

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"

Pentecost

Eucharist Year C, Daily Office Year Two
May 22 & 23, 2010

WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Weekend

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

Weekday Eucharist's

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
Saturday, Young Adult meeting 5 pm

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

The Rev. Robert J. Deshaies, Rector
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



THE VESTRY

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

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 Michael Sahdev 682-6742
Phillip Swann 370-1188

**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>

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Pam Sahdev <pamsahdev@aol.com>

Elise Roy, Volunteer Coordinator <volunteercordinator@saintbenedicts.org>

Saint Benedict's Website <http://www.saintbenedicts.org>

The Diocese of Southeast Florida: <http://www.diosef.org>

Unique to the Week

Check out **Oprah's No Phone Zone Pledge** at Oprah.com.

Baptisms at the 6 pm Mass of Grace London

Taylor, daughter of Jaycee and Jennifer Caffiero Taylor and **Claire Isabella Rose McIntoch**.

All Graduates Honored this weekend!

VBS Breakfast this weekend after the 8 am and 10 am Mass. Adults: \$5, Children 12 and under \$3.50.

Vacation Bible School Nurses needed: if you are a nurse or have nursing skills and would like to help out with Vacation Bible School this year, please contact Leila Yocum at (954) 614-7347. We are in need of people who can either do full day or half day sessions.

CURSILLO BREAKFAST: Please mark your Calenders for Sunday June 6th, 2010. The Cursillistas will be hosting a Breakfast immediately after the 10:00 O'clock Service in the Church Hall. Adults \$5.00, Children \$3.00

Daughters of the King meeting will be held on Saturday, June 5th at 10 am in Stevens Hall.

Mother's Union meeting will be held on Sunday June 6th after the 10 am Mass in St. Luke's room.

50th Anniversary CD: If you would like to purchase a 50th Anniversary program with an attached DVD featuring hundreds of pictures, please contact the church office. Cost is \$5.00

Anniversary Gift: Please consider making a special Anniversary Gift to the parish in the months ahead. Consider \$1.00 for each year that this parish has ministered in this area. Please earmark your check "Anniversary Gift".

Our Mission for May is Shepherds Way. Mission box money is earmarked for this ministry.

The Church Based Shelter Program, sponsored by The Shepherds Way, will be the recipient of the outreach ministry collections for the month of May. Our next week to host families will be Sept 20th. Pat and her team schedule this ministry throughout the year and they continually need basic supplies such as twin size air mattresses, twin sheet sets, new pillows, blankets, towels & washcloths, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers of all sizes (specifically sizes 3, 4, & 5). If you would like to donate any of these items, please mark them Homeless Ministry and leave them in the back of the church anytime this month. Any monetary donations can be placed in the mission collection box. Anyone interested in being involved in this ministry please contact Sharlene Lacey, Sonia Persico, Candy Farley or Sharon Smith.

Missions:

We often feel that supporting a mission means writing a check. That is far from the only way.

What can you do?

Make a sandwich - Co-Operative Feeding Program

Make a meal for a shut in - St Benedicts Elder Care Services

Donate a can of soup - St Laurence Chapel

Save little bars of soap, shampoo, etc - Seafarers House

Visit a shut in

Read a book - God's Little Lambs

Change a diaper - Haiti Comfort House

Play a game - Shepherds Way

Write an encouraging letter - Armed Services

Pray All of our missions There are countless ways to serve. All it takes is willingness and a little imagination.

MAY MISSIONS EXPANDED

May is Shepherds Way month at St Benedict's, but we are going to expand this to also include a letter campaign to our members/friends in the Armed Services. In honor of Memorial Day, please drop a note or a letter to one of our service men/women who are listed on the board in the narthex. Let's overwhelm them with signs of God's love. Don't know what to say? Share your favorite Scripture or just say "Thanks for protecting us".

Capt. Brian Atwood (Iraq) AstwoodB@yahoo.com
MA2 Burley, Danielle N. US Centcom, CCJ3?PSD, APO
AE 09365 Lt. Aimee Smith, PSC 809 Box 70, FPO AE
09626-9997

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will meet on June 2, 2010. Come see what this ministry for men is all about and how it contributes to the Parish.

Wednesday Evening, May 26th, Bible Study at 7:30 PM. We are studying Rick Warren's "Healing Life's Hurts". All are welcome to join. Bible Study will be held in Stevens Hall this week.

Thursday Morning Bible Study will meet at 10 am in St. Mark's room.



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



Tree of Life: 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".

Financial Statements: Please pick up your statements in the narthex to help us save on the postage.

Financial Info: Offerings for May 15 & 16, 2010

<u>Operating Fund</u>		
Pledges & Plate	\$	7,388.76
True Fund	\$	5.00
<u>Building Fund</u>		
Pledges and gifts	\$	1134.00



Month of April

<u>Operating Fund</u>		
Revenue	\$	42,074.45
Expenses	\$	45,314.22
Shortage	\$ -	3,239.77

Building Fund

Revenue	\$	7,554.72
Expenses	\$	12,188.57
Shortage	\$ -	4,633.85

Youth Groups & Young Adults

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010 First All Day -You have to experience it! Step back in time—and savor amazing stories from the Bible. Just imagine...• Exploring authentic traditions,• Building strong relationships with other Family members,• Trying new crafts and games, and • Learning from Joseph that God never leaves us alone through life's trials and triumphs
The adventure is from June 14th to June 18th, 2010.

We offering two choices □ Full Day 9AM – 5PM □ Half Day 9AM – 12:30PM For ages: 3yrs - grade 7 Pre-Registration is until May 16th 2010 We believe that God will use this incredible program to reach many children with the message of his love. Bring your children, grandchildren and your neighbor. The success of Your Vacation Bible School depends on YOU. YOU KNOW GOD'S LOVE? SHARE IT. Visit our website at www.saintbenedicts.org.

St. Benedict's Youth Ministry

Sunday school Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 10 am
 Dance Team open to girls/ boys, ages 7 and up.
 Rehearsals: Friday 7:30 pm
 Acolytes boys/girls ages 7 and older
 Nursery Infants to 4 years

Nursery Volunteers: All interested in volunteering for a Sunday during 10 a.m. service, please sign up on the calendar on the bulletin board in the narthex.

It's not too early to plan for summer! Youth Week at Kanuga (North Carolina) is June 20 - 25, deadline for registration is May 20. Go to kanuga.org for more information and registration form. Camp Wingmann has sessions starting June 13th through July 30th, check website for dates and registration form at campwingmann.org.

Limited financial aid is available through the Diocese and individual camps. Forms for financial assistance/scholarships are available on line at kanuga.org and diosef.org. Remember our Vacation Bible School will be June 14 - 18.

CRUISE CANADA AND USA FOR FALL FOLIAGE: a parish trip is being planned for October 4-16. Includes flight to Quebec City, hotel for 2 nights and cruise from Quebec back to Fort Lauderdale (Inside stateroom double occupancy) for as low as \$1587. See Father Bob for itinerary and pricing.

Ultreya: St. James in the Hills Episcopal Church will be hosting an Ultreya on Saturday, May 22nd. Potluck will be at 6 pm and the Ultreya will begin at 7pm.

Youth Summer Justice Program: The Law Office of the Public Defender is now accepting applications for our annual program. However, due to the demand from previous years, we are limiting admission to 20 students. If you know of a deserving child that is interested in this experience please have them complete the attached application and fax it to 954-831-8833 by June 11, 2010. (Youth will be notified by June 25, 2010 if accepted) The program is scheduled to run Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm from July 12-23, 2010. Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for more details.

Room Mate Wanted: an elderly lady in Sunrise Lakes is looking for a female 55 or older to share an apartment and expenses. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

St. Elizabeth's Guild: we are trying to reinstate the St. Elizabeth's guild in the church office. This is a group of people who would be available to come in and help out in the office whenever Sharon needs to go on vacation, or on busy weeks to help answer the phone, put the gazette together, show the hall etc. If you have free time every now and again and would be interested, please call the church office.

The Day of Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist

Morning Prayer (7:45 AM)

Book of Common Prayer, page 42

Invitatory: Christ our Passover (Prayer Book p. 46)

Psalm 118 (Prayer Book p. 762)

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

Prelude: Sara Burley – **viola**, Nichelle Singletary - **violin**

Processional Hymn: Morning Has Broken [8]

Hymn of Praise: Glory to God in the highest

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: `In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

The Word of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Psalm 104:25-35, 37b

25. O LORD, how manifold are your works! in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
26. Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, creatures both small and great.
27. There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, which you have made for the sport of it.
28. All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.
29. You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
30. You hide your face, and they are terrified; you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.
31. You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.
32. May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; may the LORD rejoice in all his works.
33. He looks at the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.
34. I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.
35. May these words of mine please him; I will rejoice in the LORD.
37. Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson **Romans 8:14-17**

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The Word of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Gospel Anthem: You Are My All in All Gillian Newman – guitar please see insert

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 14:8-17 (25-27)

GLORY TO YOU, LORD CHRIST

Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." ["I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."]

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, LORD CHRIST

Gospel Response: Alleluia

Sermon: High School Graduates

Special Song presentation: by Chantal Deshaies (Give You Wings)

Dance Team: "They Didn't Know" by Kurt Carr

Baptisms at the 6pm Mass Grace London Taylor

Baptismal Hymn: [295] 6pm

Nicene Creed: BCP 358

Prayers of the People, **6 pm Form VI, BCP, Page 392 (8 a.m.: BCP, 328)**

Peace Hymn: Sing His Praise Youth Choir

Healing Song: Sound of Music solo Whitney Braun

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

Offertory Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness (VBS)

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

Sanctus and Benedictus: [S-127] Holy, holy, holy Lord (Sanctus)

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

The Great Thanksgiving: BCP, 369 (8 a. m.: BCP, 333)

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

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

Fraction Anthem: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us {or L268}

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

Communion Hymn: Great Things Happen Youth Choir

Communion Anthem: Let Us Break Bread Together L152

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: Blessed Be Your Name (VBS) please see insert

The Dismissal

The Postlude: Gillian Newman

Good News Daily

May 23-29, 2010

Sunday, May 23

Acts 4:18-21, 23-33 *"For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."* (v.20 NIV)

When you have witnessed something amazing most people cannot help but tell about it. I remember seeing Hawaii for the first time. My initial breath as I got off the plane was filled with the sweet aroma of the native flowers. The air there actually smells good! The sand is made of beautiful, crushed shells. Around every twist of the road is a surprise of nature. Seeing it myself was better than any description I had been given, but that would not stop me from trying to express it to you.

In this Scripture from Acts, Peter and John are so filled with the Holy Spirit that they cannot help but speak about Jesus and his saving grace. They were even threatened with punishment if they spoke or taught at all in the name of Jesus. Ha! They knew Jesus; they saw his miracles, one after another! Remember, these same two, Peter and John, were there with Jesus on the mountain as he was transfigured before them. They *saw* his glory shining, his clothes dazzling white, and *heard* the Father's voice, "This is my son whom I love, listen to him!" (Mark 9:7). When Jesus reveals himself to you, nothing and no one can keep you from sharing the miracle of his love! The circumstances are always amazing, personal, and powerful. Come, Lord Jesus! Reveal yourself to me again today!

Deuteronomy 16:9-12; Psalm 118; John 4:19-26

Birthdays: Lila Kennedy, Louis Molina, and Kimberly Wilbanks

Anniversary: Ben and Alejandra Stoddart

Monday, May 24

1 Timothy 1:1-17 *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.* (v.17)

Are there times throughout a worship service where you find yourself abandoned to God alone and are able to get caught up in the movement of the Holy Spirit? It might be during a prayer or a song, but suddenly there is no one else in the sanctuary—just you and God. St. Paul does this even as he is writing a letter to his friend Timothy. He *can't help* but break out in praise for what God has done for him. Then he says, "Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst" (1 Timothy 1:15). Paul is not the only one who can claim this position. Incredibly, Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I, *Liz*, am the worst. Jesus' invitation to eternal life is always personal. We were destined to death because of sin; but because of the atoning sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf, we who are washed in his blood and made righteous are promised eternal life. He calls and

welcomes each one of us—individually. Many times he beckons, "Come to me." He gives rest to the weary. To those who hunger and thirst, he refreshes. He is the one who has the words of life. One day all believers will be together at the heavenly banquet table. And I can hardly wait to swap stories with Paul! Let your praise bubble forth as you worship the King! Amen!

Proverbs 10:1-12; Psalm 25; Matthew 12:22-32

Birthdays: Stephen Foster-Davis, Hopelyn Gray-Haughton, Van Hulmes, Gene Mc Lymont, and Ben Stoddart

Anniversary: Phillip and Heather Swann

Tuesday, May 25

Proverbs 15:16-33 *A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.* (v.30)

We are integrated beings in that we are a combination of body, mind, soul, and spirit. I know that when I have a cold or a headache, my spirit feels down. When I am spiritually dry, I am more susceptible to physical ailments. When my mind and soul are overwhelmed by stress, I don't sleep well which drags the rest of me down. One area touches the other. There is a positive side though! A cheerful look or words of love can bring life and healing. "The tongue has the power of life and death" (Proverbs 18:21). I know the power one word of encouragement spoken at the right moment can produce. It is the same type of dynamic energy as a lightning bolt. This makes me want to be generous, not miserly about giving out positive words and looks. You may never know how much the recipient needed the encouragement. After all, "good news gives health to the bones." Here are some words of love: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). More good news! This brings life to my spirit which brings healing to my mind and body. Jesus affects every part of my being! He is Lord! Thanks be to God!

Psalm 26, 28; 1 Timothy 1:18—2:8; Matthew 12:33-42

Birthdays: Marlyn Ally, Diana Prince, and James Rugg

Anniversary: Wesley and Marcia Bonnitto, and Louis and Whitney DeNicholas

Wednesday, May 26

Matthew 12:43-50 *For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.* (v.50)

I have four siblings with whom I am very close. We have endured together through some very difficult periods, including the death of our father when I was six years old. As we march through time together we have always felt a strong solidarity, almost as if we were a team; helping and cheering, pushing each other on. It seems the difficult times in our lives in some way act as glue which help hold us together. When I look at the larger picture being portrayed in Jesus' teaching here, you and I, *the doers of the Fathers' will*, have this same

family connection spiritually. When we acknowledge one another as spiritual siblings, it brings our lives into a deeper dimension. Jesus wants us to be connected to him *and* to one another. "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me" (John 17:22-23). As disciples and, yes, *siblings* of Jesus, with his blood flowing thorough our veins, we really are heirs to the throne. This is true kinship! Once again, we look ahead to the heavenly banquet where we will all join together in the unending hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy!

Proverbs 17:1-20; Psalm 38; 1 Timothy 3:1-16

Birthday: Lloyd Mc Bean, Maureen Roach, Myrtle Shepherd, Everton Sibblis, and Andrew Valere

Anniversary: None

Thursday, May 27

Matthew 13:24-30 *"Let both grow together until the harvest."*(v.30a)

Jesus cautions us in this parable about the wheat and weeds not to pull the weeds "because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them" (v.29). The image is that these two look so much alike; identical in fact, that you cannot tell the difference. The wheat is so precious; it is not worth the possibility of spoiling it. However, there will be a time when they will be safely separated. Our omniscient, holy God is the only truly capable judge, for He sees and knows all. To make a judgment when we don't know the complete story is tricky at best, tragic at worst. A person may make a huge mistake and then be so changed by the grace of God and the circumstances which follow, that we actually witness their redemption. Others may look perfect on the outside, but their hearts are far from God. "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). It's actually pretty easy to fool people. I should know; my twin sister and I would joke around by switching places, tricking our teachers and classmates. People still get us mixed up! My twin-hood helps me appreciate the fact that looks can be deceiving. Lord, forgive me for judging others when I don't see the whole picture!

Proverbs 21:30—22:6; Psalm 37:1-18; 1 Timothy 4:1-16

Birthday: Rochelle Comissiong, Gillian Grey, Barbara Sehi, and Edith Wild

Anniversary: Anita Lowe, Everton and Alicia Sibblis, and Jeffrey and Jill Thompson

Friday, May 28

Psalm 31 *Into your hands I commit my spirit, redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth.* (v.5)

Jesus said the first part of this sentence with his last breath. This Scripture is uttered by people everywhere, whether they are in peril or upon death. Our spirit is the part of us that lives on into eternity. Interestingly, anesthesia may put our body and mind to

sleep, but our spirit is awake and working. Our spirit never dies. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote, "There is no death; what seems so is transition." One of Jesus' greatest promises is found in John 14:19: "Because I live you also will live." I recently had the privilege of being with my mother throughout her terminal illness. I saw her body becoming weak, but I witnessed her spirit—the *person she really is*—soaring. Inside she was still fresh, strong, quick, running, springing! I perceived deeply in my heart how the Holy Spirit was infusing her with life—even though it was the invisible life of the spirit. I am certain as she breathed her last breath here, the Lord, *who lives*, brought her from the hands of death and carried her to life. She lives! And it is all due to the unfathomable love of God for us. By His one great sacrifice, God has joined the person in us—our spirit, the invisible part of us which God sees and knows and loves—to Himself. Thank you, O Lord, God of truth. My spirit belongs to you!

Proverbs 23:19-21, 29—24:2; 1 Timothy 5:17-25; Matthew 13:31-35

Birthday: Maria Apollon, Janelle Germain, and Lauren Neita

Anniversary: None

Saturday, May 29

1 Timothy 6:6-21 *For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.* (v.7)

Isn't this a sobering thought? We come into this world and leave it in a state of pure grace. There is nothing we can bring with us and nothing we can carry out. We made no advanced provisions (like a fruit basket upon arrival!) and of all the possessions filling our homes and pockets, not one thing will leave with us. The promise is that God is with us. He is the one who nourishes, sustains, and brings us life. "My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place," says the psalmist (Psalm 139:15). There is no time or place God is not with us. Jesus, who was there to welcome us into this world, will be there to welcome us into eternity. What a comfort to know we are spiritually chaperoned by the Almighty! He loved us into this world, he loves us through this life, and he loves us into eternity. Now that's safety! That's security! That is truly amazing grace. Father, thank you for the miracle of your love!

Proverbs 25:15-28; Psalms 30, 32; Matthew 13:36-43

Birthday: Dennis Kelley, Bryce Nachtwey, and Christopher Rich

Anniversary: None

by Liz Tucker

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