



ALL SAINTS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Herald

July, 2014

Sundays after Pentecost

From the Rector: [Of Being Religious](#)

Being religious is not all that fashionable these days, particularly among the so-called Millennials, the next generation to succeed the largely religious baby-boomers. Church growth experts are wringing their hands. Pundits are proclaiming the inevitable death of organized religion, certainly mainstream organized religion. Atheists, now celebrity in pop culture, claim to be the largest minority of theological sectarianism. Bill Maher, with whom I agree on many things, host of HBO's *Overtime*, is fond of saying smugly that religion is the root of all that is wrong in culture, both in the U.S. and around the world. Certainly, religion has loaned its name to nefarious purposes... but the root? I beg to differ. My son Rhett, not a practicing Christian, thinks I should go on Bill Maher's show and defend religion. I could do that. Call me, Bill.

Marx called religion "the opiate of the people". Freud called it an illusion; and certainly, given the church's track record over the centuries, scathing critique has been merited. The church has supported violence, oppression, injustice and ignorance in order to protect the status quo, all in the name of God. We don't need to look far for glaring examples. The church indeed has invited such critique in its self-serving quest to ask people to believe the unbelievable and to do the unthinkable. Such self-examination and critique is merited and necessary if we are to get real about faith in general and religion in particular. What is truly amazing is that the church has survived at all.

I am convinced that the human is endowed with the religious impulse, that in our collective DNA, in our collective memory, there is the predisposition towards meaning and mystery and beauty; that despite rampant evil in the world, there is an innate good order insisting on taking root in our common life. The religious life is the means, the framework within which we should be able to articulate such a vision; a framework within which we may speculate as to the truth, which is ever unfolding, ever being revealed. A framework, also in which we celebrate such a life, and give thanks for it. The church's greatest error has been its insistence on a dogmatic belief system closed to new awareness, new knowledge, new inspiration, new truth. The church that insists on such will die in irrelevancy.

The mystics and free-thinkers over the centuries have known this. They are religious, but have never gotten the press, nor has the institutional church approved of them. Their faith has as much to do with aesthetics as it does with order. Indeed our faith is lifeless without the engaged imagination. In short, religion is an art, not a science. And to that end, faith is much more about practice than it is about belief. If we artfully practice the rudiments of faith, mercy, compassion, justice, reconciliation and the restoration of the human community, then the vision of the divine will ring true... the divine being not some theistic projection of a God aloof in the heavens... but the divine being a gracious life of well being and freedom and joy for all who inhabit this earth... all people... manifested in our own day... That is what divine means, no more, no less.

So, I too am an "a-theist." That is, I don't believe in a male God distant in the heavens, who swoops into creation from time to time to perform supernatural acts... the super, imaginary friend, as Bill Maher puts it. But I do believe in a God who is alive among us, becoming as we become, as the creation becomes... influencing imaginatively with artful improvisation the created order towards the good and the true and the beautiful, suffering and evil notwithstanding... Scripture, art, and human expression apprehended with imaginative and critical eye will serve us well, will inform us along the way. But, to be sure, the religious life is dead without honesty and intellectual and emotional integrity; dead without our burning questions, and it is dead also without the practice of the good, the practice of love for our world.

If you believe in the art of the Good... you believe in God... Call me, Bill.

Things are looking good around the church campus these days! The double doors to the Parish Hall by the office have been sanded and re-stained; the Chapel ceiling soffit has been repaired, the walls and ceiling are being repainted, and a new exterior door has been installed. Trees with low-hanging and dead branches over Stirling Hall are being trimmed, the roof is being cleaned off and gutters will be cleaned out. The red doors of the church have been repainted. And, last but not least, demolition of the kitchen is expected to begin this week!



The corner of the kitchen from which the Coke machine and counter have been removed.



Some of the repaired soffit, new wall paint, old door from parking lot to Chapel interior.

Lectionary Readings for July

Sunday, July 6, 2014

Lessons: [Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67](#)
[Psalm 45: 11-18](#)
[Romans 7:15-25a](#)
[Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30](#)

Sunday, July 13, 2014

Lessons: [Genesis 25:19-34](#)
[Psalm 119:105-112](#)
[Romans 8:1-11](#)
[Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#)

Sunday, July 20, 2014

Lessons: [Genesis 28:10-19a](#)
[Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23](#)
[Romans 8:12-25](#)
[Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43](#)

Sunday, July 27, 2014

Lessons: [Genesis 29:15-28](#)
[Psalm 105:1-11, 45b](#)
[Romans 8:26-39](#)
[Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52](#)

Food Share in July Come help pack food bags at 7:15 am on Saturday morning, July 19, just before the distribution at 8am. We'll pack the food, distribute it, and finish by 8:30.

Altar Flowers

Would you like to give the altar flowers one Sunday, perhaps in memory or in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for something, or simply to the glory of God? If you are interested, call Mary Holbrook (438-2492) to select a date. The Flower Guild takes care of creating the arrangement. The cost is \$60, and, as a donation to the church, it is tax deductible.

The Refugee Pantry

During July, we are asking for laundry detergent and dish soap for the pantry. Please put it by the volunteer desk on Sundays or drop them off M-F during office hours. Thanks.

Please keep in your prayers:

✚ For healing for: Joe, Charlotte Grubbs, Juliette, David French Bacon III, Gerald Pockl, Carolyn Lee Taylor, Elizabeth Hallock Andrews, Laura, Chuck Tharpe & family, Sandy Kaynor & family, Robin & Ginny Heilbron, Ed & Ruth LaMonte, Sr. Cintra Pemberton, Charlotte Orr, Steve Doan, Clinton Wilson, Rusty Glass, Robert Doyle, Sam Cockrell, Ivan Davidson, Mary Lou Peake, Bonnie Brooks, Judy Strada, Sue Oom, Nancy, South Sudan, Larry Preul, Danny Moreau, Tommy, Ruth and Ruth Langan, Lee Hamilton, James Henry LeBatard, Ann, Celita Burke, Baby Connor, John Stephens, Alisha, Sybil Wilson, Howard Young, Terrance Ulmer, Opal Berry, Cora Teague, Josh Watson, Kay Myers, the White family, Susan Hannum, Sharon, Katie Hammond, Skip Shirah, Amanda, Achol Guet, Barbara Blum-Barnett, Caroline Fletcher, Mackenzie Petersen, Nancy Golson Smith, Nancy Quittmeyer, Regina Slayton, Steven Bodiford, Walter Sims, Mitch Price, Austin Brown, Barbara Deming, Heather and family, Martha Collier, Dunn Chandler, Jessica Montalvo-Lopez, Evina Valera, Ed Givhan, Sharon Cleverdon, Patsy Childress, Anna Marie Brown, Laura

✚ For those who serve in the armed forces, especially: Spencer Abbot, Matt Abbot, Jonathan Carter, DeMario Snead, S.T. Heath, Forrest Brewster, Daniel Robert

Please mark your calendars right away with the dates you are to serve!

If you cannot be present for the date you are scheduled, please get a substitute and let the church office know who it is. If you can't find a sub, let the office know as soon as possible. 438-2492.

Lay Ministers for July 2014

| Date | Time | Lector | Intercessor | Chalice | Acolytes | Ushers | Altar Guild | Flower Guild | Breakfast | Reception |
|--|---------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|--------------|---|
| July 6 <i>4th Sun after Pentecost</i> | 8am | MH Slaton | B Evatt | M Taylor | | J Basenberg B Case | B Evatt B Caddell K McKenzie B Evatt RE Stanbery Bread: N Lancaster B Rockstad | J Tucker B Wilson | | |
| | 1030 am | B Hardaway M Morrison | D Foster | B Bentley | B Foster E Gray | L Wood M Morrison R Bradford A Blair | | | | D Foster |
| July 13 <i>5th Sun after Pentecost</i> | 8am | W Butler | S Willcox | H Callaway | | P Mackey H Dodge | | B Bentley R Bradford | Eliz Jenkins | |
| | 1030 am | R Coarsey M Durant | M Harris | L Thomas | SF Greene Em Doyle | C Doyle D Greene D Greene | | | | B Ratcliffe M Morrison |
| July 20 <i>6th Sun after Pentecost</i> | 8am | J Basenberg | L Hallett | S Willcox | | R Dillard W Hannum | | B Brewster K Butler | J & L Burce | |
| | 1030 am | V Mitchell M Petithory | B Barrett | B Ayres | L Ayres G Ayres | H Caddell J Ayres C Conte H Brewster | | | | B Hardaway K Gray |
| July 27 <i>7th Sun after Pentecost</i> | 8am | S Willcox | J Clearman | B Ratcliffe | | F South H Callaway | | S Drew J Simpson | | |
| | 1030 am | J Hamilton SF Greene | F Rouse | B Harris | D Williams C Mosley | D Mosley M Williams M Durant | | | | Birthday Celebration |

July Birthdays

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 3 - Kathy Scheldt | 8 - Jim Rivers | 14 - Jennifer Swann | 22 - James Hamilton | 29 - Henry Brewster |
| 3 - Amy Hunter | 8 - Boone Reeves | 15 - Stella Hester | 22 - Alex Pappas | 30 - Diane Bourassa |
| 3 - Harrison Callaway | 10 - Allison Clearman | 15 - James Foster | 22 - Anna Grace Brown | 31 - Collin Fuquay |
| 5 - Chris Lee | 11 - Andi Barrett | 15 - Lizzie McDonald | 23 - Cora Lemmon | 31 - Maddie Samuels |
| 6 - Susan Gardner | 11 - Valerie Mitchell | 17 - Chris Galanos | 24 - Keith Winkler | |
| 6 - Henry Callaway | 11 - Penny Emmons | 19 - Sharon Cleverdon | 26 - Carla Saint-Paul | |
| 6 - William Tucker | 12 - Flora Mary Pearson | 20 - Bob Allen | 27 - Jeff Barnes | |
| 7 - Martha Harris | 12 - Buck St. John | 20 - Herndon Rouse | 28 - Malcolm Carsten | |



July 2014

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | June 30 9:30a Special Ministry Campers check in @ church office 10:30a Bus leaves for Beckwith | 1 | 2 9:15a L'Arche, chapel 12N Holy Eucharist | 3 12N Al-Anon 2p Camp bus returns 7p AA, Smith Rm | 4 <i>Independence Day</i> Office closed | 5 |
| Rector on vacation | | | | | | |
| 6 4th Sun after Pentecost 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 930 Adult Classes 1030a Holy Eucharist Reception follows | 7 | 8 5p Murray House Board Mtg | 9 9:15a L'Arche, chapel 12N Holy Eucharist | 10 12N Al-Anon 7p AA, Smith Rm | 11 | 12 10:30a PFLAG |
| Rector on vacation | | | | | | |
| 13 5th Sun after Pentecost 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 930 Adult Classes 1030a Holy Eucharist Reception follows | 14 | 15 | 16 9:15a L'Arche, chapel 12N Holy Eucharist | 17 12N Al-Anon 7p AA, Smith Rm | 18 | 19 7:15a Food Share packing & distribution |
| Assistant Rector on vacation | | | | | | |
| 20 6th Sun after Pentecost 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 930 Adult Classes 1030a Holy Eucharist Reception follows | 21 6p Vestry mtg | 22 | 23 9:15a L'Arche, chapel 12N Holy Eucharist | 24 12N Al-Anon 7p AA, Smith Rm | 25 | 26 |
| Assistant Rector on vacation | | | | | | |
| 27 7th Sun after Pentecost 8a Holy Eucharist 9a Breakfast 930 Adult Classes 1030a Holy Eucharist Birthday Reception | 28 6p 15 Place Board | 29 | 30 9:15a L'Arche, chapel 12N Holy Eucharist | | | |