



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry
January 17, 2018



New & Notable

Thoughts from Lori



I read somewhere recently that there is a culture - a tight knit group of people - whose traditions include thinking about death for five minutes each day. And they are described by sociologists and anthropologists as among the happiest people on earth. We modern Americans, on the other hand, avoid talking about or thinking about death at all costs. That may not be the only, or even the main reason, for the fact that we rate pretty low on the happiness scale.

It's not as if we don't know, at least intellectually, that we are all going to die someday. But we act as if, like little children who think they're invisible when they cover their eyes, by not thinking about it, it will not happen. The result is that many of us die unprepared. Things that need to be said go unsaid. Relationships go untended. Dreams go unfulfilled. The business of tying up loose ends goes unaddressed.

As your priest, it is my responsibility to encourage all of us to consider our finiteness. In fact, on page 445 of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) in the "Thanksgiving for a Child" there is a rubric which reads:

The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.

In order to fulfill that responsibility, I am going to reschedule the Ducks-in-a-Row workshop now to be held on Saturday, March 17th. That's right after Ash Wednesday when, as we are marked with ashes, we hear the words: *You are dust and to dust shall you return*. Our claim as Christians is that "even at the grave we make our song, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia." (BCP, p. 499) So let us embrace our faith and resist our fears. Let us do the right, good, and orderly things we all need to do for our own peace of mind and that of our loved ones.

This workshop isn't just for those of us who are older; who, as the saying goes, have fewer days ahead of us than days behind us. It's for singles and couples, and for parents and grandparents. We'll talk about things like:

- What are the norms for Episcopal funeral services?
- Who is a funeral for?
- What does your family need to know?
- What are some of the legal issues my family will have to face and what can I do to simplify those issues?

I promise you that this won't be grim or maudlin. This time, we will request a \$5 donation to cover the cost of materials, including a notebook, refreshments, and honorariums for one or more of our guest speakers. In order for the event to hold, a minimum of eight (8) couples and/or individuals will be required. The sign-up sheet is on a clip board on the narthex table.

Consider this workshop both the fulfilment of our Christian responsibility and a prayer as found in The Great Litany (BCP, p. 149):
[Spare us, Good Lord] From...dying suddenly and unprepared....

Faithfully,

Loritt

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed!



Please consider volunteering for Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. This is a very easy way to serve the church on an occasional basis. There's a signup sheet in the parish hall, and most everything is supplied for the morning. Questions? Call the church office Tues-Fri 9-1. Thank you!

Children's Chapel

"The Woman at the Well"

Children are invited to attend the Children's Chapel following the service to hear a story, have a snack, and enjoy an activity. This week's leaders are Kerry Obermeyer and Kim Morris.

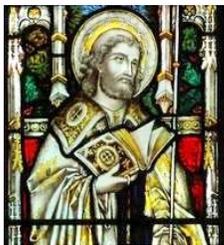


The usual fare...

A Word from the Rev. William P. McLemore

The Confession of St. Peter

Thursday, January 18th, is the Feast Day of the Confession of St. Peter. This day stems from an episode in the Gospels in which the Apostle Peter proclaims Jesus to be the Messiah (translated "Christ" in the Greek texts). This proclamation is found in all three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew 16:13-20, Mark 8:27-30, and Luke 9:18-20.



In the biblical account, Jesus addresses Peter with the words, "Upon this rock I will build my church." Christians have various interpretations of this confession. For Roman Catholics, it is taken to indicate that Peter is the first Pope to take office, and that only one earthly shepherd should lead the church. For Anglicans and Episcopalians, it indicates that all the apostles were to become "overseers" or "bishops," with the communal responsibility for the governing and direction of the Christian Church.

Many regard Peter's confession as a call for unity among all Christians. Here is the collect (prayer) for the Confession of St. Peter: "Almighty Father, who inspired Simon Peter, first among the apostles, to confess Jesus as Messiah and the Son of the living God: Keep your Church steadfast upon the rock of this faith, so that in unity and peace we may proclaim the one truth and follow the one Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen."

Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, January 21, 2018

(Third Sunday after Epiphany - Year B)

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5, 10. Jonah goes to Nineveh and warns them that God is displeased with them and will destroy their great city; they repent and turn from their evil ways and God decides not to destroy them. **The Psalm:** Psalm 62:6-14. This Psalm calls for people to trust in God and not the things of the world. **Second Lesson:** I Corinthians 7:29-31. Paul says that the "present form of this world is passing away." **The Gospel:** Mark 1:14-20. Jesus comes to Galilee and passes by the sea and sees some fishermen. He then calls Simon, Andrew, James, and John to be his disciples and they leave their nets and follow him.

THE HYMNS:

Processional: No. 408. "Sing praise to God who reigns above." This hymn was penned by Johann Jakob Schutz (1640-1690), a German lawyer and also a man of deep faith and piety. It was translated into English by Elizabeth Cos. However, later in life, Schutz became a Separatist and ceased to attend his Lutheran church. Each verse ends with the triumphant "to God all praise and glory." The tune is an ancient German pastoral melody of 1529.

Sequence: No. 660. "O Master let me walk with thee." The beautiful hymn was the inspiration of another Congregational minister, the Rev. Washington Gladden. The early version could have been inspired by Jeremiah and the Psalmist in today's lessons. Here is a portion of a verse that was later omitted from the hymn: "O Master, let me walk with thee before the taunting Pharisee; help me to bear the sting of spite, the hate of men who hide thy light." In spite of this editorial license, the hymn cries for God to grant patience, forbearance, and slow-ness of heart, as we journey on our walk of faith in life. Dr. Gladden chose this hymn tune by Henry Percy Smith for this hymn and it is best sung with passion and feeling!

Presentation: No. 550 "Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult." This is a hymn for St. Andrew's Day which was first published by the Anglican Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SPCK) in 1852. It was written by the prolific Frances Alexander, the wife of Archbishop Alexander of Ireland, who is reputed to have written over 400 hymns and poems in her lifetime (1818-1895). The tune, "Restoration," is a melody from "The Southern Harmony," (1835).

Communion: "In the Lord I'll be forever thankful." This hymn was written and set to music by Jacques Breathier for the Taize religious community in France in 1991. It is based on Philippians 4:4-6.

Recessional: No. 537. "Christ for the world we sing." Samuel Wolcott (1813-1886) wrote this hymn in response to a banner posted at a Young Men's

Christian Association meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1869. The message read, "Christ for the world, and the world for Christ." Legend has it that he formed the hymn walking home through the streets on February 9, 1869. It has been in the Episcopal hymnals since 1892. The tune, "Moscow" is named for the city where the composer, Felice de Giardini (1716-1796) died. The music fits the earnest spirit of evangelism and conversion communicated in the text.

Servants for January 21st

Bill Lang - *Usher*
Judy Robel - *Lector*
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*
Barb Moriarty, Jeff Zabor - *Eucharistic Ministers*
Jeff Zabor - *Vestry Person of the Day*
Carter Obermeyer - *Children's Crucifer*
Bev Jannotta, Carol Toft - *Flower Guild, Altar Guild*

On the Calendar...

Mid-Week Eucharist - Wednesdays at 12:15 pm
Vestry - Tonight, 7:00 pm
Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, January 28
Men's Breakfast - Saturday, February 3, 8:00 am
Shrove Tuesday - February 13
Ash Wednesday Services - February 14, noon and 7:00 pm

From the cartoons created by
The Rev. William P. McLemore



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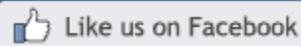
St. Paul's email - stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net
The Rector's email - lorilowe@stpaulmchenry.com

Vestry Minutes

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