

From the Deacon

Greetings! One of the things that came out of the “ask any question” discussion that took place in the Adult Forum last Sunday was that there was a desire/need for more communication from St. Christopher’s to the parish family. And while this weekly missive from your deacon has no clever name at the moment, this is the first edition.

One of the other things that was brought up was voting in this upcoming election in general and voting absentee in particular. I shared a nice little back and forth with Sally Brown, whose daughter, Governor Kate Brown of Oregon, helped to pioneer the “all by mail voting” that they have in that state, and have had for several years. They have had little to no problems at all with this and voter turnout is good. This, of course, led to absentee ballots for the November 3rd election. And all of this led me to remember that on the Sunday before the November election in 2016, I preached on our responsibility to cast our votes, and I even had stickers that said “I Voted” surrounded by the words *faithfully* and *Episcopalian*. Truth be told, participation by voting in elections is a high priority for our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. If you were to go to the website for the Episcopal Office of Government Relations you would find a link to their “Vote Faithfully Election Engagement Toolkit. Click on that link and the following pops up:

“It is a Christian obligation to vote, and more than that, it is the church’s responsibility to help get souls to the polls.”

++Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Bishop Curry goes on to say that voting is participation in our common life, which is a way to fulfill civil law. “Vote your conscience, vote your perspective, but vote!” he states.

And all of that brings me back to the discussion of the safety of voting as usual during a pandemic. We live in a state in which you can request (online) an absentee ballot from the Secretary of State’s office. Here is the link!

<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>

Vote early, you can do that! It only has to be postmarked *by* November 3rd! It is safe, easy and most of all, healthy! And if you need a little something extra to persuade you, you can print this email, cut this out, and pin it on your jacket!



Blessings, *Deacon Janet*

P.S. Suggestions as to what to call this gratefully accepted! JLM