

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

(September-November)

2015

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By Fr. Mark Menees



"They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they

shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary..." Isaiah 40: 31

Some of you know that I am a runner; well at least a jogger. I log between 18-20 miles per week. One unusual aspect of running is that the first five minutes can be very difficult and you can feel like your strength has run off and left. It can be disappointing. Isn't this when a person should be at their freshest point? A physical therapist explained that at the beginning of a run the body must overcome its natural tendency to reserve energy and overcome a sense of being weary due to work, worry, and a myriad of other activities that are simply a part of life's journey. But after a few moments something very different occurs. The weariness and strain start to thin out, and a sense of having new energy alters how the runner faces the challenges ahead. It is like having a fire lit in the soul and the world is seen once again with its vitality, beauty, and opportunity. Even the feeling of being a bit tired has energy in it. Renewal is taking place.

St John's is moving into a time of rejuvenation. Our journey, like that of a runner, has taken us over and through challenges and trials. We have experienced losses and gains at a variety of levels. There have been disappointments, but even more fulfilled hopes and gifts of grace. (We have gained members and five years ago who would have thought we might have our own building out of which to serve God!) Many of you have and continue to pour yourselves out for the well-being of this mission. And that last word, mission, is the key to who we are and what God is calling us to do. Our energy to continue is directly related to looking toward God rather than ourselves for strength. God empowers us through the gifts of grace; the Sacraments and worship, study and fellowship, love for one another, and love for those He calls us to serve. It is easy in the midst of multiple demands to grow weary and feel as if we do not have what it takes to journey forward. And left to ourselves we don't. But by simply stopping and looking to God for direction and sustenance; for clarity of vision about why we are in this place at this time, we may well find all the resources we need to be faithful. Renewal is being given again the "manifold gifts grace" which the Holy Spirit grants daily so that we may remain faithful servants of the one who saved us. (see the liturgy of Confirmation) Renewal is the rekindling of the fire of God's life in us, so that the world may know His presence and love in and through us.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said it when he wrote, "Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire." Let us run then in joy with God.

Synod Report by Posey Godfrey



As a laity delegate for our church, I was honored and curious to attend the 47th Synod of the Eastern United States in Charlottesville, VA, hosted by All Saints Anglican Church of Charlottesville, VA. After registering at the event site, I retreated to the hotel patio, only to be greeted by Kris Kringel (Father Edelman, sporting a marine cap) who I discovered to my amazement was the first priest for St. John's Parish. What a lively person! Father Edelman was quick to send blessings and greetings to all his former parishioners. An evening prayer service followed.

The Wednesday Morning Prayer & Litany recalled the biblical story of the Jews asking the prophet Samuel for a King and how the seat of power, righteousness and judgement both then and now resides with God, not with man. Our first love is God. He is our Salvation. The hymns were as heartfelt as the sermon message.

I was relieved the following morning to encounter Father Mark's familiar face. He related that Peter Joslyn and Bill & Cinda Wall from St. John's Parish had been on the premises Monday and Tuesday to meet with the Bishops Examining Board. Congratulations to both men as they progress toward their respective ordinations. Father Mark took me under his wing, and we enjoyed breakfast with the Most Reverend Bishop Grundorf, his lovely wife Mary and several other clergy. The clergy then left to attend a conference while their wives were treated to a field trip to the University of Virginia. Father Mark left the Synod later in the day to care for his wife, Jo.

John Bell, St. John's other Laity delegate and Senior Warden, and Bonnie Swaney, serving as an observer, joined me in the afternoon in a Rotunda Ballroom for the DEUS SYNOD Opening by The Most Rev. Walter H. Grundorf, D.D. The Bishop's address, *Building the Kingdom from Generation to Generation*, stressed how blessed our Diocese is with talented clergy to enable generational building within each parish. The Bishop's charge to the Synod was for our clergy and laity to first initiate missionary work to build up the church through the Gospel at home in order to better promote it abroad. After some business related to reported retirements, relocations and ordinations, we enjoyed a slide show of the 2015 Anglican Diocesan summer camp, which brought many smiles.

Bishop Grundorf was required by canon law to submit his resignation, but expressed his personal desire to continue to serve the Church. Fortunately, this law was waived by vote and he thus remains our presiding bishop for the next five years. I am sure that all attendees gave thanks for his re-election at the Wednesday Synod Eucharist, a solemn and yet jubilant High Mass immersed with Anglican chants and Hymns. It was a wonderful sight. The evening ended with barbecue dinner, a southern staple.

Thursday Morning began with Morning Prayer & Holy Communion followed by breakfast. At nine o'clock a.m., the Deus Synod reconvened to vote for a Suffragan Bishop for the Diocese of the Eastern United States. Father William H. Perkins, Jr., CBS, SM, Rector of Saint Mary the Virgin Church, Delray Beach, Florida was elected for this task. We extend our congratulations and prayers to the new Bishop.

Ken Myers, Christian publisher of the Mars Hill Audio Journal, gave a thought provoking address about the Church's failure in modernity, where our cultural knowledge is void of theology. The Church needs more wisdom about where things went wrong and how it has failed to instill and imprint its beliefs upon society. He stated that most Christian ministries and organizations help Christians cope with modernity rather than refute it. Many Christians' thinking is secular. This thinking is evident as in our view to shape the world as we want it, rather than to honor it as God made it. The Church has lost its authority in public life. We need to proclaim the Gospel, the Triumph of God over sin in the public arena.

Later that Evening we celebrated the Synod Banquet with the musical talents of Ken Myers and the All Saints choir. Ken gave us a wide assortment of Christian music from Appalachian folk music to Gregorian chants.

The Diocesan budget was in the black and this year's parish pledges were greater than in the past. The Finance Committee met and the overage was enough to increase Bishop Chandler Holder Jones' salary. This and other compensations were approved via vote.

Other business included the recognition of Deaconess Tina Jenkins for organizing the upcoming October retreat and of Clare Burgess, who is becoming a deaconess. Father Dave Conway asked the parishes to send in articles for Ecclesiastes, the newsletter. Father David Haines gave a report on global missions in India, Haiti and the Philippines. There were also reports from the different deaneries.

The end of the meeting included resolutions to thank, Rick Watson (organist), Ken Meyers, speaker, and All Saints Anglican Church for hosting the Synod. In conclusion Greetings and prayers were extended to people that could not attend and to those who are ill.

The 2016 Synod will be held in Tampa, Florida.

My personal thanks to St. John's Anglican Church in Greensboro for sending me to participate and observe in this Anglican governing body.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The blessing of pets and animals is celebrated on or close to October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of all animals. This year, we will conduct a “Blessing of the Animals” on Saturday, October 3, from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM in front of the church.

In the Scriptures, the act of blessing means ‘the imparting of power or life.’ The person performing the blessing is mediating power from God to the animal involved. To bless is more than an expression of goodwill and caring; to bless is to impart God’s power! The blessing of each animal by name means that health, healing and life are being mediated from God for the benefit of the animal in its relationship with its human partner(s).

God created humans with a special responsibility—to exercise dominion (Gen. 1:28). To exercise dominion over other creatures is not to exploit them for human mis-use; rather, it is to delight in other creatures, as God does, and respect and care for them. On October 3 we will celebrate the special relationship of love and care and loyalty between ourselves and our pet companions. This relationship models how all relationships between humans and other animals should be, for God loves all animals, not just our pets. On this day our pets will stand in for all animals as we seek God’s blessing on them, and renew our commitment to care for them, and for all creatures of God’s creation.

We invite you to join us in this event, which will be publicized throughout our area. Refreshments and pet treats will be available for all.



DEUS Women’s Retreat Oct. 22-24

For 16 years DEUS women have gathered for an annual retreat of spiritual strengthening, physical rest and joyous fellowship. This year the meeting will again take place in Conyers, GA at the Abbey of the Holy Spirit. Group study will be focus on how to live the beatitudes in a hostile world. The text that will be used is : *The Cross and the Beatitudes* (ISBN 978-1-887593-07-6). Bishop Chad will be the Spiritual Guide .The registration deadline for the instructed retreat is Oct.9th. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Joan Ward at (336) 312-2139 for more information.

“Getting to know You....Jane Poulin

Keith and I were married in November, 1959. Neither of us had any idea what a busy and interesting life it would be. I had two sons from a previous marriage (Tom and Kevin), and when our daughter, DeEtte, was born in 1965, there were now 5 of us. And together, the 5 of us made tracks across the nation several times. We moved from California to Massachusetts, to work for Raytheon; back to California to work for Gulf and Western; on to southern California with Gulf and Western to build a new plant; and finally, we moved with the whole company to Anaheim.

But it wasn’t until 1976 that our real travels began. In 1976, Keith ran into an old boss from Raytheon who was now with Whittaker Corp. and he asked Keith if he’d like to go to Saudi Arabia. When Keith asked me about it, my question was, “Where is Saudi Arabia?” We decided to go and it was a life-changing move. Keith was now head of a Sports program and we traveled all over the world with the different teams that the company developed and coached, including Denmark, Sweden, Bangkok, and Germany. On our own vacations, our family had the opportunity to visit Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Turkey, India, Nepal, China, England, Scotland, Ireland, and all over Europe. Of course, Keith, being a scratch golfer, loved Scotland the best and we went there several times. Golfing in India and Bangkok were interesting as you had to look out for the snakes. I lasted 12 years in Saudi Arabia and Keith stayed for an extra 3 years, during the 1st Gulf War.

Our lives were filled with unique and unforgettable learning experiences that we would never forget. We had so many adventures, visited so many places and met so many interesting people; most of them were pleasant and exciting, but certainly all were unforgettable.



Update on Peter

Joslyn and Family



Dear friends at St. John's,

Greetings from north Philadelphia! As summer comes to a close, Erin and I look back in thanks for the successes of the past year, and forward to the blessings and challenges of the near future and beyond. As I write this, Erin is quickly approaching her delivery of our third child, a son, on or about September 10. I myself am preparing to begin my first full academic year as a student at the Reformed Episcopal Seminary. In addition to my course of study, I have accepted an adjunct position on the faculty of Christ Academy, a small classical Christian school in Collingdale, PA, which ministers primarily to the significant Liberian immigrant community in the eastern part of the city.

This summer, I had the opportunity to receive an interview with the Board of Examining Chaplains at the DEUS synod, in Charlottesville, VA. Yesterday, I received notice from the Diocesan Office that, having received the recommendation of the BEC, I have been accepted as a Postulant.

While in the Philadelphia area, Erin and I have been attending St. Mark's REC, where I have joined a support-and-fellowship group for seminarians (the St. Mark's Fellows). David and Clare continue to grow and (mostly) behave themselves like a little gentleman and lady. David continues to impress the congregation with his knowledge of the Book of Common Prayer, while Clare continues to impress with curly hair, smiles, and a gradually increasing vocabulary. Both can't wait for little brother; Davy asks us nearly every morning whether "today's the day."

Please remember us in your prayers, as we do St. John's in ours, asking God's continued grace and assistance for our little family, and especially for wisdom on my own part as I seek to better prepare myself for pastoral ministry. Grace and peace to you all—we hope, by November at the latest, to visit St. John's and catch up in person.

In the love of Christ,

Peter Joslyn

The Unexpected Path to the Deaconate; Update Number 1

By Bill Wall



I started to write about this path I've chosen, but realized it wasn't me that made the choice. Sometimes the choice is made for you and you just follow as you are led. You could say this path is made of stone, some are nice flat stepping stones; some stones seem to block your way. Some have a hidden lip to trip you if you aren't paying attention.

Theology classes seem to be one of my stones. Since I am still working it was difficult to find a class environment that fit life at home. Then an opportunity to make a job change appeared, and I took it. It may be risky; it may be worth it in the end. The best thing about the job change is I expect it to give me more time to study.

The Homily is another part of the stone path. It's hard to tell what kind of stone a homily is though. It seems they can be hard and uncomfortable, but at the same time fulfilling. I'm always in awe of Fr. Mark and Fr. Sam for their expertise in writing and delivering theirs. I'm also thankful for everyone's kind words after mine.

The Bishop's Examining Chaplains also meet with each postulant to examine their status and check their spiritual path on an annual basis. I figure this is a ploy to minimize the time you spend as a postulant, a little reward once you become a Deacon when you don't have this meeting requirement.

Bill Wall leads Morning Prayer (1928 Book of Common Prayer) worship every **Friday at 8:00 AM** in the sanctuary.

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The service is brief (1/2 hour) and is a great way to start your day and weekend.



**FROM THE KITCHEN OF
SALLY BELCHER**



CURRIED FRUIT CASSEROLE

(We hear that this is one of Fr. Mark's favorite dishes!)

Must be made a day ahead.

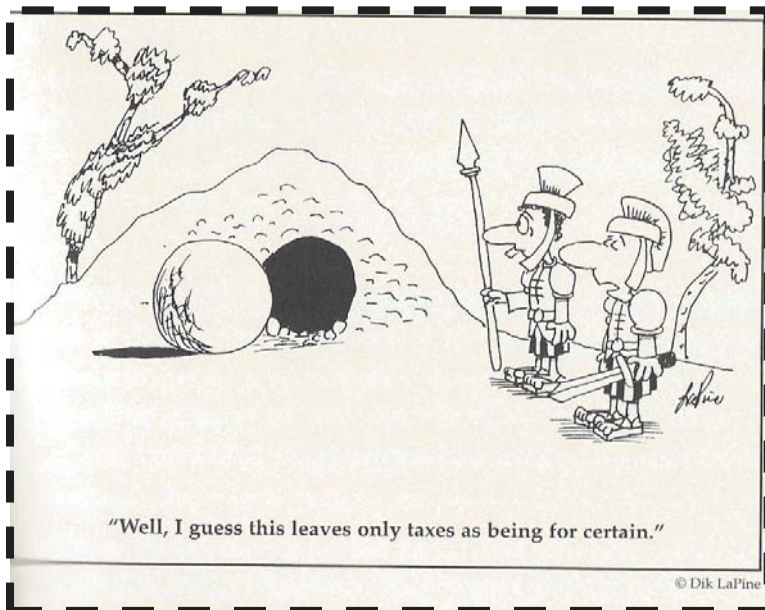
Ingredients:

- 1 24-oz peach halves
 - 1 10-oz can apricots
 - 1 24-oz can of pears
 - 2 24-oz cans of pineapple pieces
 - 10 maraschino cherries
 - 1/3 cup melted butter
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 3 tsp curry powder
- Plain or glazed pecans (Topping)*

Drain fruit well. Mix butter, brown sugar, and curry powder. Put fruit in a 9 x 13-inch shallow baking dish, hollow side up. Dot all over with the curry-sugar mixture. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour, basting frequently. Cool and refrigerate for at least one day. Warm over at 350 degrees for 1/2 hour.



Just For Laughs



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

September

- 8 Delia Agbozo
- 13 Joseph Hyatt
- 14 Robert Agbozo
- 18 Frank Smith
- 26 Fr. Sam Steere
- 29 Peter Joslyn

October

- 6 Ann van Buren
- 11 Carey Smith
- 17 Cinda Wall
- 24 Joan Pitzer
- 28 Anne Batherson
- 28 Posey Godfrey

November

- 10 Ed Crissmon
- 14 Alice Burkholder

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

September

- 5 Frank and Jan Smith
- 11 Posey and John Godfrey
- 15 Ned and Ann van Buren
- 22 Anne and Chuck Batherson



November

- 15 Burk and Alice Burkholder
- 25 Fr. Mark and Jo Menees

Upcoming Schedule

Sept-Nov. 2015

Sept. 2 Eucharist 6:00 PM	Oct. 2 Fri. Morning Prayer 8:00 AM	Nov. 1 Mass 10:00 AM
Sept. 4 Fri. Morning Prayer 8:00 AM	Oct. 3 Blessing of the Animals 10:00 AM-1:00PM	Nov. 4 Eucharist 6:00 PM
Sept. 6 Mass 10:00 AM	Oct. 4 Mass 10:00 AM	Nov. 6 Fri. Morning Prayer 8:00 AM
Sept. 9 Eucharist 6:00 PM	Oct. 7 Eucharist 6:00 PM	Nov. 8 Mass 10:00 AM
Sept. 11 Fri. Morning Prayer 8:00 AM	Oct. 9 Fri. Morning Prayer 8:00 AM	Nov. 11 (Veteran's Day) Eucharist 6:00 PM
Sept. 12 Gathering at the Joslyns 4-8PM	Oct. 9 Membership Com. 9:30 AM	Nov. 13 Fri. Morning Prayer 8:00 AM
Sept. 13 Confirmation/ Bishop's visit	Oct. 11 Mass 10:00 AM	Nov. 15 Mass 10:00 AM
Sept. 16 Eucharist 6:00 PM	Oct. 11 Mission Com. 11:30 AM	Nov. 18 Eucharist 6:00 PM
Sept. 17 ACW Meeting 1:00 PM	Oct. 14 Eucharist 6:00 PM	Nov. 19 ACW Meeting 1:00 PM
Sept. 18 Fri. Morning Prayer 8:00 AM	Oct. 15 ACW Meeting 1:00 PM	Nov. 20 Fri. Morning Prayer 8:00 AM
Sept. 20 Mass 10:00 AM	Oct. 16 Fri. Morning Prayer 8:00 AM	Nov. 20 Membership Com. 9:30 AM
Sept. 20 Mission Com. 11:30 AM	Oct. 18 Mass 10:00 AM	Nov. 22 Mass 10:00 AM
Sept. 23 Eucharist 6:00 PM	Oct. 21 Eucharist 6:00 PM	Nov. 22 ACW Bake Sale
Sept. 25 Fri. Morning Prayer 8:00 AM	Oct. 22-24 DEUS Women's Fall Retreat	Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist 6:30 PM
Sept. 25 Membership Com. 9:30 AM	Oct. 23 Fri. Morning Prayer 8:00 AM	Nov. 29 Advent Begins
Sept. 27 Mass 10:00 AM	Oct. 24 Dinner and Annual Meeting 6:00PM	Nov. 29 Mass 10:00 AM
Sept. 30 Eucharist 6:00 PM	Oct. 25 Mass 10:00 AM	Blessing of the Chrismon Tree
	Oct. 28 Eucharist 6:00 PM	
	Oct. 30 Fri. Morning Prayer 8:00 AM	

REMINDERS

- ◆ Red Wagon Donations- August collection totaled 60 items weighing 85 lbs!
- ◆ Altar Flowers - memorial or celebration - Contact Sandy Steere
- ◆ Change For Change - A collection of \$101 was donated to Urban Ministry at the end of August
- ◆ Outreach "business" cards-Contact Alice Burkholder

