

***OCTOBER
CELEBRATIONS***

10/1
Toni Beaird

10/2
Fred Roberts

10/3
Ralph Geiger

10/4
Fred & Lisa Roberts

10/6
Fran Randall
David Neveaux

10/9
Lisa Roberts
Christine Burnette
Bill & Betsy Hillringhouse

10/10
Carly Watson

10/14
Deborah Knipe
Rachel Delchamps

10/20
Marie Papanicolas

10/22
Kassia Schodroski
Abigail Ewing

10/25
Mary Wiley

10/26
Brad Staup

Did we miss your birthday
or anniversary?
Please call the
Parish Office.

The Mountain Herald

October 2017

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration



My Dear Friends in Christ,

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" is how the English poet John Keats described autumn. Indeed, there is a unique and haunting beauty about the fall, something of the sentimental, something of the elegiac, a note of finality and of final things, literally and emotionally the "falling" of the year. It's a time when we might be inclined to turn inward, become reflective -- to

tend an evening fire, perhaps, and revel in memories of the past, or cherish the joys of the present, or dream of better days.

It's natural to be drawn to and inspired by such thoughts and feelings in any season. Moments of self-reflection, personal retreats that take us back, by grace, to our spiritual centers are essential to the journey of faith and to our growth as fully aware, morally grounded human beings. The danger only arises when such times become a retreat from the realities around us, when the occasional turning inward becomes a habit of self-isolation, a way of avoiding struggle or pain, our own and others'. A private pursuit of wisdom and inner peace (however valuable) must never be our sole occupation -- a path followed without regard to the larger world and to lives that look to us for protection, companionship, and nourishing love.

As a person both of prayer and of action, Jesus is the perfect example. More than once the Gospel writers describe our Lord retreating to a deserted place to be alone with the Father. And yet, as the needy crowds press in, he returns to his ministry of proclamation and healing. He re-enters the world of human strife and expectation, refreshed, we can assume, by the interior journey of contemplation and spiritual rest that he has just experienced.

So Jesus invites us to follow his example. As members of a faith family, we also are called to be persons of prayer and of action. These two features are not mutually exclusive, but rather interrelated, the one informing, directing, and invigorating the other. A wonderful Catholic priest I knew (and a great preacher) described the character of a believer's life as that which evokes the Cross of Christ. The vertical upright is our exercise of prayer, our thanksgiving and praise to God ascending heavenward. The horizontal cross beam is our ministry to the world, our arms outstretched in sacrificial, service-directed love. Contained, then, in the very symbol of our redemption is the pattern of our lifelong witness, the structure of our way of life.

That combined power of prayer and action would seem especially needed now, as we encounter the many perils and challenges of our beleaguered world. And it would seem equally needed as we begin our parish year -- as we renew our commitment to each other, to the stewardship of our gifts, and to the mission of the Church. Worship and ministry are forever intertwined, as closely related as are the two great commandments: love of God and love of neighbor. Attention to one means devotion to both.

So let us enjoy that scuffling walk through the leaves, that evening fire, and that sweet and searching look inward as the year closes. Let us rejoice in the precious beauty of these

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Pastor Letter—cont. from p.1

falling days. But let us remember at the same time those for whom beauty is rare and life is a daily hardship. In our autumn reverie let us not forget the conflict and struggle that so many now face. In our prayers let us find new courage and new ways to serve. And then let us go out with joy, to live the words we pray.

Many Blessings,

Fr. Gordon +

Tree Planting Sunday, October 1

500 Trees for 500 Years

The Maryland Episcopal Environmental Partners are working with the Delaware-Maryland Lutheran Synod to celebrate the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation.

the kingdom around us to grow and be nourished.

Join the festivities after the 10:15 service as we plant our own tree here at COTT.

**Blessing
of the Animals
Sunday
Oct. 8
4:00 p.m.**



**Help our Brothers & Sisters in
Puerto Rico
and all the areas devastated
by the recent hurricanes and
earthquakes.**

Please be generous. Your donation can be placed in the Collection Plate.

You can find out more about how to help aid those who have been affected by searching www.episcopalrelief.org

Your donation will always be used wisely.

Pledge Time

October is the month when we begin looking ahead to the yearly renewal of our commitment to our Church and to the preparation of a proposed 2018 budget.

Pledge letters will be mailed during the first week in October, and the pledges received will again be presented at the altar during the Sunday service for All Saints' on November 5th. Let's join together on that Sunday in November as we dedicate ourselves to another year of service at Transfiguration; then let's celebrate with a Pot-Luck luncheon to follow as we look back over our past year of achievements and forward to another year of fellowship.

Sign-up sheets for the luncheon as well as additional pledge letters if needed will be in the narthex during the last weeks of October.

Ladies' Lunch



The September COTT Ladies' Luncheon was held in Memorial Hall at noon on September 19. We were delighted to be back in our "new" familiar space! Robin Rolph, Debbie Knipe, Dorothy Beard, Gladys Dobson, Janet Roberts, Rev. Ellen Hurwitz, Barbara Collins, Mary Belcher, Fr. Gordon De La Vars, Molly Wilson, and Michele Beatty (Gladys' daughter) were in attendance. Michele Beatty took the photo. Robin Rolph brought Oriental Chicken Vegetable Soup and Tomato Basil Soup. Janet Roberts made a delicious Angel Food Cake with Cocoa Whipped Cream Frosting. Debbie Knipe brought the bread.

The next luncheon will be on Tuesday, October 17 at 12:00 noon in Memorial Hall. We will continue our plans about how we might support the church outreach efforts. We welcome all COTT women and guests to join us. Please call Linda Galloway (301-371-6326) or Robin Rolph (301-371-9096) for more information.

OCTOBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Healing - both services 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality & Tree Planting	2 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	3 9:00a Morning Prayer	4 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	5 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30 Choir	6 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	7
8 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 4:00p Blessing of the Animals 6:00 - Chorale	9 12:00p AA 7:30p Outreach Clergy Conference - no Morning Prayer	10 7:00p B&F	11 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	12 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30 Choir	13 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	14
15 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 11:45a Vestry 6:00 - Chorale	16 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	17 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p Ladies' Lunch	18 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	19 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30 Choir	20 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	21
22 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality	23 Feast of St. James 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 6:30p Men's Dinner	24 9:00a Morning Prayer	25 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Vespers/ Rite of Healing	26 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30 Choir Office Closed - Administrator Vacation	27 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	28 Feast of St. Simon & St. Jude
29 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 6:00 - Chorale	30 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	31 9:00a Morning Prayer				

Do you have a question about anything regarding C.O.T.T?

Our Vestry members are here to help -
Talk to one of them or Fr. Gordon any time.

VESTRY

<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>
Barbara Collins	Mel Galloway	Scott Myers
Richard Galliher	Jim Hubbard	Bernadette Roche
Debbie Knipe	Tony Traini	Emily Stetler

Janet Roberts – Sr. Warden
Brad Staup – Jr. Warden
Craig Zearfoss – Treasurer
Marsha Burrell - Clerk

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Christian Education for All

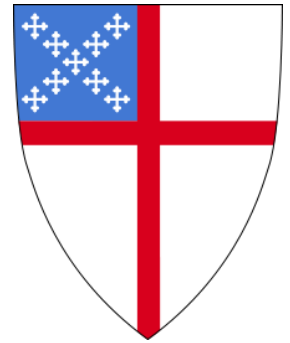
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

11:30 a.m. Hospitality

1st Sunday of each month Anointing and Prayers for Healing
follow each service

Morning Prayer - Mon through Friday - 9:00 a.m.

Vespers with Rite of Healing - Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.



CONTACT US

Church Office Phone Number: 301-371-7505

Rectory Phone Number: 301-371-6227

Church E-mail Address: transfiguration1@verizon.net

For Pastoral Emergencies, Church Members should contact the office at 301-371-7505 or via e-mail at transfiguration1@verizon.net

Email Rev. Gordon De La Vars at fr.gordoncott@gmail.com

Contact Associate Pastor Rev. Ellen Hurwitz at (301) 293-1514

www.thechurchofthetransfiguration.com

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