

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 Pentecost Proper 7

Eucharist Year C, Daily Office Year Two
June 19 & 20, 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 (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 Tom Donnellan
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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Elise Roy, Volunteer Coordinator <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 Sacramental Candle is given to the greater glory of God in loving memory of Ed Quinn in the celebration of Father's Day from Nickie and John Quinn.

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

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make our Vacation Bible School such a success this past week. 52 children participated in the program and our youth led the activities. A big thank you to Dona Carty, program Director and adult advisors for their help.

Farewell to the Rev. Mary Kangara and her husband John. Potluck luncheon will be held next 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.

CAKE AND MIMOSAS (champagne and orange juice) FOR FATHERS IN CELEBRATION OF FATHER'S DAY: The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will be offering cake and mimosas after each service as a special sweet treat for fathers. Just a nice start to a special day for fathers!!

Miracles did not stop happening 2000 years ago, they still happen today. Bella is a little girl who became paralyzed and diagnosed with cancer when she was only 4. She was not expected to ever walk again and doctors said she would live only a few months. Today, she is 7 1/2 and is cancer free! Hers is a formally investigated miracle and a story of faith, prayer & Victory!
Raymond Rodriguez-Tores, Bella's father and author of "Why NOT me?" will share Bella's miracle with us on Sunday, June 27 at 10am. You will not want to miss the opportunity to affirm God's hand in healing Bella, and our world.

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".

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 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 12 & 13, 2010

Operating Fund

Pledges & Plate	\$	6,529.00
True Fund	\$	20.00



Building Fund

Pledges and gifts	\$	1,549.00
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Financial Report for contributions from the ECW Walk –A-Thon

Building Fund	\$	1800.00
Mission	\$	390.00

Thanks to All Who Participated!

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@diocsef.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 or Vashti Dozier: 305 986-7112 or VDDoiser@aol.com

4 Pentecost Proper 7

The Holy Eucharist

Morning Prayer (7:45 AM)

Book of Common Prayer, page 42
Invitatory: Venite (Prayer Book p. 44)
Psalm 66 (Prayer Book p. 673)
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: [506] Praise the Spirit in creation

Opening Acclamation

(8 am: BCP, p. 323) BCP, p. 355

Hymn of Praise: "Gloria" by Andrea Rogero

The Collect of the Day

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." [Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you."] He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus."

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

Psalm 42

1. *As the deer longs for the water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God.*
2. *My soul is a thirst for God, a thirst for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?*
3. *My tears have been my food day and night, while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?"*
4. *I pour out my soul when I think on these things: how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,*
5. *With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among those who keep holy-day.*
6. *Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? And why are you so disquieted within me?*
7. *Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.*
8. *My soul is heavy within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan, and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.*
9. *One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts; all your rapids and floods have gone over me.*
10. *The LORD grants his loving-kindness in the daytime; in the night season his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.*
11. *I will say to the God of my strength, "Why have you forgotten me? And why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?"*
12. *While my bones are being broken, my enemies mock me to my face;*
13. *All day long they mock me and say to me, "Where now is your God?"*
14. *Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? And why are you so disquieted within me?*
15. *Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.*

The Second Lesson **Galatians 3:23-29**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

The Word of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Gospel Anthem: "Father, Lead Me Day by Day" by George C. Strattner (1691)
- Arranged by David Stanley York

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 8:26-39

GLORY TO YOU, LORD CHRIST

Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" -- for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let

them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, LORD CHRIST

Gospel Response: If Anyone Lacks Wisdom

Sermon: Rev. Robert J. Deshaies

Blessing of Fathers

Solo by Chantal Deshaies

Nicene Creed: 6 p.m. & 10 am BCP, 358 (8 a.m.: BCP, 326)

Prayers of the People: 6 pm & 10 am Form III, BCP, Page 387(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: "Where He Leads Me" {L144}

Offertory Hymn: All That I Am

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: Mighty To Save

Communion Anthem: How Great Is Our God

Communion Meditation: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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: [450] All hail the power of Jesus' Name!

The Dismissal

The Postlude

Good News Daily

June 20-26, 2010

Sunday, June 20

Numbers 14:26-45 *"Because you have turned away from the LORD, he will not be with you..."* (v.43b NIV)

The bumper sticker's message startled me. It read, "Stop global whining." Today's reading in the book of Numbers continues the story of Israel's whining. On the verge of ending their desert sojourn and preparing to enter the Promised Land, the people begin to mutter and grumble. Some of the scouts Moses sent to explore the land of Canaan have reported that the Israelites "can't attack those people, they're stronger than we are.... The land devours those living in it. The people are giants" (Numbers 13:31-33). The people are frightened and whine once more about their circumstances. Caleb has a different spirit and follows the Lord wholeheartedly (Numbers 14:24). God announces to the people, through Moses, that they will experience what they fear because they have not trusted Him. God doesn't appreciate whining. Yet, so many of us do our own grumbling and whining against God, especially when things don't seem to go our way or God hasn't implemented our plans for our lives. God often shows us that grumbling and whining are their own reward. We need to avoid "global whining."

Psalms 66, 67; Acts 15:1-12; Luke 12:49-56

Birthday: None

Anniversary: Russell and Jeanne Cheatham and Keith and Catherine Rodriguez

Monday, June 21

Matthew 19:13-22 *Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* (v.14)

One of the joys of my life in the past eighteen months has been watching my grandson encounter the world. Bit by bit, day by day, he is teaching me how to look at everything with the eyes of a child, and what a wonderful world it is. A snowflake is now a mystery and beautiful thing, not just a nuisance that must be swept from the car. He has grown from a little helpless baby completely dependent on others for everything to a rambunctious little boy who runs everywhere, comments on everything (usually in a language comprehensible to none save himself), and expresses his delight in everything from a bug to a dust ball. He has little sympathy for adults who have to *work* when he wants to play. I am sometimes embarrassed by how much he trusts me. Jesus says, "The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." My grandson has given me a deeper insight into these words: God delights in those who delight in Him. He loves those who enjoy His presence in their lives, and see His handiwork all around them. He cherishes those who let themselves be touched by Him.

Numbers 16:1-19; Psalm 89:1-18; Romans 3:21-31

Birthday: Rebecca Rivera, and Ann Saunders

Anniversary: Patrick and Deslin Graham

Tuesday, June 22

Matthew 19:23-30 *"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."* (v.29)

When I have to preach this passage, I confess I have trouble understanding and explaining to a congregation what Jesus was telling Peter. Was he letting Peter know that calculating the material benefits for following Jesus was missing the point completely? Or was he suggesting that the rewards of following him are incalculable, of a magnitude beyond human comprehension? Was even making the point that rewards are a legitimate consideration in the cost of discipleship? Maybe Jesus wanted Peter, and us, to think about all these things. Yes, calculating the material benefits for following Jesus does miss the point, "Why settle for some things when you can have the Creator of everything?" Yes, the rewards of following Jesus are incalculable, beyond all human comprehension. We have eternal life as co-heirs with Christ, as children of God participating in the Divine Life of the Trinity. Yes, rewards are a legitimate consideration in the cost of discipleship. What does taking up the cross mean if it does not result in resurrection to new life? Peter's question may strike us as *unspiritual*, even crass. Jesus didn't treat it that way and we shouldn't either.

Numbers 16:20-35, Psalms 97, 99, 100; Romans 4:1-12

Birthday: Ethan Hazell, and Zachary Walford

Anniversary: Donald and Joan Calder

Wednesday, June 23

Matthew 20:1-16 *"Or are you envious because I am generous?"* (v.15)

The parable of the workers in the vineyard tends to distract those hearing it. Like the workers, they describe the owner's behavior as "unfair." They sympathize with the workers who "bore the burden of the work and the heat of the day." The vineyard's owner seems more capricious than generous. Reading the story, we suspect they may have a point. We, and the workers, think that the issue is the amount and quality of the work done. Jesus tells us that the amount and quality of the work is irrelevant. What matters is the generosity of the owner. Though we Christians rather glibly acknowledge that we are justified by faith and that we cannot earn salvation, we have a difficult time believing it. We think that the better we are and the more strictly we keep God's commands, we will gain rewards based on our performance. But what greater reward could there be than eternal life in the presence of God? And how do we earn heaven? We can't; we are unworthy servants (Luke 17:10). We work in the vineyard by the grace of God, and we receive abundantly from His generous hand.

Numbers 16:36-50; Psalms 101, 109; Romans 4:13-25

Birthday: Tory Dawson, Diane Freedman, and Sandi Starrett

Anniversary: Pedro and Kesha Aristud

Thursday, June 24

Romans 5:1-11 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.* (vv.1-2a)

One dictionary (Merriam-Webster) variously describes peace as “a state of calm, quiet and security, freedom from disturbing thoughts or emotions, harmony between once-hostile antagonists, or the ending of hostilities.” True peace with God includes all these elements and more. The access into this grace and peace in which we now stand, we have gained through Jesus Christ. Because he died on the cross and rose from the dead, we can now rest secure in the assurance of God’s love and the certainty of His promise of eternal life. We no longer need fear expulsion from His presence, nor what Shakespeare called the “thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to.” God, in Christ, has restored us to harmony with Him as befits those created in His image and likeness. Not only do we know and experience harmony with God, we are now co-heirs with Christ, adopted as Christ’s brothers and sisters. All this is ours because we have been justified, made right with God, by faith. We have trusted God and know now that His promises are true. We have peace, “a peace that transcends all understanding, which will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7). Peace be with you.

Numbers 17:1-11; Psalm 105:1-22; Matthew 20:17-28

Birthday: St. Clair Alleyne, Mitch Herrick, Diedre Howden, John Kennedy, and Nia Murray

Anniversary: Vincent and Patricia Chimera, Albert and Gloria Hood, Keith and Winnifred Howell, and Selvyn and Josette Thomas

Friday, June 25

Matthew 20:29-34 *Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.* (v.32)

The evangelists tell us that Jesus never hesitated to ask questions which challenged the persons to whom they were directed. Often the questions force them to consider who Jesus is and what they truly want from him. Jesus asks Andrew and an unnamed disciple, “What do you want?” (John 1:38). Though their answer suggests that they may not have really understood Jesus, the question lingered a lifetime. Jesus asks the two blind men, “What do you want me to do for you?” Their reply, “We want our sight,” evoked Jesus’ compassion. Not only did he give them physical sight, he gave them such *insight* that they followed him. Jesus asks each of us the same questions: “What do you want? What do you want me to do for you?” If we take the questions seriously, we will search our hearts to find our deepest needs and aspirations, our longing for inner peace, our desires for a meaningful and fruitful life, and the

often suppressed yearnings for God which can take so many disguises. When we answer, “We want our sight,” Jesus will have compassion on us and touch us. And having received our sight, may we follow him.

Numbers 20:1-13; Psalm 102; Romans 5:12-21

Birthday: Rene DeNieuwerkerk, Nyara Johnson, Jason Morris, Margaret Nelson, Tamara Rose, and Jazma Schou

Anniversary: None

Saturday, June 26

Romans 6:1-11 *Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.* (vv.3-4)

Many Christians like to describe themselves as “resurrection people,” and so we are. But we are also disciples whom Jesus called to follow in the way of the cross. Paul reminds us that our baptism isn’t simply a matter of rising to *new life* through Christ; it is also very much a *baptism into death*. The death is death to sin, and death to sin involves death on a cross. Many years ago, a revered teacher, Fr. Augustine Paul Hennessey, brought this home to me in a simple but powerful statement: “A Christian life is a life in Christ. A life in Christ is a life on the cross.” The struggle against sin in our lives requires a constant crucifixion of our impulses to sin and self-indulgence. You and I know it is not easy, but we are also assured that because of Christ’s death, his grace is sufficient for us, for his power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). Resurrection people need the cross. Resurrection people embrace the way of the cross, the *baptism into death*, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Resurrection people are people of the cross.

Numbers 20:14-29; Psalm 107:33-43, 108; Matthew 21:1-11

Birthday: Ann Marie Cuthbert, and Trevor Jones

Anniversary: None

by Daniel Crawford

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