



THE HOLY HOTMAIL



Tuesday, 31 March 2020, Volume IV, Edition 6

ZOOM VS. THE PLAGUE!



Yesterday marked the two-week mark for VIRTUAL YOUTH GROUP! We have entered our third week. Each and every night, members of the Youth Group gather at seven o'clock to share how we are doing, discuss some projects, play a game or three, and laugh. It is only (officially) about 40 minutes – we sometimes go over – and it is a nice punctuation point in our far more formless days of self-quarantine.

How does this work, for those who may not have tuned in yet?

We can't meet in person, so we are using Zoom (zoom.us) to help us stay in touch. Each evening, for as long as this emergency lasts, we meet online and share what is happening in our lives.

- We are running this on an "opt-out" model. That means (hopefully) everyone will get an invite, and they you can decide if tonight is night you wish to participate. *If you ARE NOT GETTING the invites – TELL ME!*
- Each evening, shortly before 7, you will receive an email from me with a link and a code to join our meeting. Click on the link, fill in the code when prompted, and you are in!
- We will follow our general format of Highs & Lows, a lesson/discussion/project, and a closing prayer. I'd love to have someone different each night. Think about what you might want to say. There is certainly a lot to pray about right now.
- I will also (try to) get an email out each afternoon with the focus of that night's meeting.
- I am the emcee for our meetings. Unless I call on you, I really need everyone else to stay chill and quiet. Think of it like having a virtual "stick." I will hand it to you and then it comes right

back to me - understand? I promise we'll keep it light. But, this our chance to share, and that is very difficult if we all share at once.

We have another week of what I am calling "Pandemic Break" before **on-line school** starts up. When it does, we may re-visit the time or the frequency with which we meet. I certainly don't want to get in the way of *homework*! (Remember that?)

During this coming week, we will continue our Lenten Video prayers (those will go until Holy Saturday), and our nightly meetings. It would also be great to finish up our video project!

Let's also look into doing a Netflix Party this coming week. This was discussed during Virtual Youth Group, and several ideas were floated. You need to tell me:

- Does morning or evening work better for watching a show?
- Do we want to watch the occasional movie together, or do we want to perhaps pick a television series where we would get together on a regular schedule to watch an episode and then maybe discuss?
- I need show nominations. REMEMBER – This *IS* Youth Group. Take that into account when nominating a program/movie.

FUTURE EVENTS?

We cannot congregate. All entertainment venues are closed. We could all stand outside six feet apart from each other and...what? Yell at each other? That's why we have Zoom (above)!

What have we "lost?"

Well, I've talked to the **Bowling Alley**. I asked them to just hold an open reservation for us that we will activate to celebrate the End of the Pandemic – and it *IS* coming! I've already paid them, and local businesses need every penny they can get right now, so we have that to look forward to.

A lock-In. Do you know how amazing it will feel when we can finally get together in person! It *WILL* happen, I can promise you. Just be patient. Meanwhile, you can start making a list of all of the things you miss for Youth Group and we will incorporate as many as we can cram in, the first chance we get!

MAINE IS BOOKED. The Mission Trip to Maine is still on for 6-13 July (*see the full article reprinted from an earlier edition below*). I've got everything booked and arranged that needs to be done in advance (except the van – too soon yet). **RIGHT NOW, WE ARE GOING!** Yes, I know. Tons of variables. *Uh – the whole virus-thingy for starters.* But assumnig we can beat it back over the next 13 weeks, it is on! Then, will the school year actually end this year? If so, when? All of that. But guess what? – this is one thing you **DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT.** I'm on it, I'll tell you what you need to know. Right now, just lean back and imagine the cool ocean air wafting over you at sunset as you lie back on rocks warmed all day by the sun and contemplate God's Glorious Creation.



Ah....I bet you feel better already, don't you?

We will get through this – together.

CONFIRMATION IS COMING! BUT WHEN?

The date for the next Confirmation had been set for 19 April. However, given the latest orders about self-isolation until the end of April, we must assume that is going to change. I will keep you posted.

BUT GUESS WHAT? A delay means a) more time to prepare, and b) more time to consider your decision to be confirmed! If, with all of this extra enforced leisure we have been having, you have contemplated the role of God and the Church in your life, I am MORE THAN HAPPY to work with you (remotely, of course).

As a reminder, and as we have discussed many times, EVERYTHING in Youth Group pertains to your own progress on your faith journey. Everyone in our group, regardless of age or grade in school, should be familiar with what we as Christians believe, and how we as Episcopalians put those beliefs into action. That is why we study the Nicene and the Apostle's Creeds. It is why we spend time on a youth-led service. It is why we serve others in our community. It is so that, when the Holy Spirit finds you, you'll be ready!

MORE ZOOM?!?!?!?!?!?

Well, yes, actually. We are an awesome community, aren't we? But we are only part of many larger communities. One of those is the Diocese, and all of the wonderful friends we have made through Diocesan events and trips – starting with **the amazing Kate Riley** (*trumpet fanfare*)!

Kate is hosting a Diocesan Zoom get-together twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (*Note* – the Wednesday Zoom meetings noted are for the Diocesan Youth Workers). Here is the schedule and contact information:

CONTACT INFORMATION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/257536747>

Meeting ID: 257 536 747

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 257 536 747

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Youth Check-in

Time: Mar 24, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

Every week on Tue, Wed, Thu, until

May 28, 2020, 30 occurrence(s)

Mar 24, 2020 12:00 PM

Mar 25, 2020 12:00 PM

Mar 26, 2020 12:00 PM

Mar 31, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 1, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 2, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 7, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 8, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 9, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 14, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 15, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 16, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 21, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 22, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 23, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 28, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 29, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 30, 2020 12:00 PM

May 5, 2020 12:00 PM

May 6, 2020 12:00 PM

May 7, 2020 12:00 PM

May 12, 2020 12:00 PM

May 13, 2020 12:00 PM

May 14, 2020 12:00 PM

May 19, 2020 12:00 PM

May 20, 2020 12:00 PM

May 21, 2020 12:00 PM

May 26, 2020 12:00 PM

May 27, 2020 12:00 PM

May 28, 2020 12:00 PM

OUR SUMMER SERVICE TRIP/PILGRIMAGE



(NOTE: This article is a reprint from an earlier HH edition. Eds.)

THE BASICS

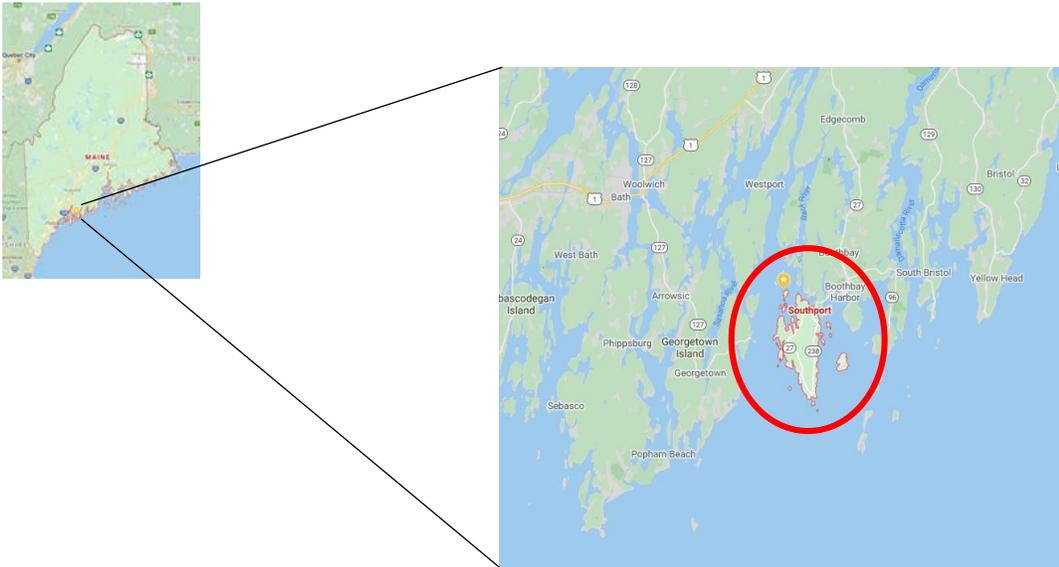
PURPOSE: Service, environmental stewardship, learning to see beyond the façade a new place may present, forging deeper connections with God and each other.

WHEN: 6-13 July 2020

COST: TBD, but I expect and am planning to keep the individual cost below \$400.00.

NOTE: Due to a number of 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 Monday, 6 July. We are travelling 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 Monday, the 13th.

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. I am still finalizing the projects and the specific dates, but there are a number of interesting and important ones. 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 of 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!***

BE AN ACOLYTE!

Okay – I'm leaving this article in place because the pandemic WILL END. And when it does, you will be ready to swarm Miss Julie with requests begging her to be allowed to serve! I can just feel it!

CHECK THIS OUT! <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2013/03/07/west-texas-acolytes-stir-international-excitement-with-promo-video/>

C'mon! If you have not been an acolyte before, ask yourself, why not? And if you have, go find those who haven't and tell them how cool it is! Better yet, grab them by the *alb* (look it up) and bring them to the brief Acolyte Information Meeting following the 9 am service on Sunday, the 16th in the Sanctuary.

You too could be dancing down the aisle on Sundays!

Oh yeah, one more thing. Somewhere in this newsletter there is a **single spelling error** (and I mean a legit error – not some of my colloquialisms or punctuation for emphasis). Find it and text me at 410-507-9370. If you are one of the first three to correctly identify the error, you will win a **prize!** (Prizes will be awarded once we can get back together in person)

And now.....

THE THE HOLY HOTMAIL CALENDAR

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

(Or, at least it used to...☹)

THE PLAGUE EDITION, starring STATE-WIDE SHUTDOWN!

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>
03/31 – until further notice	VIRTUAL YOUTH GROUP, 7 - ~7:45 pm, <u>nightly!</u> NO IN PERSON Youth Group - CORONAVIRUS
04/03-04	LOCK-IN! POSTPONED – STAY TUNED
04/11	Bowling! POSTPONED – STAY TUNED
04/12	EASTER! NOT POSTPONED! Virus or no virus – <i>believe He WILL Rise!</i> (But there will be no in-person services, <i>duh.</i>)
04/24-26	New Beginnings POSTPONED – STAY TUNED
AND NOW, THE “FINGERS CROSSED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!” SECTION	
06/08	LAST Youth Group of the school year! 6:45 – 8:30 pm, Classroom D, Formation Building
06/15	LAST Lock-In of the school year! 6 pm Friday evening until 8 am Saturday morning
06/22-26	Vacation Bible School
07/06-13	Pilgrimage & Service Trip – Southport & Boothbay Harbor, Maine. See above.

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

