PUMPKIN PATCH

Here we go folks, our first real opportunity to do some work in our community this year. We have always supported the Light House in the past by cooking and serving meals to the guests. Here is another way to help them.

The Light House is doing the Pumpkin Patch as a fundraiser again this year. The "Patch" has always been one of the premier fund raisers sponsored by the Friends of the Light House. It not only raises money for The Light House but is also a great way to remind people within our community of and connect them with the Light House. This year it is even more important than ever since several of the usual fund raisers have been cancelled due to the Corona Virus.

St. Margaret's has volunteer slots on **October 19 from 1:00pm - 6:30**. Staffing involves having 2 or 3 volunteers there throughout that time period. As in the past, the Patch will be held on the grounds of St. Martin's Lutheran Church at 1120 Spa Rd., Annapolis, Md. (at the intersection of Spa Rd. and Forest Dr.).

We will discuss this at YG tonight!

HALLOWEEN?

There is lots of discussion this year about whether to hold Trick or Treating, and if so, what is the best way? At the end of September, the Washington Post published an article on the subject, including expert advice on how to assess personal and community risk. The link to it is here:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2020/09/28/halloween-pandemic/>

Halloween is supposed to be scary, but this? Seriously? I know how much so many of you look forward to creating costumes, walking around from house to house with your friends, and then sorting and grading your haul at the end of the evening. Is that possible – or even fun – this year given all the precautions we should be taking for ourselves and other?

Yes!

HALLOWEEN!

Yes, Virginia, there will be a Halloween complete with Trick or Treating this year! The Youth Group has examined this looming catastrophe and has determined that there is only one thing to do.

I'm sure that many of you have seen this idea, or one very similar, in the past few weeks. It has been all over the internet. A very simple idea, fun and effective.



THE PLAN...

The idea is this: We are going to create three or four of these Candy Delivery Devices. We are going to station ourselves in various places in the parking lot of St. Margaret's. Then the elementary school and Day School students and their families can drive through and Trick or Treat while maintaining their family bubble! Wear your costumes! Think of ways we can quickly and safely decorate our tubes! We will have **LOTS** of Candy! And Hand Sanitizer! Here are the particulars:

When: Halloween, Saturday, 31 October, from 2 pm until 4 pm. We will arrive at the church – MASKED! – at 1:30 pm to set up and decorate.

Rain Date: Sunday, 01 November – *same Bat-time, same Bat-channel!*

Where: St. Margaret's. We will meet in front of the Parish Hall.

Bathrooms: will be available for our use.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN –

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE NICENE CREED?

Each year toward the beginning of our time together, I conduct the same exercise. I do it because:

- It is the central statement of our beliefs, along with the Baptismal Sacrament. We need to know what it says and means.
- There are always new folks joining us,
- Your attitudes and ideas evolve over time, and
- It's a super tool for helping to put together the road map for our journey together this year.

This year I will be doing it a little bit differently. Here's how it will work.

- Below you will find a copy of the Creed as it is found in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). I want you to read it through carefully.
- I want you to highlight any *word or phrase* that you don't know or understand. This part is really focused on your knowledge of vocabulary.
- Then, in a different color, I want you to highlight any *idea or statement* you read that seems hard to understand or agree with. You know the words; you just have a hard time accepting what they are saying.
- When you have done that, please send it to me by email by **NEXT MONDAY**, October 12th.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the
Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the
Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and
the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is
worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the
Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for
the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the
dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen

I don't care whether you highlight on your computer, or if you print it out, highlight it, and scan it. But please get it to me in some fashion. Let me know if you have technology impediments.

We will discuss this in some greater detail during this week's Middle and High School YG meetings (Wed. & Thurs., 7 pm, respectively).

A RECURRING PLEA

I am always updating email and phone numbers for people. You would be surprised how often these things seem to change! Please make sure I have the email address(es) you prefer me to use, your grade, as well as emergency contact information, cell phones, etc. **THANKS!**

VIRTUAL YOUTH GROUP – HOW IS IT WORKING??

Some of you are new to our Group and would have been learning our Group's traditions and norms this year like all newcomers. But even 'veterans' of the program are going to have to make some adjustments this year. Below are the mechanics for how Virtual Youth Group will operate for the fall semester.

- As a reminder, the weekly YG schedule is:
 - Monday evenings at 7 pm: the entire Group for sharing and fellowship.
 - Wednesday evenings at 7 pm: Middle School Youth Group.
 - Thursday evenings at 7 pm: High School Combined Youth Group & Sunday School
- Primarily for security purposes I do not publish standing Zoom meetings. A few minutes before 7 pm on the nights we meet, you will receive an email from me with the link for the meeting that night. Click on the link, fill in the code when prompted, and you are in!
- Monday evenings will be primarily for sharing and fellowship. However, *we will* still start every meeting with our Highs & Lows. The trick will be to keep them short and sweet, as we will have limited time. Meetings will last no more than one hour
- Wednesdays (Middle School) and Thursdays (High School) will be for targeted lessons and projects.
- **There will be a Youth-led closing prayer each evening. I will be picking the person to pray to give everyone the opportunity to become comfortable with public prayer.**

HOW WE WILL BEHAVE. I am the emcee for our meetings. Unless I call on you, I really need everyone to stay chill and quiet. Think of it like having a virtual "talking stick." I will hand it to you and then it comes right back to me - understand? I promise we will keep it light. But, this our chance to share, and that is very difficult if we all share at once.

OUR SUMMER SERVICE TRIP/PILGRIMAGE

– TAKE TWO!

We got robbed this summer of our service trip & pilgrimage. I am PRAYING that things are back to our (new?) normal for this coming summer. So, even though we are talking about an event in July (most probably), I want you to start thinking and dreaming! Most of the planning is done. Now we have a whole year to really fine-tune things. So, for those of you who are new, or may have forgotten, here is the info as things stand right now.

Get Excited.



THE BASICS

PURPOSE: Service, environmental stewardship, learning to see beyond the façade a new place may present, forging deeper connections with God and each other.

WHEN: We will have to watch the calendar and the public health situation closely, but most likely early July. I will be coordinating with the Diocese to not conflict as much as possible with camps, EYE, etc.

COST: TBD, but I expect and am planning to keep the individual cost below \$400.00. NOTE: Due to several factors, both logistical and related to infrastructure, we are limited to **15** pilgrims total!

WHERE: Southport, ME, and environs



Back in 2014 we did a similar trip, and it was quite a success. Here is the pitch. It's a bit long. I'll wait while you get a cup of tea and settle in.

Ready? Okay.

We will travel from St. Margaret's on (TBD). We will travel Monday to Monday to allow us the opportunity to worship on Sunday with the residents of the town. We will depart quite early Monday morning and it will be a full travel day, so dress comfortably! I expect us to be home by 8 PM on the following Monday.

Tuesday will focus on settling into our surroundings, learning what it takes to live in a delicate environment in a way respectful of God's creation, and some exploration. Two days will be taken up with service. There are several interesting and important projects. One day will be an off-Island day for seeing some of the surrounding areas, and we will use the remaining time for exploration of our island home, fun, reflection and worship.



So, what are our surroundings? We are going to be "roughing" it a bit on a private, 24-acre island off the coast of Maine (the name is Boston Island, and it does show up on Google Maps). Here is what roughing it means. We have access to a house with a kitchen for all cooking, dining, meetings, games during some down time, *etc.* However, due to space limitations, we will be sleeping outside on the lawn in tents – unless we have some bad weather, and then we'll all cram in together!

The Island has no electricity or running water, and yet people have been spending very comfortable summers out there for over 140 years without any complaint! What this really means for us is that we will do things a little more slowly and a little more mindfully.

- Cooking. There is a gas grill, as well as a stove and oven. Additionally, there is a refrigerator – powered by propane! There really isn't anything you can make at home that we cannot make there. Once our group is set, we will work on menu planning, and how we divide out the chores during our week together.
- Bathrooms. There are options! At the property on which we are staying there is both an outhouse (a two-holer no less!) and a composting toilet. Given that there is no running

water, this means no septic system. With just a few people in residence, the outhouse and the composting toilet can keep pace with requirements. When we add in another 15 people, you quickly learn that the infrastructure is too delicate. We will be setting up a few portable stations for our use to lessen our impact.

- Showering. There is a lovely shower facility, but there is only room for one at a time, so, as with toilets, we will augment. And this leads nicely into a discussion of...
- WATER. No running water means every drop we use is either carefully captured and saved rainwater (all washing and cooking) or transported out from the mainland (all drinking water). When you consider that each gallon weighs 8 pounds, and that it does not rain every day, you quickly learn to conserve! We will have several hands-on lessons on water conservation in addition to many discussions about our “fragile island home.”
- Telephones. We can charge them, but there will be plenty of times when we will not need them. And *this* leads nicely into a discussion of...



EXPECTATIONS. You will be bathed in natural beauty. I am not kidding when I say that sunrises and sunsets will take your breath away, and the surroundings will fill you with the wonder of God’s creation. (In case you are wondering, Southport is where Rachael Carson did much of her work). But it also means you will not be sleeping in bed with an adjoining bath or have immediate access to electronics. We will be doing some work to assist members of a community

that is outwardly very wealthy, but perfectly illustrates the growing divide between the wealthy and those struggling to make their lives work. My expectations for you are that you will willingly and cheerfully follow the rules the leaders establish, be participatory in group activities, be willing to get dirty and tired a couple of days, and that you keep your eyes, ears and hearts open to the Holy Spirit, and BE PRESENT.

***IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE LET ME
KNOW ASAP!***



And now.....

THE HOLY HOTMAIL CALENDAR

(a.k.a. *The thing that makes this newsletter so ridiculously long!*)

- This calendar is keyed to the Anne Arundel County Public School calendar for the school year **2020-2021** (<https://www.aacps.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=6890&dataid=30871&FileName=BOE%20Approved%20202021%20CalendarRev.%2081020.pdf>). If there is no school on a particular day, there is no regularly scheduled Youth Group meetings.
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- Contrary to past calendars, this one will mostly only cover the fall semester due to uncertainties for the spring.
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- All meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be via Zoom. Links to the meetings are always sent out a few minutes before the actual meeting, so watch your email!

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>
10/05	Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm
10/07	Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
10/08	Youth Leadership Program, 4:30-6 pm: Church History
10/08	High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7-8 pm
10/12	NO Youth Group – schools closed for parent/teacher conf.
10/14	Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
10/15	Youth Leadership Program, 4:30-6 pm: Self-Care
10/15	High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7-8 pm
10/19	Light House Pumpkin Patch, St. Martin's Lutheran Church at 1120 Spa Rd., Annapolis, Md. (at the intersection of Spa Rd. and Forest Dr.), from 1:00pm - 6:30
10/19	Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm
10/21	Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
10/22	Youth Leadership Program, 4:30-6 pm: Leadership
10/22	High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7-8 pm
10/26	Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm HALLOWEEN PARTY!
10/28	Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
10/29	Youth Leadership Program, 4:30-6 pm: Bible Study
10/29	High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7-8 pm

- 10/31** **DRIVE-BY HALLOWEEN!** 2-4 pm, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church parking lot. If you are participating, please arrive at 1:30 for set up!
- 11/01** **DRIVE-BY HALLOWEEN! RAIN DATE** 2-4 pm, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church parking lot. If you are participating, please arrive at 1:30 for set up!
- 11/02** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm
- 11/04** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting,** 7-8 pm
- 11/05** **Youth Leadership Program,** 4:30-6 pm: Church History
- 11/05** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting,** 7-8 pm
- 11/09** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm
- 11/11** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting,** 7-8 pm
- 11/12** **Youth Leadership Program,** 4:30-6 pm: Self-Care
- 11/12** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting,** 7-8 pm
- 11/16** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm
- 11/18** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting,** 7-8 pm
- 11/19** **Youth Leadership Program,** 4:30-6 pm: Leadership
- 11/19** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting,** 7-8 pm
- 11/23** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm
- 11/25** **NO** Middle School Youth Group Meeting
- 11/26** **NO** YLP – Thanksgiving Week
- 11/26** **NO** High School Youth Group /Sunday School Meeting
- 11/30** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm
- 12/03** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting,** 7-8 pm
- 12/04** **Youth Leadership Program,** 4:30-6 pm: Bible Study
- 12/04** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting,** 7-8 pm
- 12/07** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm
- 12/09** **Middle School Youth Group Meeting,** 7-8 pm
- 12/10** **Youth Leadership Program,** 4:30-6 pm: Church History
- 12/10** **High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting,** 7-8 pm
- 12/14** **Youth Group-All Together Now!** 7-8 pm

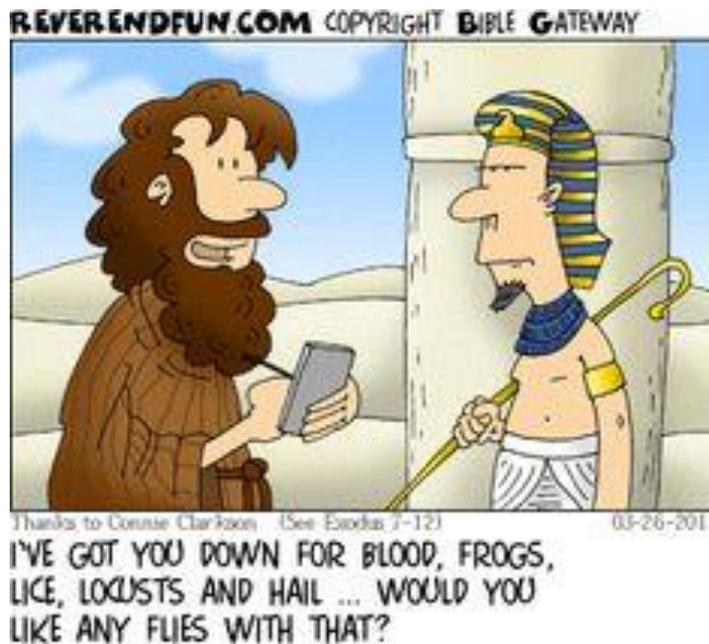


- 12/16 Middle School Youth Group Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 12/17 Youth Leadership Program, 4:30-6 pm: Wrap Up
- 12/17 High School Youth Group/Sunday School Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 12/21 Youth Group-All Together Now! 7-8 pm CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!!



And now, as always, because you made it this far...

Truly one for 2020....



Oh yeah, one more thing. Somewhere in this newsletter there might be a spelling and/or grammar error. I proof these pretty carefully, but things do slip by on occasion. If you find one, text me at 410-507-9370 (and now you have *my* cell number). If you are one of the first three to correctly identify an error, you will win a **prize!**