

# 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 Pentecost Proper 6

Eucharist Year C, Daily Office Year Two

June 12 & 13, 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)

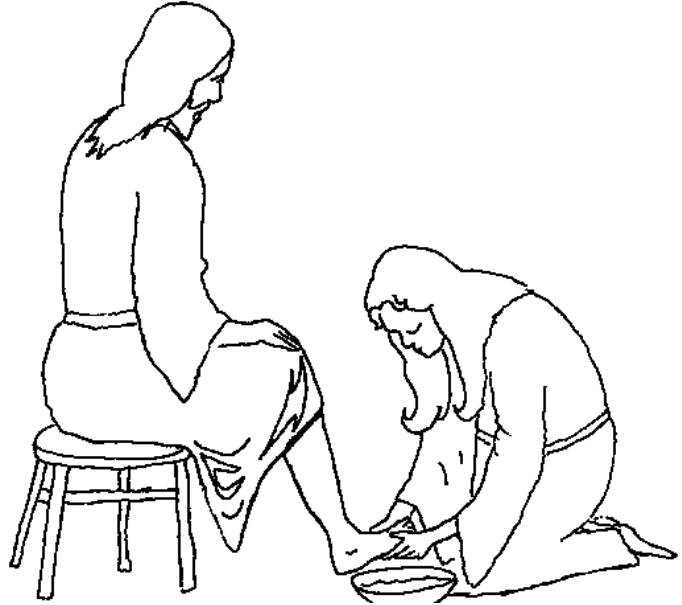
##### Weekday Eucharist's

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 Kehrl, Bookkeeper

Egbert Grant, Sexton

Pam Sahdev, Sunday School Superintendent

Cheryl Burley, Youth Ministries Coordinator

**Office Hours:** Monday – Friday, 9 am to 4 pm

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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 (954) 309-2684

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](mailto:stbennys@saintbenedicts.org)>

Fr. Bob Deshaies <[revdeshaies@saintbenedicts.org](mailto:revdeshaies@saintbenedicts.org)>

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Elise Roy, Volunteer Coordinator [volunteercoordinator@saintbenedicts.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@saintbenedicts.org)

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

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

## Unique to the Week

**The Flowers on the Altar** are given to the greater glory of God in loving memory of Veronica Persaud from Joshua Persaud and children.

Prayers requested for those attending Cursillo this weekend: The Rev. Pamela Barras, Barbara Jesselli, Sharon Lacey, Jackie Singletary, Sharon Smith,

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

**Farewell To Rev. Mary Kangara and her husband John.** Potluck luncheon will be held on Sunday, June 27th after the 10 am Mass in the Parish Hall. Please bring a dish. If you have any questions please see John Lacey.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

We are offering two choices □ Full Day 9AM – 5PM □ Half Day 9AM – 12:30PM For ages: 3yrs - grade 7. 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 neighbors. The success of Your Vacation Bible School depends on YOU. YOU KNOW GOD'S LOVE? SHARE IT. Visit our website at [www.saintbenedicts.org](http://www.saintbenedicts.org).

**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.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CD:** If you would like to purchase a 50<sup>th</sup> 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".

### **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.

**The Brotherhood of St. Andrew** will meet on July 7, 2010 at 6:30 pm in St. Luke's room. Come see what this ministry for men is all about and how it contributes to the Parish.

### **Wednesday Evening Bible Study at 7:30 PM**

June 16: Pot luck dinner.

June 23: Movie night—AMAZING GRACE: the life of William Wilberforce who worked to abolish the slave trade in England. Excellent movie!

**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".

**Online Banking:** If you do online banking, please consider paying your pledge online also. Especially during the summer months when you are traveling and not able to attend church every week to keep up on your pledges. Under account number put your pledge number and please remember to have two separate checks out for the Building and Operating accounts.

**Financial Info:** Offerings for June 5 & 6, 2010  
Operating Fund

Pledges & Plate		\$	8,122.25
True Fund		\$	26.00
<u>Building Fund</u>			
Pledges and gifts		\$	3,089.00

### **People are Important**

Congratulations to **Natania Baxter** on her acceptance into Nova Southeastern Law School.

**Shaneka Williams** was given an award for being on the Deans Honor Rolls.

### **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

### **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.

**The annual diocesan Youth Convention** will be held at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, 3109 East Sunrise Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, August 6-7, 2010. The cost is \$35.00. Those who are interested in becoming cabinet members of the Youth Commission must send the Officer Ballot Application and Parental Responsibility Form to Mary Cobiella at: [mary@diosef.org](mailto:mary@diosef.org) or by fax at 305-375-8054, no later than July 26, 2010.

**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 \$1600. See Father Bob for itinerary and pricing.

**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.

**A "Happening Type" Weekend for Middle School Youth:** *New Beginnings #2, July 16-18, 2010 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Coral Gables.* The New Beginnings weekend event is designed especially to respond to the unique challenges and concerns of youth

in grades 6-8. It was created by adults and young people to help participants grow in their love of themselves, others and our Lord Jesus Christ. The program begins at 7 p.m. on Friday evening and continues through to 5 p.m. on Sunday. During the weekend, participants meet peers from across the diocese, enjoy skits, listen to talks, and participate in small group activities and discussions. These activities focus on self, friends, parents, siblings, school, God's love, prayer and the church. Free time is built in for youth and sponsors to have an opportunity to fellowship with their newfound friends. Participants of New Beginnings may attend as many weekends as they choose throughout their middle school years. Participants do not have to be Episcopalian, but must be recommended through an Episcopal Church and have the backing of an adult sponsor from that church, who must attend the entire weekend. *All youth of the diocese are invited to participate.* The cost for the weekend is \$40.00, payable by cash or check at the time of registration. The most important thing to do is to begin praying for this weekend, the participants, and the team. This is going to be an amazing weekend!

### **PLEASE REGISTER NOW FOR NEW BEGINNINGS**

1. Participants spend two nights, bring air mattress/sleeping bag and personal items
2. Adult sponsors must register, use participant form and note as adult sponsor
3. Any group of 4 or more must have an adult sponsor, if this is a problem call Pam. We will work it out.
4. Registration is by mail only. See registration form for details

If you need anything or have any questions, please call the Broward Deanery Youth Coordinator: Pamela Sahdev: 954 802-8744 or email [pamsahdev@aol.com](mailto:pamsahdev@aol.com) or Vashti Dozier: 305 986-7112 or [VDDoiser@aol.com](mailto:VDDoiser@aol.com)

**St. Benedict's** This church has been my safe haven and source of strength throughout the most formative years of my life and no words can express how much it means to me. The church community, as well as the experiences had-spiritual and emotional-have helped me accept Christ in my life and make decisions that reflect positively upon my home away from home. There have been situations presented to me over the past few years-my high school experience especially-in which temptation and sin were calling my name and had it not been for my foundation in St. Benedict's and overall faith, I know that I would not be the same person I am today. I thank you for the generous scholarship and for everything that you have ever been to me. St. Benedict's will forever be in my heart no matter where I go and I look forward to coming back with testimonies and stories to share. God bless, Raquelle Newman.

# 3 Pentecost Proper 6

## The Holy Eucharist

### Morning Prayer (7:45 AM)

Book of Common Prayer, page 42  
Invitatory: Venite (Prayer Book p. 44)  
Psalm 93 (Prayer Book p. 722)  
Magnificat (Prayer Book p.50)

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

**Call to Worship:** "How Majestic Is Your Name" by Ted Snadquist  
**Processional Hymn:** [470] There's a wideness in God's mercy

### **Opening Acclamation**

(8 am: BCP, p. 323) BCP, p. 299

**Hymn of Praise:** "Gloria" by Andrea Rogero

### **The Collect of the Day**

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **The First Lesson** 1 Kings 21:1-10, (11-14), 15-21a

The following events took place: Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. And Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, so that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house; I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give you my ancestral inheritance." Ahab went home resentful and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him; for he had said, "I will not give you my ancestral inheritance." He lay down on his bed, turned away his face, and would not eat. His wife Jezebel came to him and said, "Why are you so depressed that you will not eat?" He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard for it'; but he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" His wife Jezebel said to him, "Do you now govern Israel? Get up, eat some food, and be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal; she sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who lived with Naboth in his city. She wrote in the letters, "Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth at the head of the assembly; seat two scoundrels opposite him, and have them bring a charge against him, saying, 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out, and stone him to death." [The men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. Just as it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, they proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the assembly. The two scoundrels came in and sat opposite him; and the scoundrels brought a charge against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city, and stoned him to death. Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned; he is dead."] As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Go, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead." As soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab set out to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying: Go down to meet King Ahab of Israel, who rules in Samaria; he is

now in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession. You shall say to him, "Thus says the LORD: Have you killed, and also taken possession?" You shall say to him, "Thus says the LORD: In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, dogs will also lick up your blood." Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" He answered, "I have found you. Because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the LORD, I will bring disaster on you." *The Word of the Lord.* THANKS BE TO GOD.

### **Psalm 5:1-8**

1. *Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my meditation.*
2. *Hearken to my cry for help, my King and my God, for I make my prayer to you.*
3. *In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; early in the morning I make my appeal and watch for you.*
4. *For you are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, and evil cannot dwell with you.*
5. *Braggarts cannot stand in your sight; you hate all those who work wickedness.*
6. *You destroy those who speak lies; the bloodthirsty and deceitful, O LORD, you abhor.*
7. *But as for me, through the greatness of your mercy I will go into your house; I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you.*
8. *Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness, because of those who lie in wait for me; make your way straight before me.*

### **The Second Lesson Galatians 2:15-21**

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

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

**Gospel Anthem:** "Unclouded Day" by J. K. Alwood - arranged by Don Marsh

### **The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 7:36-8:3**

#### **GLORY TO YOU, LORD CHRIST**

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him-- that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "Speak." "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has

not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**PRAISE TO YOU, LORD CHRIST**

**Gospel Response:** "Let The Heavens Be Glad" by Dan Feiten

**Sermon:** Rev. Robert J. Deshaies

**Nicene Creed:** 6 p.m.: BCP, 358 (8 a.m.: BCP, 326)

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

**Confession and Peace:** 6 p.m. & 10 am: BCP, 360 (8 a.m.: BCP, 331)

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

**Peace Hymn:** "My Faith Looks up to Thee" {L88}

**Offertory Hymn:** [432] O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height

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

**The Great Thanksgiving:** BCP, 361 (8 a. m.: BCP, 333)

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

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

**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:** [318] Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face

**Communion Anthem:** "We're Marching to Zion" words by Issac Watts;  
music by Robert Lowry; arranger: Don Marsh

**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:** [495] Hail, Thou Once, despised Jesus!

**The Dismissal  
The Postlude**

## ***Good News Daily***

**June 13-19, 2010**

### **Sunday, June 13**

Numbers 6:22-27 *The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.* (v.25 NAS)

I started to write about Luke 48: "To whom much is given, much is required." But then I realized that *everything* I have been given has come through God's graciousness. His face was shining upon me while I was yet in my mother's womb. My life has been blessed throughout my days. I have been given so much that I don't know what is required of me except to acknowledge God's generous love. What can one *do* for God's face to shine upon you? Nothing! Only bask in His light and share His love with others. I am gradually learning. His blessing is to be received and shared. It is nothing I can deserve or earn but it is something I can recognize and proclaim.

Psalms 93, 96; Acts 13:1-12; Luke 12:41-48

**Birthday:** Hyacinth Davis, Hyacinth Lawrence, and Christina Norman

**Anniversary:** None

### **Monday, June 14**

Romans 1:1-15 *That is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.* (v.12)

As much as I enjoy being alone, I now realize that fellowship with other believers is what fulfills my joy. Paul longed for that fellowship also, that they might share spiritual gifts with each other. Do we know what our spiritual gifts are? Are we eager to share them with others? Sharing spiritual gifts is not really an option; it sounds like a requirement if we want God to shine His face upon us. Nine spiritual gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12. Do we come together expecting to use those gifts? Do we expect miracles? Do we hear prophecy? Do we pray in tongues? Do we know that God will heal our diseases? I wonder how often we miss the light of His face by not seizing the gifts He places before us! Lord, help our unbelief and give us the boldness to receive what You offer.

Numbers 9:15-23, 10:29-36; Psalm 80; Matthew 17:14-21

**Birthday:** Nigel Crooks, Bennett Duncan, Melissa Holmes, and Donna Prawl

**Anniversary:** David and Margaret Williams

### **Tuesday, June 15**

Romans 1:16-25 *For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.*

*Amen.* (v.25)

Years ago as I contemplated the return of Jesus and the good life I was currently living, I asked myself what I was willing to give up for Jesus. The answer was, "Not much." I liked the natural world around me. It occurred to me that I was not worshiping the Creator but his creation. I knew the order needed to change so I knelt in a chapel and asked God to help me to know Jesus. I expected to receive a deeper understanding about the sacrifice Jesus had made on the cross, or perhaps an intellectual revelation. Instead, I was overwhelmed with a sense of *love*. It permeated the space around me. It enveloped me. I was unprepared for my emotional response. It changed my life. Love created a relationship that wasn't there before.

Numbers 11:1-23; Psalm 78:1-39; Matthew 17:22-27

**Birthday:** Maurice Greene, Marquis Jones, Anderson Nandoo, Andrew Scott, Sean Tromans, and Dominic Young

**Anniversary:** None

### **Wednesday, June 16**

Romans 1:28—2:11 *Therefore you are without excuse, every man of you who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.* (v.1)

A few years ago I was in an inner healing support group that prayed for each other, whether or not we knew what we needed. I came out of one of those "soaking prayers" knowing I had been healed of *something*. When I asked the Lord what it was the response was "stiff-necked." To me that meant "arrogance." "You're not arrogant!" they all cried, to which I agreed. Eventually I asked the Lord to show me the arrogance. He did! I am still being healed, one layer at a time. Every time the Lord shows me a new arrogant position it is a new revelation, but then I have to work it out of my behavior. What I realize is that I can no longer judge another for their arrogance, a thing I used to detest in other people. That is often the case when we don't see the log in our own eye, but we see it in others. In essence, we are condemning ourselves.

Numbers 11:24-35; Psalm 119:97-120; Matthew 18:1-

9

**Birthday:** Phillip Chang

**Anniversary:** None

**Thursday, June 17**

Matthew 18:10-20 *"And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church..."*(v.17a)

My church has recently undertaken a "Peacemaker" course, where we learn to listen to each other and to realize that our perception is affected by our life experiences. My usual way to deal with conflict is to avoid it. One of the lessons was titled "The Silence that Stifles True Happiness." It showed me that avoiding a problem doesn't solve it. It also doesn't make it go away. The only solution is to face it squarely with the other person and let God's love shine His truth into it. If the other person won't agree to that, try bringing a third person into the matter. If that doesn't work, take it up with the church. *Who would do that?* Well, one answer is to have within the church a group trained in reconciliation who can mediate the Peacemaker principles. My church is working toward that goal. Meanwhile, I have begun to see that the deep happiness of full fellowship is hindered by the easy way out—avoiding the issue. I am also seeing that this does not have to be a major conflict; a small splinter can irritate and eventually infect the body. As the Body of Christ we must be willing to pull out the splinters.

Numbers 12:1-16; Psalm 83; Romans 2:12-24

**BirthDay:** Mark Cris Nembhard, and Keith Samuels

**Anniversary:** None

**Friday, June 18**

Matthew 18:21-35 *"And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt..."*(v.27)

Forgiveness involves not only the will but the heart. The master not only forgave the debt, he released his servant from all obligation for it. It was erased. Only God's compassion in us can allow us to do that! Yet, unforgiveness that we allow to remain deep within us holds us in slavery to itself. We have created our own prison regardless of how "right" we may be. I remember when my husband came home to a jabbering and noisy household and began sulking and behaving poorly. I prayed about it, wondering what was wrong. The Lord said, "Ask forgiveness." I didn't understand what it was about but I obeyed. Dan forgave, and when he did my eyes were opened to see the hectic situation he had walked into when what he wanted was rest from a long day at work. Sometimes we just don't see the problem until we

have taken a step in faith to ask forgiveness. Lord, help us to understand the need for compassionate forgiveness.

Numbers 13:1-3, 21-30; Psalm 88; Romans 2:25—3:8

**BirthDay:** Scott Viven Belnavis, Aston Boothe, Daphne Fearon, Carla Holness, Dorothy Simon, and Allicia Walford

**Anniversary:** Keith and Cynthia Ellis, Winston and Pansy Plummer, and Mark and Maria Tromans

**Saturday, June 19**

Numbers 13:31—14:25 *But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us..."*(v.31)

Caleb saw that the Lord was on the side of the Israelites and he encouraged Moses to move into the land the Lord was giving them. But others who had scouted the land were fearful. Fear forecasts defeat, never victory. Fear enslaves us and immobilizes us to inaction, whether we hide it behind anger or smiles or a brave front. Often the thing we fear will come upon us. We have encouraged its existence. In that desert place it filtered through the ranks creating first dissatisfaction, then anarchy. Faith, on the other hand, will win the battle that God has prepared. Fortunately, the Hebrew people listened to Caleb and Joshua. Otherwise, they might have had to wander in the desert another 40 years. We all have desert places where fear holds us captive and we cannot move ahead to take the high ground God has called us to. Lord, increase our faith and destroy the fear that holds us back. Teach us to proclaim Your victory over our circumstances, and to see with Your vision rather than the darkness that fear sets before us.

Psalms 87, 90; Romans 3:9-20, Matthew 19:1-12

**BirthDay:** Amanda Bryan, Justin Dunkley, Keshia Ollivierre and Alyssa Peterkin

**Anniversary:** Larry and Katie Rice and Louis and Fran Thomas

*by Ellen M. Smith*

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