

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

A Part of the Anglican Community

"The mission of St. Benedict's Church is to know Christ's love and to make His love known"

3 Epiphany

Eucharist Year C, Daily Office Year One
January 23 & 24, 2010

WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Weekend

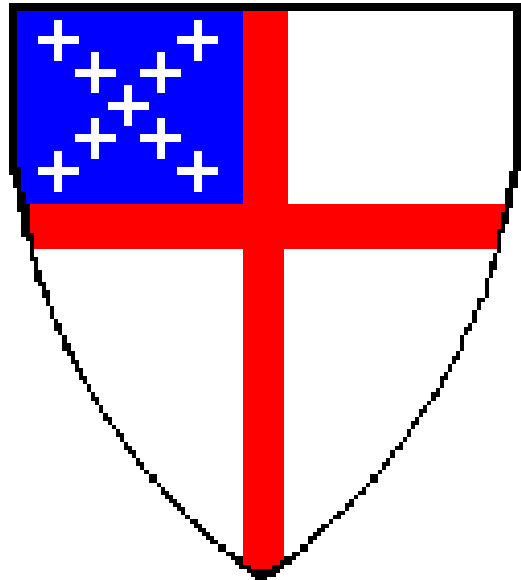
Saturday: Holy Eucharist Rite II – 6 pm
Sunday: Morning Prayer - 7:45 am
Holy Eucharist Rite I – 8 am
Holy Eucharist Rite II – 10 am
(Nursery and Church School)

Weekday

Tuesday: Intercessory Prayer Group – 8 am
Tuesday: Holy Eucharist - 8:30 am
Wednesday: Holy Eucharist and Healing – 7 pm
Thursday: Holy Eucharist – 7 am

REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS

Sunday, Chancel Choir – 9 am - 9:45 am
Wednesday, Bible Study – 7:30 PM
Thursday, Bible Study – 10:00 am
Thursday, Chancel Choir – 7:15 pm – 9:15 pm



Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 am to 4 pm
7801 NW 5th Street, Plantation, FL 33324-1911
Telephone: (954) 473-6578 / Fax: (954) 473-5766
St. Benedict's website: www.saintbenedicts.org

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

The Rev. Robert J. Deshaies, Rector
The Rev. Mary Kangara, Assistant Priest
The Rev. John Scott (Retired), Assistant Priest
Andrew E. Reid, Organist, & Choir Director
Chantal Deshaies, Youth Choir Director
Sharon Braun, Administrative Assistant to the Rector
Dona Kehrli, Bookkeeper
Egbert Grant, Sexton
Pam Sahdev, Sunday school Superintendent
Cheryl Burley, Youth Ministries Coordinator

THE VESTRY

Patrick Smith, Senior Warden, (954) 424-3818
Michael Roy, Junior Warden, (954) 452-3168
Wilhelm Lord, Treasurer
Christine Clifford, Clerk of the Vestry

Humphrey Braaf 749-3969 Sharon Lacey 724-9230
Cheryl Burley 433-0956 Winston Plummer 748-8350
Candy Farley 474-4730 Ben Stoddart 349-0652
Howard Harriott 747-0826 Michael Sahdev 682-4480
Ken Hindsley 530-8536 Reginald Jones 673-3503

**Assistive Listening Devices available for persons who are hard of hearing.
Please ask an usher for help.**

E-mail: "Office / Administrative Assistant" <stbennys@saintbenedicts.org>
Fr. Bob Deshaies <revdeshaies@saintbenedicts.org> Rev. Mary Kangara <revmary@saintbenedicts.org>
Dona Kehrli, Bookkeeper <dkehrli@saintbenedicts.org>
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Pam Sahdev <pamsahdev@aol.com>
Elise Roy, Volunteer Coordinator <volunteercoordinator@saintbenedicts.org>
The Diocese of Southeast Florida: <http://www.diosef.org>

Unique to the Week

The Sacramental Candle is given to the greater glory of God in loving memory of Dean LaBello on the anniversary of his birthday from his family.

Youth Choir: There will be a rehearsal for the Youth Choir immediately following Mass this Sunday.

Haiti Relief: Donations are being accepted for disaster relief to Haiti. Make out checks to Saint Benedict's Mission Fund and earmark Haiti relief.

Annual Meeting: Our Annual Meeting will be held this Sunday, January 24th after the 10 am Mass. This is when our new vestry members will be elected. Please be advised that if you are not a pledging member, you will not be allowed to attend and vote at the meeting. Also annual report requests will be sent out this week.

The Homeless Project for February has been cancelled due to organizational changes. We are not sure if we will be housing families in September, but we will keep you updated as soon as we get news.



Wednesday Evening Bible Study: There will be no Bible Study Jan 27th. Marlene Wepf and Prof. Terrell Manyak will be sharing their experience in Uganda, Africa, complete with slides

and conversation. Terrell received a one year teaching grant from the Rotary Club to visit a university in Africa, and he and his wife, Marlene, have unique perspectives on all aspects of living in Uganda--including African hospitality from grocery shopping, travelling, teaching in a university, to Anglican worship and singing. Come and experience Africa as they tell the stories of their exciting journey.

Confirmation Classes begin on Sunday March 7th in Fr. Bob's office during the 10 am Mass and led by Heather and Phillip Swann. You must be in High School. If you would like to be confirmed, please pick up a registration form in the narthex. Confirmation will be May 9th (Mother's Day).

Thursday Morning Bible Study will meet January 28th at 10 am in the Nursery to view a video and then go to St. Luke's room to continue Bible Study. The group is using Rick Warren's program entitled "Freedom From Your Hurts, Hang-ups and Habits". A second small group is also meeting at the same time and studying Paul's letter to the Romans. If you are interested in attending, please join us.



St. Benedict's Quilting Group meets on Saturdays at 12 pm in Stephen's Hall.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew: Please join the Brotherhood of St. Andrew at their February meeting, Feb 3 at 6:30PM in St. Luke's Room of the old parish hall.

Centering Prayer & Christian Meditation: Gillian Grey is facilitating a centering prayer group on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm in the Mary Chapel. Come rest, relax, de-stress, and dwell in his presence. "He leads me beside the still waters" (Psalm 23).

Exercise--Aerobics: Parishioners and friends of parishioners are welcome to join Charmaine Colley, Cheryl Burley and others for an hour of exercise on Mon. in the church and Thurs. in the Parish Hall beginning at 7:30 pm.

St. Valentine's Day is coming, be prepared!!

Order your valentine bud rose bouquet through the ECW for St. Valentine's Day! The ECW of St. Benedict's will be selling a beautiful small floral arrangement consisting of a bud rose, baby's breath and greenery, tied in a red ribbon and placed in a shimmering silver tissue, to be distributed on St. Valentine's weekend, Saturday and Sunday services. Wouldn't that be a lovely gift for your spouse, sweetheart, friend, mom, and dad, anyone to whom you wish to express affection!! We are only taking pre sales. The cost is \$8. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Haiti Comfort House mission. Please order and pay for your bud bouquet today! Please look for us after service! Thank you. Fundraising committee, ECW.



Tree of Life: We received our tree of life and it is hanging in the church. Each leaf is available for purchase at \$100 each which includes the engraving. If you are interested in purchasing a leaf, please fill out an order with exactly what you want engraved on the leaf and your personal information and place it in the plate with a check made out to St. Benedict's Building Fund and earmark it "Tree of Life".

St. Benedict's Youth Ministry

Sunday school Every Sunday 10 am
Dance Team open to girls/ boys, ages 7 yrs and older.
Rehearsals: Friday 7:30 pm
Acolytes boys/girls ages 7 and older
Nursery Infants to 4 years
Junior Daughters Middle/High School
Junior Brotherhood of St. Andrews

Super bowl Fun Raiser: St. Benedict's is holding its first Fun Raiser on Sunday, Feb. 7th at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Bring your friends, family and yourself to watch and celebrate the Super bowl here at St. Benedict's. The game will be shown on a large screen television. You are asked to bring whatever you would like to eat and share and whatever you would like to drink. The Fun Raiser is to purchase a square, two, three, four or more for \$10 each and if your numbers match the score for that quarter, you win. You can either donate the money back to the church or keep it. It is your choice. The first \$500 will go to the church and the

rest goes to the winners for their good choice. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will sponsor a "Beer and Wine Available for Sale" table at the Parish Fun Raiser on Super Bowl Sunday at reduced prices with profits going to the Building Fund.

International Cuisine: St. Benedict's will hold the International Cuisine on Sunday Feb. 21st at 12 noon in the parish hall. Please bring a dish to represent your country and dress accordingly. If you do not bring a dish the cost will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children to receive a dish. If you have any questions please contact Blossie Lewis.

Youth Groups

Meet every third Sunday of the month
 Little Bunch Elementary school
 Benedicts Bunch: Jr. High School youth - Grades 5 - 8
 BenedicTEENS: High School through College Freshmen.
 Any questions, please contact Cheryl Burley, (954) 443 – 0956

Nursery Volunteers

Thank you for helping throughout the year!
 All interested in volunteering for a Sunday during 10 a.m. service, please sign up on calendar on bulletin board in the narthex.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS Come and join us while we sail down the Nile for our 2010 VBS. Enjoy the wonders of Egypt June 14- June 18 at our first ever full day of VBS. Bring your sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, and even your grandchildren. It will be well worth taking the journey from the prison to the palace with Joseph!

Financial Info: Offerings for Jan 16 & 17 2010

<u>Operating Fund</u>			
Pledges & Plate	\$	10,621.83	
True	\$	20.00	
Haiti Relief	\$	2,127.00	
<u>Building Fund</u>			
Pledges and gifts	\$	814.00	



Envelopes: If you made a pledge for 2010, your envelopes are available for you in the Narthex.

Please begin using these as of January 1, 2010 and discard all other envelopes. If you have made a pledge and your envelopes are not there, please call Dona at 954-473-6578 ext 102 or e-mail me at dkehrli@saintbenedicts.org.

Pledge information: Here is just a little information that you may not be aware of. If you made a pledge and only donate once a month or once every two weeks it is not necessary for you to include all the envelopes for that month; you may put your entire donation for two weeks, one month or however many donations you would like to make at one time on one check or place the

cash in ONE envelope and discard the rest of the envelopes for that period of time. If you made a pledge for the operating fund and the building fund please **DO NOT** write one check for both pledges. The money for the Building Fund goes into a different account than the money for the Operating Fund. If you forget your envelope it is okay to still make your pledge for that week or that month. Please try and remember your number and place it on the check. If you cannot remember how much you made your pledge for, it might be a good idea to write it on your box when you pick up your envelopes; that way you can refer to the box when you are fulfilling your pledge.

Passover Seder will be held on Tuesday, March 16th at Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El. While this seems as if it is far in advance, it will be upon us before you know it. If you think you may be interested in attending, please mark your calendar and watch the bulletin for more details as the date gets closer.

Labyrinth Retreat: The Duncan Center is holding a Labyrinth Retreat on Friday, Jan 22nd from 7-9 pm and Sat. Jan. 23 from 9- 4 with an all day Labyrinth workshop. The cost for Friday night is \$25 and Saturday is \$125.00 which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. To register please call (561) 496-4130 or register online at www.duncancenter.org.

Life Balance and Goal Planning: Finding Financial Peace, Jim Flood is an author, speaker and a motivational Life Balance coach. Since 1994 Jim has served St. Andrew Parish as a lector and Eucharistic minister. His passion to serve God led him to author a book called Life Balance Solutions. The book reminds us that in order to have peace, enrichment and fulfillment, we must put God first. The Program will be Tuesday, Jan, 12th from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Duncan Center. The price is \$35 per person and \$60 per couple. The price includes the Life Balance Solutions book and workbook. To register go to www.duncancenter.org or call (561) 496-4130.

Seafarers' House Luncheon: The next Seafarers' House Luncheon will be held on Saturday, Feb 13th aboard the Crown Princess. The cost is \$50 per person and all reservations must be made in advance. There will only be 200 seats in total sold so if you are interested in attending you must have your name, driver's license or passport number to the church office as soon as possible.

Gift Basket Donations: Connie Desko needs to make up 4 Baskets for the Seafarers' House Luncheon. If you have new items that you would like to donate to make up these baskets, please drop them off at the church as soon as possible. The baskets must be made by Jan.31st.

3 Epiphany

The Holy Eucharist

Morning Prayer (7:45 AM)

Book of Common Prayer, page 42

Invitatory: Jubilate (Prayer Book p. 45)

Psalm 63 (Prayer Book p.670)

The Song of Mary (Prayer Book p. 50)

(Please respect this time of prayer and meditation by refraining from talking and visiting inside the church.)

The Prelude

Call to Worship: "This Is the Day" {L219}

Processional Hymn: [362] Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Hymn of Praise: [S-280] Glory to God in the highest

Opening Acclamation

6 pm BCP 355; 8 am BCP 323; 10 am BCP 299

The Collect of the Day

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson: **Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The Word of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Psalm 19

1. *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.*
2. *One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.*
3. *Although they have no words or language and their voices are not heard,*
4. *Their sound has gone out into all lands and their message to the ends of the world.*
5. *In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.*
6. *It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.*
7. *The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.*
8. *The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.*
9. *The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.*
10. *More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.*
11. *By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.*
12. *Who can tell how often he offends? Cleanse me from my secret faults.*
13. *Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.*
14. *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.*

The Second Lesson **1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of

power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Gospel Anthem: "They Shall Soar Like Eagles" by Laura Manzo

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according **Luke 4:14-21**

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of the Lord. R/ *Praise to you, Lord Christ*

Gospel Response: [178] Jesus is Lord of all the earth (Verse 3 only)

Rev. Robert J. Deshaies

Nicene Creed: BCP 358

Prayers of the People, 6 PM: Form IV, BCP, Page 388; 8 a.m.: BCP, 328

The Healing Song: "Jesus, We Want to Meet" {L81}

Announcements & blessing anniversaries and birthdays and laying on of hands for healing.

Offertory Song: [493] O for a thousand tongues to sing

Presentation: [380, verse 3] "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow" or {L56}

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP, 361 (8 a. m.: BCP, 333)

Sanctus and Benedictus: [S-128] Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (Sanctus)

Memorial Acclamation: [S-135] Prayer A (or) [S-138] Prayer B

The Great Amen: [S-146] The Great Amen

The Lord's Prayer: "The Lord's Prayer" by Albert Hay Malotte

Fraction Anthem: Alleluia! Christ Our Passover Is Sacrificed for Us

All baptized Christians who affirm the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Sacrament are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church.

All others may come forward for a blessing at the altar rail.

Communion Hymn: [321] My God, thy table now is spread

Communion Anthem: "Veni Sancte Spiritus" (TAIZE)

Post Communion Prayer

BCP, 365 (8 a.m.: BCP, 339)

Sending out the Eucharistic Ministers

Celebrant: N. [and N.] we send you out to share Communion this week with [names].

People: May you carry the prayer of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Celebrant: May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in the community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: [409] The spacious firmament on high

**The Dismissal
Postlude**

Good News Daily

January 24-30, 2010

Sunday January 24

Genesis 13:2-18 *And there Abram called on the name of the LORD. [Then Abram] built an altar there to the LORD. (vv.4b, 18b NKJ)*

Today I am observing qualities of leadership in Abram. Calling on the name of the LORD should always be our first step-in everything. Abram probably didn't know all the names of God that have been revealed through the generations but he certainly knew the source of promise for his life. The same wisdom Abram received to be proactive in conflict with Lot is available to me (us). Abram's wealth was so great he needed wisdom to manage resources available. Our resources are usually time, talent, and treasure. LORD, please give me wisdom to manage these resources in my life; to not only avoid conflict with my natural and spiritual families, but to be a generous blessing to them. LORD, let my love be as generous as yours. "So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open, drinking in the strength of your glory. In your generous love I am really living at last!" (Psalm 63:2-3a, The Message).

Psalm 63; Galatians 2:1-10; Mark 7:31-37

Birthday: M. Almonte, Desmond Blackburn, Jon Farley, and Hermine Simpson

Anniversary: None

Monday January 25

Genesis 14:1-24 *And he [Melchizedek] blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." (vv.19-20)*

Abram is blessed and delivered from his enemies. This promise is ours (believers) as well because we are descendants of Abram. The devil has come to steal, kill, and destroy. He is more than happy to capitalize on the ungodly beliefs I have gathered throughout my life, especially those from my childhood. They are crippling beliefs like "I'll never get it right, there will never be enough for me, and I'm the cause of all the problems." As I remember the places in my childhood where these beliefs originated and the negative feelings that accompanied them, I then can ask Jesus what his truth or perspective is on the situation. He then faithfully changes my heart and mind to agree with

his truth. That is transformational living. "I will praise You forever, because You have done it; And in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good" (Psalm 52:9).

Psalms 41, 52; Hebrews 8:1-13; John 4:43-54

Birthday: None

Anniversary: None

Tuesday January 26

Hebrews 9:1-14 *Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. (v.12)*

To redeem means to buy back or rescue from captivity. If Jesus obtained eternal redemption by shedding his precious blood, then everything that has been held captive in my life is set free. As I claim that freedom, I can belong to his family, I can receive and give life, I can recover from the traumas of the past, I can grow up to my full potential, I can demonstrate Christ's characteristics in my life (From *Life Model: Living from the Heart Jesus Gave You* by Jim Wilder). God will rescue my broken family from captivity and restore all that the enemy has stolen. I will let the truth of that nourish my life today. I pray you will also. "Because of My great love I have rescued you and brought you to a broad place. You are My delight," says the LORD.

Genesis 15:1-11, 17-21; Psalm 45; John 5:1-18

Birthday: Denzil Belnavis, Rafael Carneiro Sr., and Renee B-Aleis Solomon

Anniversary: None

Wednesday January 27

Psalm 119:49-72 *Remember the word to Your servant, upon which you caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life. (vv.49-50)*

I would like to say everything is going well in my life right now, but that wouldn't be an accurate report. One of my daughters is going through a very messy and painful divorce, another is having very serious health problems that seem to defy even a diagnosis. It's not *my* marriage or *my* body but it still feels like *my* affliction. Why? All of our crying out to God hasn't changed either situation at all. I believe He has the power, but I haven't seen it yet in these situations. LORD, you are very puzzling to me at times but I choose to praise You anyway. You are life to me and there is

no other hope. Lord Jesus, what is your perspective in these situations? What is your perspective concerning the difficult situations in the lives of those who read this?

Genesis 16:1-14; Hebrews 9:15-28; John 5:19-29

Birthday: Charmaine D'Angelo, Cynthia Ellis, and Travis Gordon

Anniversary: None

Thursday January 28

Hebrews 10:1-10 *"Then I said, 'Behold I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God'"* (v.7)

God repeatedly communicated to Abraham and Sarah His specific plans for them. When I first read that I remember thinking, "How dense they must have been." (Oops! That's how quick to judge I am.) Isn't it comforting to know we don't have to get it right the first time? Abraham and Sarah had difficulty listening to God and getting it right. But, because Abba is a good father, He is patient with us. He tells me there will be a bend in my road, and then He sends others to confirm that word. Just like with Abraham and Sarah, He tells me again more specifically—just in case I missed it. He is a God who is totally invested in communicating intimately with me (us). Thank you, Abba, for patiently speaking with me. "Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; and to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God" (Psalm 50:23).

Genesis 16:15—17:14; Psalm 50; John 5:30-47

Birthday: Barbara Basic-Rawlins, Eric Burley, Henry Hardcastle III, and Jacquise Sibblis

Anniversary: None

Friday January 29

John 6:1-15 *Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Phillip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He himself knew what He would do.* (vv.5-6)

Phillip's reply to Jesus is to tell him how impossible the situation is—not a very effective response. Thanks in part to Phillip, I have learned, instead of declaring the problem, to proclaim my lack of knowledge whenever Jesus asks me a question. "I don't know, Jesus, please tell me," would be the most intelligent response to Jesus' question. Jesus already knew his Father, the source of all provision. What a loving and gentle way he

has of introducing his disciples to a God who has no limits! I took a couple of my grandkids on a picnic this week. We brought just about exactly the amount of food we needed—so did that little boy. It is staggering to think about Jesus feeding thousands with that same amount of food. LORD, give me eyes to see the infinite possibilities instead of the problem. "But I am poor and needy; yet the LORD thinks upon me" (Psalm 40:17a).

Genesis 17:15-27; Psalms 40, 54; Hebrews 10:11-25

Birthday: Heidi Sekreta

Anniversary: Joan and James Homer

Saturday January 30

John 6:16-27 *"Jesus answered them and said, 'Most assuredly I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.'*" (vv.26-27)

This food that endures is the living LORD Jesus himself. We are designed internally with a hole about the size of the Grand Canyon. It is a place only God can fill. If I don't connect deeply with Him, that place produces an ache that I can attempt to fill with food that perishes. If I don't fill it with the living LORD Jesus, I will try to fill it with something else I think will satisfy that ache, like work/ministry, or food, or entertainment, or relationships, or alcohol/drugs—you name it I'll (we'll) try it. Living LORD Jesus, my heart aches for you today. I want to know you in a deeper way. You are the only one who can satisfy my deepest longing. Shine your light in my heart to expose the things that I labor at that perish. Reveal your presence in my life today by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Thank you for loving me. Amen.

Genesis 18:1-16; Psalm 55; Hebrews 10:26-39

Birthday: Glen Anderson, Danielle Augustin, Evelyn Bartlett, Charmaine Colley, and Joan Homer

Anniversary: Lewis and Helen Graham

by Charlene Laird

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