

The Stone's Throw

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October



THE RECTOR'S FOCUS ON...

THE FINAL ACTS OF STEWARDSHIP

The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses. [Book of Common Prayer, pg. 445]

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, my brother Scott and I were orphaned when I was 10 years of age and Scott was 8. Immediately after our mother's death, we were adopted (in all ways but legally) by our parents' best friends: Dick and Ruth Griffis. We had known for over a year that this would happen if our mother died, because (even at our young ages) she had shared the contents of her will with us.

"Uncle Dick" and "Aunt Ruth" soon became "Mom" and "Dad" and they and their son Burt have been an integral part of my family for most of my life. Dad died 22 years ago and now Mom, nearing her 93rd birthday, is in failing health in Myrtle Beach. Because of this, I may find myself leaving for South Carolina on short notice over the next month or so.

The decline of my mother over the last month has brought to mind once again the importance of adequate preparation for the inevitable final stages of our lives. Let me remind all of you again of the documents every adult should have on hand:

- 1) ***A Health Care Durable Power of Attorney and Living Will.*** Do you have one, is it up to date, and do your physician and loved ones have copies? If you haven't reviewed these documents for a few years, its time to sit down with a lawyer or other qualified person to review and revise these documents as needed.
- 2) ***A Last Will and Testament.*** Do you have one, is it up to date, and can your loved ones find it when needed? Again, if you haven't reviewed this document in several years, it's time to sit down with a lawyer or other qualified person to review and revise as needed.
- 3) ***A List of Who Gets What.*** You may not want to have all of your possessions listed in the will, but having some idea of who gets what will be a blessing to your loved ones. Needless to say, ideally this is a list on which you and your loved ones have reached some level of agreement!
- 4) ***The De-cluttering of Possessions.*** No, this isn't a document, but your loved ones will bless you for pre-sorting through all of the "stuff" that you have accumulated over your life. Molly and I remain committed to weeding out the "stuff" in our basement, but I need to confess, we haven't done very well on the actual weeding. Commitment without action is not helpful!
- 5) ***Burial Arrangements.*** Which funeral home do you want your loved ones to use when your time comes? Burial or cremation? And where will your remains be interred or inurned or scattered? Many people avoid having these discussions and reducing them to paper, but I can assure you, your loved ones will be grateful that you have thought out your wishes in advance and committed your desires to writing.
- 6) ***Church Services.*** As the Book of Common Prayer instructs us: "*The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible to, and arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with, the Minister of the Congregation. Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has an opportunity to be present*" [BCP pg. 468]. I have a very simple form for helping you decide what type of liturgy, what readings and what music will be used at your funeral service. After it is completed, the form goes into church files for "future reference". There is nothing macabre about this – both Molly and I have had our funeral wishes in writing for years. Once again, your loved ones will be grateful that you have spared them the pain of trying to plan out your funeral during their time of grief and loss. And, of course, your priest will also be very, very grateful!

My prayer is that all of you can complete these preparations during a time of stability and calmness in your life, and that none of these documents will need to be used in the near future. But when (not if) the time comes when these preparations are needed, be assured that your loved ones and your church will thank you for exercising Christian Stewardship for the final stages of your life in this world.

Your brother in Christ,

David+

The fuzzy future... Report from the Dohn's

The developing theme for the week was vagueness, haziness, and 'fuzziness' as different groups and individuals were making plans for the future.

We are wondering whether it would be wise (or even possible) to start any new initiatives at the Clinic in 2010 given the financial and other considerations. Plans for the future of existing programs are also uncertain. Lots of unknowns next year.

On a more individual level, a visitor was discussing her call to cross-cultural mission work. She was trying to see what might be ahead for her as a missionary somewhere in Latin America. It was all looking a little vague to her.

At some point during the week, someone quoted Psalm 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

We are reminded fairly frequently (thanks to the electric outages here) that a candle or lamp at night does not illuminate much more than the next couple of steps. All we can be certain of is where to put our feet now. Beyond that, all is in darkness.

More than ten years ago, we gave up our lives and headed into the mission field with four daughters (ages then from 4 to 14 years). We tried to see the future, but without much success. It felt supremely uncomfortable and insecure from financial, professional, educational, and family perspectives. But, we continued taking the subsequent steps as they became clear to us; then further steps were revealed. It seems to have worked out and continues working out so long as we stay faithful to discerning that next step.

People sometimes ask us how long we are going to continue as missionaries. Well, we can clearly see the work we are called to do for the next year or so, but beyond that it all seems a little fuzzy. If everything were always clear to us, there would be no role for faith, I suppose.

Keep praying, Michael

Joint Service with Holy Spirit

Our joint service, with Forest Park's Holy Spirit Episcopal Church appeared to go very well. Eleven members of Holy Spirit came out to worship with us on Sunday, September 27. Even though they routinely go to lunch after their service, our guests lingered, chatting and enjoying the buffet we'd laid out in their honor. When asked about the service, and if they found it to be much different than the one they are use to, they replied it was like the service they are use to, and that they enjoyed it very much.

I know I can speak for all of St. Stephen's that we enjoyed having them. It was wonderful to see and hear the church filled with joyous sounds, and so many happy faces.

A special thank you to our 8 o'clockers for giving up their routine and joining us at 10:30AM service. It's always great being able to re-connect with them.

Thank you, too, to all who brought such tasty goodies, and to those who helped get it to the table and helped clean up afterwards.

As always, St. Stephenites were warm and welcoming. Thank you for being who you are.

Cathy Skiba

One response from Holy Spirit

Dear Cathy,

The members of Holy Spirit enjoyed worshipping with you Sunday. It was a very uplifting service. Thanks to you, Father Bailey and each and every member of St. Stephen's for everything you did to make us feel welcome, comfortable and included.

Love, Carolyn

Directory Change

Chad, Lisa and Kyle Sullivan

7736 Wildbranch Road

Fairfield, Ohio 45011

Birthdays:

Chad March 23 Lisa August 12 Kyle August 23

Chad and Lisa's Anniversary is May 23

Chad-513-846-6617 (cell) Chadder@live.com

Lisa-513-846-6622 (cell) chadlisas@aol.com

Operation Christmas Child

It's not too early to start looking for items to include in this year's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. We're in need of sturdy shoe boxes and Christmas wrapping paper. If you have either, please go ahead and bring it in.

You might find small toys heavily discounted in the toy section at the drugstore or grocery store.

Here are some suggestions for items to look for:

TOYS

small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, Slinky®, etc.

DO NOT INCLUDE: war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

If you have any questions, please talk to Nancy Healy, 541-4920, or nancycinti@hotmail.com

News from Pat & Ginger Parrish

Father David,

We are sorry we did not get a chance to see you all and say goodbye before we left Cincinnati. Ginger was very sick for a couple months before we left and it continued after we moved to Pennsylvania. Ginger is feeling much better now and want you all to know how much we loved being part of your church family and how wonderfully we felt being members of St. Stephens.

You will all be in our hearts and prayers!

Please pass on our apology to everyone.

St. Stephen's and IHN

After considerable discussion, the vestry voted at the September vestry meeting to discontinue our involvement with IHN. We have supported this ministry with our time, talent and treasure for almost 20 years now, but it has become increasingly difficult to recruit enough help to do the job when our turn comes around.

With this in mind, we've decided to move away from IHN and concentrate our energies on other ministries, just as worthwhile, where there is currently more energy. Many thanks to everyone who has touched this ministry over the years!

Lisa Elmendorf, Sr. Warden

News from Deacon Jeanne

My smoke signal today is more like a huge bonfire. Two good news items to mention. Leah bought a lot and will be building a house come Nov.. She is very excited but intimidated by the whole transition. The second item is; Gary and I are going to be grandparents in April 2010! No more Grannylust for me. I will have a little Miller of my own to spoil. Kristen is doing well. Just a little green around the gills. She is set off by smells---oysters! However, if you are near food it is best to stay out of her way. She is like a mini Hoover vacuum cleaner. Matt is happy but pensive. Grandpa is taking it like he did his own kids--life goes on. Me, I once again feel like my world has tilted and won't ever be the same. No one ever told me the old female hormones kick in this fast.

Gary and I are headed home to Lebanon, Pa. tomorrow for a few days. We will be seeing my Mother and rest of the family. My brother-in-law, Jay, is having unexpected heart surgery on Friday. I will be spending the day with my sister Susan at the hospital. The following day I will be on a Women's Church Retreat with my sister Gayle. After being away from St. Mark's UCC for over 30 years we will see how many people remember Jeanne Groff Miller. Perhaps more than I think since I was known for being too talkative as a child.

Deacon news is: Bishop Daniels has moved my interview back to Nov. 4th, 2009. His secretary told me he wants me to start looking for a parish and get acquainted with the parish and people. I have been doing that since May. I attended St. James ECW meeting last week. It was interesting and informative since they had the oldest living members of the parish giving their personal history on St. James Church. I got to meet ladies that I hadn't met all summer since many of them go up North for the Summer. I walked around with a little notebook taking down notes about some of their more active ministries. I still haven't found or been shown what direction I am to take with an outreach ministry. To be truthful at times it makes me nervous. However, God opened all these doors for me to be ordained and placed down in N.C. so he must have something in mind. As usual, lack of patience is my problem.


Transition

La Valle Ballard, one of our long time parishioners, died on Thursday, September 10. Please keep La Valle and her family in your prayers.



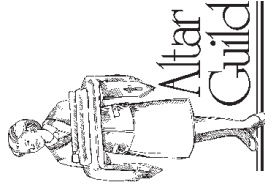
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 Bible Study	2	3  Way of the Cross 10:00 AM
4 18 Pentecost 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 10:30 Holy Eucharist II 11:30 Fellowship Hour 7:00 Taize Service	5 AlAnon	6 7:00 PM Lexington Heights Civic Association	7 6:30 PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Joyful Noise	8 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 Bible Study	9	10
11 19 Pentecost 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 10:30 Holy Eucharist II 11:30 Fellowship Hour Vestry Meeting	12 AlAnon	13 5:30 PM Springfield Twp Trustees	14 6:30 PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Joyful Noise	15 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 Bible Study	16	17
18 20 Pentecost 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 10:30 Holy Eucharist II 11:30 Fellowship Hour	19 AlAnon	20 Serendipity 12:30PM 6:30 PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Joyful Noise	21 6:30 PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Joyful Noise	22 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 Bible Study	23	24
25 21 Pentecost 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 10:30 Holy Eucharist II 11:30 Fellowship Hour	26 AlAnon	27 3:30 PM Building & Grounds	28 6:30 PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Joyful Noise	29 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 Bible Study	30	31



Serving Our Lord at Saint Stephen's
October 2009



ALTAR GUILD (Altar-Linens-Flowers):

- October 4** Lisa Elmendorf Bebe Hales Sharon Franklin
- October 11** Joan DeLisse Joan DeLisse Duane Lewis
- October 18** Sharon Franklin Nancy Kuhrt Sharon Franklin
- October 25** Pat Welti Pat Welti Pat Welti

Lay Ministers

Lectors (L), Intercessors (I), Chalice Bearers (C)

- October 4** Molly Bailey (C), Don Welti (C),
Vivian Templin (L), Sharon Franklin (I),
Pat Welti, Ann Grant (CP)
- October 11** Louis Hales (C), Sharon Franklin (C),
Rex Van Alstine (L), Dorothy Boyd (I),
Molly Bailey, Vivian Templin (CP)
- October 18** Pieter Elmendorf (C), Vivian Templin (C),
Molly Bailey (L), Pat Welti (I),
Arlene Gahn, Dorothy Boyd (CP)
- October 25** Lisa Elmendorf (C), Don Welti (C),
Pat Welti (L), Sharon Franklin (I),
Vivian Templin, Arlene Gahn (CP)



LAY
MINISTERS



FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

- October 4** Duane Lewis & Rex Van Alstine
- October 11** Nancy McCarthy & Vivian Templin
- October 18** Dick and Jeanne Meagher
- October 25** Pat and Mike Murphy

HEAD USHER: Tom Franklin

GREETER

- October 4** Arlene Gahn
- October 11** Joan Delisse and Sy Markowitz
- October 18** Nancy Kuhrt
- October 25** Steve and Cathy Skiba



Reaching Fr. David

The best (and most effective) way to reach Fr. David is by calling his cell phone (310-0127). When Fr. David is out of town or otherwise unavailable, please call the Sr. Warden who will contact the priest on call. Please do not call Fr. David's home telephone number for pastoral care issues.

From the Deacon's back porch

NO SAGGING ALLOWED ON PIER.

Gary and I were headed to Sunset Beach with our long time P&G friends the Gerber's who now live ten min. from our home in Calabash for a sunrise Sunday church service on the beach. We decided to stand on the pier and look down over the service instead of sitting on the beach. The pier is a fishing pier and requires a dollar to fish or walk on. While paying our minimum fee I read this sign, NO SAGGING ALLOWED ON PIER. What is sagging I asked myself? Is that a style of fishing or perhaps a dance similar to "shagging" which is very popular dance in Myrtle Beach? I asked the Gerber's. They didn't know. I asked the young lady behind the counter and she had to ask her supervisor. (Really, I didn't mean to make a big deal about it.) I was told that sagging, my friends, is wearing ones pants, shorts or swimsuits way below the natural waist band! Truly-- there is a lot to learn living down south. Since we weren't sagging except maybe under our shorts we wondered onto the pier to pick our spot for church. Over a half hour the beach collected about two hundred people in all sorts of attire and family size. The sun was coming up over the sea and casting a silver glow of reflection over the waves which were turbulent from the tropical storm that missed our coastline a few days before. It designed a picture of God's creation that no stain glass window in any cathedral could rival. I was in awe. The children entertained themselves playing in Mother Nature's big sandbox. The older kids got off their bogey boards and out of the water to sit quietly at the edge of the shoreline. Walkers stopped to listen to the music and the sea gulls added their own notes to the Christian song's harmony. It was a charming, serene and quiet scene.

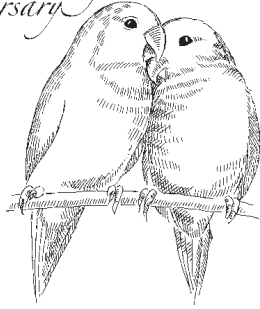
The Calabash Presbyterian Church holds, "Worship on the Beach" from Memorial Day to Labor Day. I was told the number attending usually is over one hundred and fifty. They give away children and adult Bibles before the service. The service was simple - the formula being a few songs, children sermon, scripture and then sermon. The sermon was also simple but direct and to the point—"Who is your neighbor?" The Rev. Patrick asked all to be aware of those not just surrounding and filling your everyday life but those who come in and out of contact briefly. His main point was, "be aware of what you say to someone or how you say it." Don't be hurtful. Don't cause shame or humiliation to anyone. If there is nothing nice to say then don't say anything. Don't flatter people for attention. Don't flash what you say onto neon lights but be able to write your words in gold on God's wall. He gave a very simple lesson. I kept reaching for more thoughts and words to wrestle with and digest - so did Gary. I suppose we are use to more intense and rich material. There was no need to take down notes or singular words like I often did during Father David's sermons or Father Gartig's! On reflection to my criticism of the sermon I realized that I was thinking like a "hollow gong" a "snarky Christian".

I felt very humiliated and small. My realization to this fact came later then sooner. I mentioned to Gary and the Gerbers that the sermon was spoken gently yet directly too many on the beach who may have been unchurched. The lesson was, "Love thy neighbor as you love yourself." A lesson that sounds simple but is not always easy to apply and a path every Christian tries to walk in faith and with love. Rev. Patrick hadn't gone deeply into "Who is your neighbor?" because the few thoughts and rules he offered were quite difficult enough to pray and consider during the week. At the end of the service I was feeling good about my lesson for the week and decided to put it directly into action. There were four of us perched on the top of the table looking like hungry little sandpipers eyeing the people below on the beach. I turned to the lady beside me who I had asked to share our picnic table pew. I gave her a hug and said, "Hi neighbor, I am Jeanne." She responded with, "Hi, I'm Dottie." She told me she had just driven across the Sunset swing bridge and onto the beach with no apparent direction in mind and found this Sunday service. We talked about the service and the sermon briefly finding common experiences in our life's---as old and wise as we are. The communion of new friendship reminded me of the TV show Mr. Rogers's neighborhood—"Won't you be, won't you be, please won't you be my neighbor?" As we found out Dottie had a connection to the Cinti. area. Her brother-in-law is the former Red, Dave Parker. Her brother played third base for the Pittsburgh Pirates and her husband coached for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Even not knowing this lady's ties to Cinti. and Calabash she was a delight to share the morning with. Truly a small world!

As the week went on Gary and I met with the Gerbers for several occasions. We continued to talk about the lesson. It seemed to follow us from one conversation to another and make twists and turns along the way. That simple sermon had taken on a life of its own and I wondered at the unusual and mystical path God's love and grace had taken us. God's surprises are always there. We just need to remember to look and learn from them. Don't get caught sagging

Deacon Jeanne

*Celebrating an
Anniversary*



Ralph and Lois Tuttle	October 4
Mike and Pat Murphy	October 8
Duane Lewis & Rex Van Alstine	October 16
Joe and Kathy Rose	October 31



David Bailey	October 4
Charles Tucker	October 8
Molly Bailey	October 9
Tom Franklin	October 12
Jeanne Meagher	October 21
Eric Meyers	October 22
Dave McCarthy	October 27

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Address Correction Requested