



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



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HOLMES COUNTY

HERALD

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021

ONE SECTION

LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095

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Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church



Worship leaders pictured: Sam Sample, Mayor Robin McCrory, The Rev. Keith Garland, The Rev. Jack Wooten, and Steven Fritz.

The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday evening at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Congregants from several churches in the community attended the service. Several worship leaders represented their churches during the service: Steven Fritz, St. Mary's Episcopal Church; The Rev. Keith Garland, First Baptist Church; Mayor Robin McCrory, First Presbyterian Church; The Rev. Jack Wooten, First United Methodist Church; Sam Sample, Saint Thomas Catholic Church; David Williamson, organist, Saint Mary's Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Jack Wooten delivered an uplifting message of unity and thanksgiving.

After the service, the attendees socialized in the Parish Hall and were treated to an array of light refreshments.

Kidnapped victim found safe



SHANETTA ANDREWS

On Thursday, November 17, at about 7:30 a.m., the Holmes County Sheriff's Department received a call about a kidnapping around



CHARLES LIDELLE MOORE

the 300 Block of Louis Road in the Green Acres Community in Holmes County. Sheriff Willie March says (Continued on page 9.)

GIVE THANKS FOR GOD, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

By The Reverend Beth Foose is the Rector at Grace Episcopal Church in Canton and regularly officiates at services at St. Mary's Lexington.

At this time of the year, our attention turns toward giving thanks. But, oftentimes our Thanksgiving gratitude is eclipsed by considerations about which recipes to use — Mamaw's pecan pie or Mama's pound cake? We puzzle over how many places to set at the table — "Will Uncle Joe bring his new friend?" And this year, we might even be asking "Who has been vaccinated?" Giving thanks gets pretty complicated in late November!

Perhaps there is a different way to live gratefully than our

Thanksgiving celebrations sometimes indicate.

As Episcopalians, our worship is shaped by the words of The Book of Common Prayer. It might seem rather backwards to some folks, but we say the words in the prayer book Sunday after Sunday and year after year not because we already believe them, but because we hope to understand and believe the words as we strive to live them. After all, discipleship is about faith, not certainty. And, we are praying the words, not reading some sort of contract.

One of my favorite prayers in The Book of Common Prayer is "The General Thanksgiving." This prayer recounts our

many the blessings and reminds us to be thankful for and through and in all of life. In other words, this prayer illustrates for us how gratitude or thanks giving is a posture for living, not just a day in November. Two lines in particular have shaped my understanding of gratitude, by reminding me that gratitude is both a discipline and a grace.

The line first is,

We thank you (O Lord) for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

The discipline of gratitude requires that we accept responsibility and take on "the tasks" of building God's Kingdom by loving our neighbor not just in words, but in real and concrete acts of generosity and mercy and advocacy.

Like all disciplines, gratitude requires attentive practice. Many years ago, as a way to practice giving thanks, I began to sign my emails and letters with the closing "Gratefully Yours." Honestly, at times I get to the end of an email and think to myself, "Well, there's I nothing here for which I am thankful!" So, I go back and reconsider my words and my attitude and try to find a perspective from which I can be grateful. That seemingly insignificant practice of giving thanks has tutored me to see myriad blessings in my day to day life.

The second line is, We thank you (O Lord) also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowl-

edge our dependence on you alone. The grace of gratitude is that when we "acknowledge our dependence on (God) alone," we begin to see that all things come from God. Our gratitude then becomes a kind of letting go, and we discover the freedom of being thankful.

The discipline and grace of gratitude transform us to walk in love, and we, then, begin to transform this hurting and broken world into a world shaped by God's intentions rather than our own.

Whatever we decide to cook and who gather around our tables, may God empower us to give thanks on Thanksgiving and every day of our lives.



50¢ Single Copy



Thursday Rain 63/33 Precip. Chance 98%

Friday Mostly Sunny 54/32 Precip. Chance 4%

Saturday Partly Cloudy 61/39 Precip. Chance 3%

Sunday Mostly Sunny 61/37 Precip. Chance 15%

Monday Sunny 64/40 Precip. Chance 13%

Tuesday Mostly Sunny 65/41 Precip. Chance 19%

Wednesday Mostly Sunny 67/42 Precip. Chance 10%

How to reach us

PHONE • 834-1151 FAX • 834-1074

EMAIL

hcherald@gmail.com