

# 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"

### 4 Epiphany

Eucharist Year C, Daily Office Year One  
January 30 & 31, 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

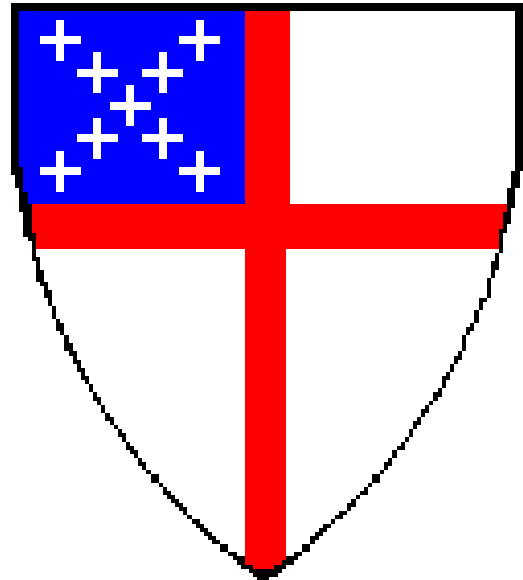
Tuesday: Intercessory Prayer Group – 8 am  
Tuesday: Holy Eucharist - 8:30 am  
Wednesday: Holy Eucharist and Healing – 7 pm  
Thursday: Holy Eucharist – 7 am

### 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

### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

The Rev. Robert J. Deshaies, Rector  
The Rev. Mary Kangara, 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



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](http://www.saintbenedicts.org)

### THE VESTRY

Patrick Smith, Senior Warden, (954) 424-3818  
Michael Roy, Junior Warden, (954) 452-3168  
Wilhelm Lord, Treasurer

Humphrey Braaf 749-3969 Sharon Lacey 724-9230  
Austin Carty 717-3844 Winston Plummer 748-8350  
Alice-Marie Ford 530-0901 Juli Reid 584-8621  
Ken Hindsley 530-8536 Ben Stoddart 349-0652  
Reginald Jones 673-3503 Phillip Swann 370-1188

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

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Elise Roy, Volunteer Coordinator <[volunteercoordinator@saintbenedicts.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@saintbenedicts.org)>  
The Diocese of Southeast Florida: <http://www.diosef.org>

## Unique to the Week

### Welcome out new Vestry Members



**Austin Carty**



**Alice - Marie Ford**



**Juli Reid**



**Phillip Swann**

**Annual Meeting:** Our Annual Meeting was held last weekend on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. There were four new vestry members elected. Congratulations to Austin Carty, Alice- Marie Ford, Juli Reid, and Phillip Swann. Congratulations also to Cheryl Burley who was elected as the alternate delegate to diocesan convention. At the Vestry meeting following the Annual Meeting Wilhelm Lord was reelected as Treasurer and Mike Roy as Junior Warden. Christine Clifford will continue on as Clerk until a replacement can be found. Fr. Bob reappointed Ozzie Smith as Senior Warden.

**Sandwich Sunday:** Please bring a sandwich (or 10). Peanut butter, meat, are all great. Just no mayo or mustard to make it soggy. Please put in refrigerator in parish hall kitchen. Thank you!

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

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

**Thank you** to all of our outgoing vestry members (Cheryl Burley, Candy Farley, Howard Harriott, and Michael Roy) for their hard work and dedication these past three years serving on our Vestry.

**Mothers Union** will meet after the 10 am Mass on Sunday Feb.7<sup>th</sup> in St. Mark's room.

**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:** Will review **ISAIAH 11**, the "tender twig" from the "tree trunk" of Jesse. Who was Jesse? Does Jesse have any relevance today? The "root" of Jesse will stand as a

signal -to the "goys", a banner to the nations? The root of Jesse will assemble the banished of Israel? Who are they? From where? To where? When?

**Confirmation Classes** begin on Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day).

**Thursday Morning Bible Study** will meet February 4 at 10 am in St. Mark's room to view a video and to continue Bible Study. The group is using Rick Warren's program entitled "Freedom From Your Hurts, Hang-ups and Habits."



**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 630 PM 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 shimmery 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

**St. Benedicts 50th Anniversary** - For our upcoming celebration, we are hoping to have a presentation of "The Treads of Our Tapestry". Anyone who has a special memory or pictures from the past, please place them in the box at the back of the church (marked Candy Farley). Be sure to mark any pictures with your name and number, we will make sure they are returned. We are looking forward and hope everyone will want to share.....more to come as we get closer. Thank you, Candy Farley and the Committee.

**International Cuisine:** St. Benedict's will hold the International Cuisine on Sunday Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> 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, contact Cheryl Burley, (954) 443 – 0956

**Nursery Volunteers** 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 23 & 24 2010

Operating Fund

Pledges & Plate	\$	6,892.17
True	\$	5.00
Haiti Relief	\$	1,234.00



Building Fund

Pledges and gifts \$ 1,132.00

**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](mailto:dkehrli@saintbenedicts.org).

**Souper Bowl of Caring.** Over 20 years ago a simple prayer from a youth group was said, launching the Souper Bowl of Caring.

**The Prayer read:** "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."

To date over \$60 million has been raised nationwide through the Souper Bowl of Caring. This powerful movement has turned Super Bowl weekend into more than just a game, it has also become a time of giving and serving. This mission allows us to make a positive difference as we collect food, raise money and volunteer in local charities that provide food and services to the homeless and hungry.

Please be apart of this movement by helping to share God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Souperbowl Sunday. Every dollar and cent raised will be donated to The Cooperative Feeding Program along with canned food donations as well. A planned service day at the Center is being scheduled If you are interested in volunteering or have any further questions please contact Chantal Deshaies at (954) 288-6466 or e-mail at [youthmusic@saintbenedicts.org](mailto:youthmusic@saintbenedicts.org).

**Labyrinth Retreat:** The Duncan Center is holding a Labyrinth Retreat on Friday, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.duncancenter.org).

**Seafarers' House Luncheon:** The next Seafarers' House Luncheon will be held on Saturday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 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 # to the church office as soon as possible.

**The "In The Spirit of Love" Interfaith Concert** (Five Faiths - One Calling) will be held at Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El (8200 Peters Road 954-472-1988) at 3 pm on Sunday, February 14th - a free concert with light refreshments to follow. Come support our Chancel Choir! See Andrew or Juli Reid if you have any further questions about this event.

# 4 Epiphany

## The Holy Eucharist

### Morning Prayer (7:45 AM)

Book of Common Prayer, page 42  
Invitatory: Jubilate (Prayer Book p. 45)  
Psalm 24 (Prayer Book p.616)  
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:** "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit" {L114}

**Processional Hymn:** [598] Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth

**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

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson: **Jeremiah 1:4-10**

**The word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."**

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

**Psalm 71:1-6 Page 683, BCP**

- 1. In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be ashamed.*
- 2. In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.*
- 3. Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.*
- 4. Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.*
- 5. For you are my hope, O Lord GOD, my confidence since I was young.*

6. *I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you.*

### The Second Lesson **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

**Gospel Anthem:** "Piece by Piece" by Robert Solomon

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according **Luke 4:21-30**

*Glory to you, Lord Christ*

In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus read from the book of the prophet Isaiah, and began to say, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

**Gospel Response:** [178] Jesus is Lord of all the earth (Verse 4 only)

**Rev. Robert J. Deshaies**

**Nicene Creed:** BCP 358

**Prayers of the People,** 6 PM: Form III, BCP, Page 387; 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:** [448] O love, how deep, how broad, how high

**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:** [506] Praise the Spirit in creation

**Communion Anthem:** "Heal the World" by Michael Jackson

**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:** [530] Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

**The Dismissal**  
**Postlude**

# Good News Daily

January 31-February 6, 2010

## Sunday, January 31

Mark 8:22-30 *And the man looked up and said, "I can see people, but they look like trees, walking."* (v.24 NRSV)

On this date in 1468, Johann Gutenberg, who invented the printing press, died in obscurity. His invention lifted the written word from monastery scriptoria to movable type and made mass production of the Bible possible. Gutenberg, however, did not enjoy the fruits of his labor. Gutenberg had gone to Johann Fust for a loan to finance his system of printing. Fust foreclosed on the loan just when Gutenberg was in production of his famous 52-line Bible. Fust threw Gutenberg out, took over the business, finished the Bible, and made a fortune.

We sigh with sadness at the recollection of individuals who have been taken advantage of by others. Let's remember the opposite is also true: there are many persons who haven't taken advantage of wonderful and extraordinary opportunities. Such could have been the case with Jesus and the blind man from Bethsaida. When the blind man could see—but not clearly—he could have been satisfied or he could have just given up. I believe it was his faith-filled desire for Jesus to touch him again that brought the second touch. This time, he saw clearly. Our communication with the Lord must be constant. If we know we are blessed but somehow need extra strength to meet the tasks ahead, let's just ask the Lord for that second touch.

Genesis 18:16-33; Psalms 24, 29; Galatians 5:13-25

**Birthday:** Candy Farley, Alyssa Prawl, Susan Rodriguez, Valrie Simpson, and Sean Welch

**Anniversary:** None

## Monday, February 1

John 6:27-40 *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* (v.35)

While he was lecturing at Melbourne University, Viktor Frankl, the noted Swiss psychiatrist, was given the gift of a boomerang. After some reflection, he noted the boomerang to be much like those persons who had failed to find meaning in life. The boomerang is prized because it returns to its thrower. But that only happens, he observed, when the boomerang "fails." Only when the boomerang misses the target does it return to the thrower and, in that fact, Frankl saw the whole of human existence. A person will "return to himself to be concerned with himself only after he has missed his mission," Frankl reflected. How like our quest for bread! Jesus spoke to crowds of under-fed persons who

understood bread quite literally. For us today, bread may mean possessions, security, love, or personal significance. We toil for this bread and, eating it, we merely survive. How unlike the bread Jesus offers. He must be our target—our mission for living. For only by the living bread he supplies, is the hunger of our deepest being satisfied.

Genesis 19:1-29; Psalms 56, 57, 58; Hebrews 11:1-12

**Birthday:** Noah Grabin, and Taura Hindsley

**Anniversary:** None

## Tuesday, February 2

John 6:41-51 *"Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life."* (v.47)

The Emperor Charlemagne sat on his throne, dressed in flowing imperial robes with a magnificent crown on his head, a scepter in his hand, a sword at his side, and a copy of the Gospels in his lap. And he was dead.

The year was 814 and the throne was beneath the floor of a chapel in Prussia. Although his tomb was sealed, the people wanted Charlemagne to be alive. The tomb was opened two hundred years later and again in 1165. In 1215, Frederick's grandson ordered the remains sealed in a golden casket and the throne placed in the cathedral.

Death is no welcome intruder, but how sad it is to deny its presence. Physical death is a reality all must come to accept, but the greater reality is that life through Jesus Christ is eternal. Although death may rob us of our body, it cannot destroy our soul. In the midst of sadness, this is wonderful good news.

Genesis 21:1-21; Psalms 61, 62; Hebrews 11:13-22

**Birthday:** Amber Nicole Hixon, Rene Kocher, and Michael Sinanan

**Anniversary:** Alex and Terri Baird

## Wednesday, February 3

John 6:52-59 *The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"* (v.52)

What a question for the Jewish mind! Indeed, what a question for anyone who might be taking Jesus' words literally. To the non-Christian, the idea of actually eating flesh is abhorrent as, indeed, it should be. Cannibalism is certainly not the teaching. But the image is probably more than a metaphor. Although ritual has its purpose, the central focus of Christianity should be one of *relationship*—relationship with the person of Jesus Christ. It must be an intimate sharing of his very essence, and how better could one describe it than as body and blood. The words of Thomas à Kempis challenge us: "Jesus hath many lovers of his kingdom, but few bearers of his cross. All are disposed to rejoice with him, but few to suffer for his sake. Many follow him to the breaking of the bread, but few to the drinking of

his bitter cup.”

Jesus gives himself to us that we may drink of this cup.

Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 72; Hebrews 11:23-31

**Birth**day: John Edmondson, Douglas Gray, Roy Reid Jr., and Raymond Young Sr.

**Anniversary:** None

#### **Thursday, February 4**

John 6:60-71 *Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.”* (v.70)

Sigmund Freud’s concept of the adult personality is meeting with much disagreement. It states that a person’s character and disposition may, in later years, be altered but not changed. Psychologists now say that a person isn’t really washed up if the first three years of his or her life didn’t quite jell. Carl Jung described personality as a growing process—not what one is, but what he or she is constantly becoming. Any vacuum can be filled. One never eliminates hate until he pours out a lot of love. One never eliminates anger until he becomes saturated with understanding. One never eliminates greed until he can place another’s happiness on an equal level with his own. Gossip is never eliminated until one starts looking for the good instead of the bad. Is this not true of God’s mission for His Church? We should understand that even His chosen ones might turn against Him. Let’s eliminate those qualities within ourselves that do not work for the building of the Kingdom.

Genesis 23:1-20; Psalms 70, 71; Hebrews 11:32—12:2

**Birth**day: Dana Brown, Leslie Fabara, and Anne–Marcia Gaetan

**Anniversary:** Merrit and Velda Daley-Tate

#### **Friday, February 5**

John 7:1-13 *For not even his brothers believed in him.* (v.5)

I saw it happen again yesterday—the old “bonsai treatment.” It’s the world’s worst form of robbery. The sad part is that it is perfectly legal. The “bonsai treatment” is the best description I can think of to illustrate the censorious actions of a large segment of our population who derive particular delight in finding fault with other human beings. I call it that because the procedure is so similar to the Oriental art of dwarfing trees. It takes a special art to cultivate bonsai trees. Their clever beauty is achieved by painstakingly tying off the trees’ taproots again and again. The end product, just a few inches tall, is an exquisite conversation piece. Some folks think their role in life is dwarfing people, and apparently even Jesus’ brothers were guilty. Some Christians take pleasure in limiting the Church. They’ll go out of their way to tell you why you should aim your sights low. Since they consider themselves your friends, they do not hesitate to tell you to be realistic. Too often,

as individuals and as church members, we fail to understand that the power of Jesus Christ is not limited by our small, incomplete concept of reality. The power of faith is in its mystery and in God’s power to transcend our ability to understand.

Genesis 24:1-27; Psalm 69; Hebrews 12:3-11

**Birth**day: None

**Anniversary:** None

#### **Saturday, February 6**

John 7:14-36 *“Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”* (v.24)

I have my mind made up! How many times have we said that? We value self-confidence and it is important, if not essential, in any witness for Christ or in the obtaining of any goal. It is easy, however, to let self-confidence become arrogance. It is also possible to lack self-confidence and become self-obsessed. Whenever one does become so thrilled with his or her own significance (or preoccupied with their insignificance), that person is likely to make judgments on appearances without thinking the situation through or considering others.

Stop. Think it over. Base your decision on right judgments. Never let self-confidence cloud your vision or confuse your thinking. Decisions made on appearances lead to poor choices. But, no matter how well developed our self-confidence is, we must never lose sight of the fact that our confidence, to be truly effective, must be in God. If we trust God to lead us in the right direction, to guide us to the best answer, then we will be both successful and happy. We must learn to trust in God’s judgment, not our own. Our trust and confidence must be in God’s power to fulfill His purpose for us.

Genesis 24:28-38, 49-51; Psalms 75, 76; Hebrews 12:12-29

**Birth**day: Nicholas Allen, and Gillian Newman

**Anniversary:** None

*by Lee Miller*

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