



Summer Worship Schedule

Worship services. During the summer we have two services – 8:30 a.m. and 10:30a.m. The summer worship schedule runs through September 11. We will resume three services on September 18.

Sunday breakfasts. Through September 4, breakfast will be available at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in helping with or hosting one of the breakfasts please contact Joani Beckwith.

Organ Fund Update

In May, the vestry announced that recently there have been several very generous donations to the organ fund and we need to raise only about \$141,000 to purchase the new organ – about 26% of the total cost of the instrument. We have reached the halfway mark for that goal and encourage anyone who is interested in donating to contact Father Polk or Richard Detmer.

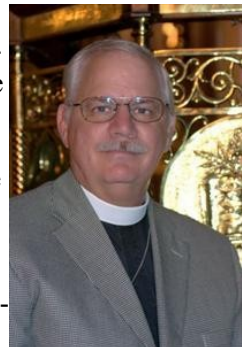
Trusting When It Hurts

(Instead of a regular column this month, we are reprinting Polk's sermon from June 19.)

Over the past 10 days our parish family has been on an emotional roller coaster. Two of our parish family had massive heart attacks while on vacation out West. And we have experienced the joy of about 90 children having a great time learning about Nazareth:

Where Jesus was a Kid, this week in Vacation Bible School. I don't know about you, but the question that keeps popping up in my head -- and in my heart -- is WHY?

Why do two people from this parish go on vacation and suffer major cardiac events in the same week? Why did David survive and Ian did not? And how do I balance this with the joy of children learning about Jesus?



Which brings up another question: "If we are honest with ourselves, would it be true that deep down we feel that because we have served God faithfully that the really bad stuff should pass us by?"

Intellectually I know God has never promised that being a Christian would mean that the bad stuff would pass me by, but emotionally part of me wishes God had made that promise.

Why can't loving and serving God be an easy thing all the time? Was it meant to be - and if we feel it's not, are we getting it wrong? Are we missing the point? Today I want to try and address these issues. First, what does God promise those who love and obey him? Second, how can we get through the bad

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times? What does God promise those who follow him -- who love and obey him?

God promises those who follow him that God has a plan for all of creation that, if we trust in Him, ultimately He will work everything in our lives for the good. That is made very clear in our reading from Genesis this morning. Just look at the number of times God says: It is Good.

Corrie Ten Boom, a Dutch citizen who was arrested and incarcerated in a concentration camp by the Nazi during World War II for hiding Jews, had the best analogy I have heard. She said that God's plan is like a fine tapestry. All we are capable of seeing is the back side of the tapestry with all its knots and stray strands of different colored yarn -- all in seeming chaos. But the other side is a perfectly executed and beautifully textured design of God's own making.

It is clear that God's focus is always on the big picture, both for us individually and for humankind collectively. With a world and human nature obsessed with instant answers, this can sometimes be difficult to accept.

The major part of this promise is the promise that God's love and presence is always with us -- in life and in death, but for people suffering through heartbreak and emotional confusion and questioning in this life, it can be hard to keep an eye on God's long-term goal for us -- his eternal presence now and in the life to come.

First let's be clear about what it does not mean when we say God's promise is to work everything in our lives for the good. The promise does not mean we will not suffer -- in all the myriad of ways we do. The Bible is full of stories of people God loves going through what sometimes is appalling suffering.

The book of Job is the story of a man favored by God being struck down by all sorts of misfortune. Job's physical suffering is so great that he wishes that he had been still-born!

Jeremiah, God's prophet, is constantly beaten up and jailed by his fellow Jews for delivering God's prophecies of doom. At one stage he is stuck down a dried out cistern to die. He is down in this cistern for three days before the King thinks the better of it and has him pulled up.

Elijah, one of God's special prophets and a leading figure in his plans, gets so worn down he prays to die. "I've had enough" he tells the Lord. "Take away my life. I've got to die sometime and it might as well be now."

The list goes on and on.

What, then, does God's promise mean? Well, it means what it says. As believers, God promises to turn everything in our lives to the good. Although in the depth of our suffering and questioning it may seem that God has forgotten us, but, God, in fact, redeems our suffering, our confusion, our questioning and turns it into good.

So what happened to the three men mentioned above? Job's health and wealth are restored and God makes him more prosperous than before. Jeremiah is the only citizen allowed to walk free when God's prophecy is fulfilled and the King of Babylon attacks Jerusalem and Judah and takes the people off into slavery. Elijah clearly plays a pivotal role in the afterlife. During the Transfiguration Jesus is on the mountaintop talking to Moses and Elijah.

In each case God not only uses these men's suffering to achieve God's plan, but also works it out for their good as well...because our God is a God of redemption.

So how do we get through the bad times? How did Jeremiah, Job and Elijah cope with their troubles? What did these three men have in common?

The importance of moaning...

The first thing Job, Jeremiah and Elijah had in common is that they all moaned and complained to God.

Job perhaps knew how to moan the best. "You have already poured me from bottle to bottle and curdled me like cheese," he moans to God.

Jeremiah throws the most wonderful spiritual temper tantrums. Jeremiah is livid that God keeps letting the people beat him up for prophesying doom. And he doesn't mind letting God know it!

Elijah is more of a simple moaner. He just says plainly 'I've had enough, it's too hard, let me die.'

Each of these men moans and complains, not to their friends (although Job did this too), but to God.

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They bother God with all their troubles and their complaints throughout their trials, tribulations and sufferings. A more holy word for all this moaning is 'prayer.'

And they are honest in their prayer. They speak to God about how they actually are feeling. They are not shy about expressing their hurt, anger, fear, confusion and in Job's case, deep unrelenting pain.

The lesson for all of us in this is don't try and pretend with God. Be honest about how you feel - whether you think as a Christian you should be feeling that way or not. God's been moaned at and complained to by far greater people than you and I - and both God and the people involved seemed to have got through it just fine. Indeed better than just fine.

Most of you know by now that before going to seminary I was a cotton farmer. There is a lot of money in farming -- I know because I put it there! Seriously, there was a stretch of three years in the early 80s that I simply could not make a decent crop. I lost a lot of money, and was in danger of going bankrupt. I sank into a deep depression. A clinical depression. Now I don't know if any of you have ever experienced that sort of depression, but I can tell you that it is a place I never want to be in again. It is, quite literally, the Pit referred to in Psalms 16 and 30. It is a place of utter darkness that is ever spiraling downward. It is a place where one can easily move beyond fear to a longing for death.

In my despair I lashed out at God and said: "I give up." God, in his mercy, pulled me from that Pit. That was when my belief finally made that 18 inch journey from my head to my heart. While I didn't go bankrupt, my heart was never in farming again, and I eventually heard a new calling. If you don't think God has a sense of humor, consider this. The chapel at the seminary in Sewanee when I was there, was affectionately called - "the Pit!"

Trust

Secondly, these men trusted God. None of them understood why they had to go through their trials but they trusted God anyway. And guess what -- God took care of them. Whether we allow God to take care of us and turn everything in our life (including our suffering) into good is to a great extent up to us. God has no problem with us moaning, especially to him- indeed God expects us to bother him and to do it constantly - but God can't help us and achieve his plan for our lives if we give up on him.

"I reckon," said St. Paul, "that the suffering of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed in us." C. S. Lewis, in his book *The Problem of Pain*, comments that

"Scripture and tradition habitually put the joys of heaven into the scale against the sufferings of earth, and no solution of the problem of pain which does not do so can be called a Christian one."

Jesus said on any number of occasions that the Kingdom of heaven belonged to all those who believe and endure the sufferings and consequences of that belief. As Christians, as baptized believers, we will know the joy of eternal life.

Lastly, look for God's redemption

Let me be clear. God is not the author of our pain and suffering. As we see in Genesis, God created goodness. The Gospel message is all about redemption and the restoration of the goodness God created in the beginning. How has God redeemed your life? I know that I was in the deepest recesses of the Pit and God called me -- of all places -- to the ordained ministry! That is redemption! If you look closely and seriously at your life, you will find God's redemptive work. Remember Corrie Ten Booms analogy of the tapestry.

And so the message of our earthly suffering may sound hard, but it is in fact very simple. God has a great plan for all of our lives, which we will never know unless we are willing to follow and trust in him. If we do, God promises to be with us, to love us, and to redeem our suffering.

If you are still wondering why bad stuff happens to God's people, I leave you with the answer God gave Job. You'll find it in Job, chapters 38-41. It essentially boils down to this: God says one thing to those who follow him: 'Trust me, I know what I'm doing.'

Military prayer list update

We are in the process of updating the military prayer list. We do not want to remove names that we are uncertain about. However, if you have a loved one that you would like to remain on the list or someone that needs to be removed please email the frontoffice@stpaulsmboro.org by July 15. We will at that time update with only the current names received.

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Franklin Heights VBS

July 18-22, 2:00p.m. until 5:00 p.m. St. Paul's will sponsor VBS at Franklin Heights as an outreach to the community. If you would like to help we need volunteers or if you would like to fund it please make checks payable to St. Paul's with Franklin Heights in the "for" line. Please contact Krista Phillips if you have questions at 895-8025 (home), 653-9978 (cell) or email her at krista@paskr.com or kristaphil@aol.com.

2011 Youth Summer Mission Trip Stock Sale

The students of St. Paul's student ministries need your support! Students who will be attending the 2011 Summer Mission Trip are currently selling "stock" and will continue to do so until the 2011 Mission Trip begins on Sunday, July 10. Each \$20 share of stock will reserve a seat for the owner of the stock at the "Stockholders' Spaghetti Dinner" on Sunday, July 17 to see and hear (via stories, pictures, and video) how the investment was "re-invested" by the students into the lives of others. If you are interested in supporting a student by purchasing stock, please contact Josh via the church office or speak with a student who will be attending the mission trip. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendar

- **August 10** – Choristers' choir begins
- **August 28** – Celebrating Ministry between services and after the 10:30 service in the parish hall and St. Andrew's Chapel.
- **September 11** – Fall Picnic on the grounds after services
- **September 18** – Summer worship schedule ends and Christian Education resumes
- **October 2** – Blessings of the Animals

June McCash Receives Writing Award

Almost to Eden, June McCash's novel, won the Georgia Author-of-the-Year Award for first novel on June 11 at a ceremony in Kennesaw, Georgia. Copies are still available and can be pur-

chased from Hastings, the MTSU Bookstore or ordered through Amazon and Barnes & Noble, or of course, signed copies from June. Congratulations June!

Letter from Seminary

Dear St. Paul's Family,

A couple of you have expressed surprise that I'm not finished with seminary yet. It does seem like I've been here forever, but it's only been two years of a three year Masters of Divinity program. The first year was devoted to laying down the foundation of a systematic theological education -- I got the basics of current Biblical scholarship, Church history, an in-depth look at the Creeds, and spiritual grounding for ministry. The second year continued the academic track, with the addition of several opportunities for practical application of the head-learning in chaplaincy, field work in a parish, preaching in chapel, and networking with colleagues from the other Episcopal seminaries. It has been an amazing, life-changing two years!

The last year of seminary now before me promises to be a time of wrapping up, fine-tuning and synthesizing the academic learning and polishing the practical, hands-on aspects of ministry. And it will be a time of transition: from off the Holy Mountain, leaving behind our wonderful seminary community; from student life to real life; from lay person to clergy. Seminary is very much an in-between place in one's life! As I look forward to my senior year here, I'm very aware that in less than a year, I will be looking for a new home and preparing to leave. Part of me is anticipating that new life, unknown, but filled with the prospect of settling into the work I'm called to do. Another part of me realizes that the coming year is the end of a very special time in our lives that will never be repeated.

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All of this grand adventure, following the call, has been made possible by the encouragement and support that we have received from St. Paul's, the diocese, and other benefactors who were strangers and now are friends. Thank you all for checking in with us on Facebook, praying for us, and lifting us up in prayer. To borrow a page from the Apostle Paul's approach to letter-writing, let me say that I "thank God every time I remember you" (Phillipians 1:3) rejoicing in the thought of all of you sharing the Gospel in Murfreesboro in so many fruitful, life-giving ways. Will and I have been so blessed by your witness in our lives and pray that you will continue to grow in the grace of God, the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Suzanne Cate, T'12
School of Theology
University of the South

Fellowship Events

Men's Club & Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out. Please join us for Ladies Night Out, Thursday, June 2 at 6:00 p.m. We gather in a very casual atmosphere to chat and get to know each other just a bit better. Feel free to bring along your favorite beverage. If your day permits, you can bring a snack as well.

AUGUST Ladies Night Out (the first Thursday night -- August 4) will be held at Jennifer McGuire's home, 2135 Lovelace Lane -- a Ladies Night Out Pool Party"! OK to come beginning at 5pm. Bring a towel, swimsuit, light snack and your favorite beverage.

Men's Club. Come join the Men of Saint Paul's Thursday July 7 for Fellowship and Dinner. Fellowship 6:00 p.m. and Dinner 6:30 p.m. sign-up sheet in Parish Hall. This month's cooks are Steve Luboniecki, Jeff Slaney, and Mike Steward. We need cooks for Thursday October 6, November 3 and December 1. Let us know if you would be interested in cooking in 2011. Questions contact Jim Calder, Fred Koechlein or Tom Collins.

70+ Birthday Luncheon

The third quarter St. Paul's 70+ Birthday Luncheon will be August 25 at 11:00 am in our Parish Hall. Please plan on attending. Please let Jennifer McGuire know if you will be attending, 615.417.6003.



Thank You

THANK YOU to all who donated food on May 15th for our 2nd food drive this year! A total of 1,011 food items and \$55.00 cash contributions were delivered to the Rutherford County Food Bank as a result of your generosity. Many thanks also go to David Kirkham, scouts from Troop 1108, and Ben Palmer for counting and loading food items, and to Tom Collins and Fred Koechlein for providing vehicles and making the delivery to the Food Bank.

Baptisms

June 5, 2011 -- Sophia Jane McConnell daughter of Robert and Michelle McConnell/Murfreesboro, TN.

June 12, 2011 -- Grant Benjamin Wiechman son of Benjamin and Carrie Wiechman/Murfreesboro, TN.

Deaths

Ian Lowe – July 2, 1958 – June 11, 2011

Kathleen (Kitty) E. Stickney – January 1, 1923- June 22, 2011

Birthdays

July

07/01 Alex Merchant
07/01 Bruce Gibson
07/02 Barbara Jeskey
07/02 Ellen Gassler
07/02 Michelle Lowe
07/03 Gail Henry

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07/03 JacksonMarozsan
07/03 Madeline Marozsan
07/04 Margaret Scott
07/05 Barb Mason
07/05 Christopher Martin
07/05 Kathy Jones
07/05 Morris Hamby, III
07/05 Rick Canada
07/05 Walter McVetty
07/06 Bonnie Black
07/06 George Vernardakis
07/06 Mary Pockat
07/08 Kathleen Clark
07/08 Lauren Long
07/08 Melinda Caudle
07/09 Elisabeth Nelson
07/09 Jan Schneider
07/09 Margaret Ordoubadian
07/09 Sean Huber
07/10 Bob Oravetz
07/10 James M. George Family
07/12 Caroline Young
07/12 Sue Patrick
07/13 Patrick Phillips
07/14 Leah Martin
07/16 James Huber
07/17 Mary Schneider
07/19 Nadia K. Mullins
07/19 Natarina Z. Mullins
07/20 Andrea Broxton
07/20 Fran Lovell
07/22 Madison Lofton Sori
07/24 Donald McCarthy
07/24 Phyllis Flasher
07/24 Samantha Prescher
07/25 Avery Tuseth
07/25 Marie Miller
07/26 Sally Hughes
07/26 Ted Goodman
07/28 Charles Smith
07/28 Jenny Griffith
07/28 Judith Russell
07/29 Betty Davidson
07/29 Katrina Workman
07/29 Lisa Richardson

07/30 Jeanne Potter

August

08/01 Vara Ruth Williams
08/01 Alex Potts
08/03 Miles Workman
08/05 Jennifer Kropog
08/05 Mary Armour O'Reilly
08/05 Elsie Short
08/06 Lance Ikard
08/06 Gina Meeker
08/06 Aric Mullins
08/07 Betty Davis
08/07 Larry Puzzo
08/07 Lauren Ennamorato
08/08 Will Stallings
08/08 Helen Smith
08/09 Allison Kellermann
08/10 Gabriella Woods
08/11 Monty Sellers
08/11 Gail Butler
08/11 Ricky Cantrell
08/11 Michael Workman
08/11 Jared Henry
08/12 Thomas Grider
08/12 Liza O'Reilly
08/13 Barbara Collins
08/13 Ashley Jones
08/14 Don Harris
08/14 Emma Green
08/14 Naomi Crowell
08/16 Emily Kelly
08/16 Kirstin Tretter
08/17 Jim Dillon
08/17 Eric Newell
08/17 Donald Gordon
08/18 Richard Detmer
08/19 Kat Brown
08/19 Libby Willis
08/20 Nabil Wakid
08/20 Janet Arning
08/20 Justin Bawol
08/21 Cathy Sniderman
08/21 Daniel Perry
08/22 Thomas Vandervort

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08/22 Alex Hollis
08/22 Delia Clemmons
08/24 Brenda Sachs
08/24 Gabriel Raffo
08/25 Matt Murfree III
08/25 Jim Roberts
08/26 Joyce Sundling
08/27 Mike Russell
08/27 Don Clayton
08/27 Olivia Chew
08/28 Marlene Jones
08/28 Kallie Dayton
08/28 Matthew Schneider
08/28 Nicholas Crowell
08/29 Graham Pirtle
08/30 William Palmer

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***Our Mission is to worship God and to bring all
into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ***

St. Paul's Staff

The Rev. James K. Polk Van Zandt, Rector
The Rev. Colin M. Ambrose, Associate Rector
The Rev. Gene Wise, Rector Emeritus
Joshua Courtney, Youth Minister
Angela Tipps, Organist, Choir Director and RSCM
Susan Greenall, Office Administrator
Kathy Warlick, Administrative Assistant
Annie Gracia, Nursery Director
Morris Hamby, 7:30 a.m. Musician
Joyce Adkins, Assistant to the Rector
Kathleen Herzog, Assistant to the Rector
Dr. David L. Rowe, Assistant to the Rector

Contact Us

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Phone: (615) 893-3780
Website: <http://stpaulsmboro.org>

You can listen to Father Colin Ambrose's sermons online at <http://colinambrose.wordpress.com/>. Click on older posts at the bottom left to access archived sermons.)

To obtain a copy of Father Polk Van Zandt's sermons please contact the Parish Office at 893-3780.