



August 2016

The Vine

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches..." John 15:5

Persevering in Prayer

Fatalism is alive and well in the lives of many Christian's prayer lives. Their prayers are like wishing. When their prayer doesn't come true, they shrug their shoulders and say, "It must not be God's will." On the other extreme is the "name it and claim it" type of prayer, which treats prayer like a magic incantation. They think, "If I just say the right set of words and avoid saying certain things, then my prayer has to come true." The first lacks faith. The latter embraces presumption.



Persistent prayer avoids these unbiblical extremes in a way that interacts with God in faith and results in favorable answers. Jesus addressed persistent prayer in His Parable of the Widow and the Judge (Luke 18:1-8). The widow came to the judge over and over again seeking justice. This judge neither feared God nor respected man. He may have been receiving bribes from her adversary (we don't know). For some reason he refused to give her justice. In Middle Eastern culture, a man would have been thrown out at once, but since widows are given special consideration, the judge put up with the woman. Commenting on this parable in his book *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*, Kenneth Bailey tells when he was teaching theology in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1991). He dared not leave the house, for as a westerner he would have been kidnapped. His students came to him. No one dared look at the militia headquarters a few blocks from his house for fear of being shot. However, "one old woman, dressed in a traditional long black dress with a black head covering ... would regularly go to that building, stand out front, point her finger at the guard and shout invectives at them, telling them to get out of the quarter." No one touched her. The same was true for the persistent widow in

Jesus' parable. Due to her persistence, the unjust judge finally gets tired of her and grants her justice.

Luke tells us that Jesus "told them [this] parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). Like the woman in the parable, Jesus tells us to be persistent in prayer with our Heavenly Father. However, unlike this earthly unjust judge, our heavenly Judge desires to answer our prayers. Jesus concluded His parable by saying, "And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:7-8)

Do you persevere in prayer? When you pray does "the Son of Man ... find faith" in you? What does perseverance in prayer look like? For me: 1. I begin by maintaining an ongoing relationship with the Lord through Sunday worship and daily prayer, often praying the Lord's Prayer or the 23rd Psalm over a period of 10-15 minutes. 2. I seek His will (not mine). As Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise" (John 5:19). 3. I study the Bible daily to know what is and is not His will. 4. As I bring certain requests before the Lord, I trust that the Lord is leading me according to His will. I persevere in prayer, trusting Him to answer my request or to guide me to pray differently. I persevere until He answers. As we prayed in the Sunday Collect for the Eighth Sunday After Pentecost, "Hear us, O Lord, when we cry out to you" and that we might receive what we ask, enable us by your Holy Spirit to ask only what accords with your will..." I invite you to join me in persevering prayer.

Our Path of Christian Maturity

Worship Grow Serve

The Faith Flash

Are you receiving our email newsletter, *The Faith Flash*? *The Faith Flash* comes out weekly with timely information and reminders. Sign up today by going to our website (www.faithanglicanchurch.org), or calling the church office (755-4848).

Looking back at Soul in the City Memphis 2016



What do you get when you have a church building, sleeping bags, a group of teenagers, and a call to bring Jesus into the community? In June, Faith Anglican Church (ACNA), Lord of Life Lutheran (NALC),

and Grace Church (AMiA) worked together to host Soul in the City. Blending elements from a summer camp, a mission trip, and a lock-in to produce a life changing experience for youth and the community. The goal of this was two-fold, to expand the Lordship of Jesus into our community while at the same time expanding the Lordship of Jesus into the hearts of our youth. So what did we do? In the mornings we gathered for prayer and the teaching of God's word, then we went out to various mission sites in our community. We then gathered back at the church for free time, dinner, and evening prayer. During the week we took a day for rest and play at a local camp, and we were sure to include play throughout the week.

The results? Spectacular! The youth were not only able to see immediate impact from the work they did in the community, but it inspired them to think and vision for what else they could do beyond Soul in the City. Even more exciting was having a front row seat to see the youth make the connection between the worship of Jesus and the mission that flows from it.

So why do a mission trip at home? It makes the ordinary into something extraordinary, and in turn makes the extraordinary into something ordinary. We took ordinary elements such as worship, prayer, community service and made them into an extraordinary experience. As we dismissed we reminded each other that we can make this extraordinary experience part of our ordinary lives. In doing so, we equip the next generation of leaders within the Church to be on mission in their daily lives. Father Cameron

Good News on our Mortgage!

Thanks to the generosity of our membership, the Parish Council has been able to make not one, but two payments of \$ 25,000.00 against the Principal of our Mortgage in the past two months.

The immediate result of this is a reduction in our monthly Interest payments.

Our Mortgage now stands at less than \$300,000.00. Its terms require monthly Interest payments, plus one Principal payment of \$ 25,000.00 each December 1. We have satisfied that requirement early for 2016, and moved ahead of the required payment schedule.

Many thanks to all who designate all or part of their giving to the Building Fund.

Peter Claverie,
Treasurer

BAPTISMAL DATES

Baptism is for those adults and older children who have made a commitment to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Baptism is also for infants and younger children of parents who intend to raise their children to serve Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Those who intend to be baptized need to attend worship regularly. If you or your child is ready for baptism, please plan to be baptized on one of the following dates: **August 14th** and **November 6th** (All Saints' Sunday). If you are interested please contact one of our priests (755-4848).

Students start back to school this month. Watch carefully as you pass through school zones and don't forget to drive slow!



Birthdays

Jennifer Bostick	8/02	Amy Trippel	8/13
Jessica Hearne	8/05	Kelly Shipman	8/14
Bob Barnett	8/08	Chuck Glover	8/27
Doug Conner	8/10	Sharon Mahaffey	8/28
Bill Zachry	8/12		

Anniversaries

Noland and Mary Pipes	8/15
Mike and Pat Reese	8/16
Peter and Annette Kersting	8/31

Prayer Corner

Dee Dee Ritchie
Mansell Lancaster
Lauren Hintz
Hallie Crawford
George Conner
Gail Hightower



Helping the Poor God's Way

Throughout the Bible, God makes it clear that it's our responsibility to help the poor. For instance on the Day of Judgment the King (Jesus) will say to those who feed the hungry, invite the stranger in, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and those in prison, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25). Yet, how do we help the poor in a way that truly helps them? First, have an attitude of generosity and openhandedness, not hardheartedness or tightfistedness (Deuteronomy 15). Second, help the poor in a way that does not foster laziness or dependency, does not provide for illicit activities, and gives them love, honor, respect, and provision. Giving and lending (expecting nothing in return) to the poor is crucial in a crisis. However, in the long run applying the Gleaning Laws (Leviticus 19) to the poor is the best solution – "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field...Leave them for the poor and the alien." In other words, don't just give money to the poor, leave some work (home and business) for the poor to do.

Community Outreach Sunday

Why is it that raw meat spoils quickly, but deli meat can last for weeks? The answer is salt. Salt is an ancient and effective way to preserve food from spoiling. When Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the earth, he is telling us that as the people of God we preserve the functionality and flourishing of a society. When the church looks after the needs of the poor, the oppression, and the orphan and widow, the church is then functioning as salt to society. As we look around our city there is great need for the church to function as salt. One opportunity is to volunteer as a tutor at Cordova Elementary School. How does this fulfill Jesus' call to be salt? By helping a child get on and stay on reading level we will be dramatically increasing the likelihood for that child to graduate High School. A startling statistic puts this in perspective. Known as the fourth grade pipeline, city planners look at the number of children that are not on reading level when they are in fourth grade and use that number to plan on how many jail cells will be needed in 10 years. Memphis Schools are in desperate need of salt.

What happens if salt is no longer salty? Or to drop the metaphor, what happens if the church no longer cares to look after the needs of the poor, oppressed, and the orphan and widow. Jesus says that salt that is no longer salty is only worthy to be thrown out. In other words, it is just to say that a church will no longer receive God's blessing if it fails in its calling to be salt.

August 7th will be Community Outreach Sunday. It will be a time to pray for the community, and sign up for opportunities to be salt in our surrounding community. Pray carefully and purposefully for how the Lord would have us fulfill our calling as salt.

Fr. Cameron



Thank You

A special thank you to those ladies who leave flowers on my desk. They cheer my week up. AND what a great Monday surprise! Thank you for thinking of me. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Laqueta



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Service Times:

Sunday:

Holy Eucharist8:10/10:30am
Sunday School9:30am

Wednesday:

Bible Study6:30pm

All articles for The Vine are due in the office the **second Monday** of the month, send to:
laqueta@faithanglicanchurch.org

Seminarian Support Sunday August 28th



Raising up the next generation of Anglican priests and lay leaders is crucial for the expansion of God's Kingdom here in America. The cost can be prohibitive for many. Therefore, on August 28th we will take a special offering to support

Anglican seminary students. Please give generously! Our guest preacher will be John Bacon, a newly ordained deacon, who is completing his third year of seminary at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham. God willing, he will be ordained to the priesthood next spring. John and his wife Lauren have two sons, Ezekiel and John Harvey. Before seminary, John and his family lived in Arkansas. John said, "We rejoice at having found the sacramental life of the Anglican Church, which we have been a part of for two years now."

Called to the Quiet Retreat Saturday, August 27th, 9-Noon

Do you want to grow in your prayer life? Then come spend some quiet time with your Lord, a time of prayer, meditation, reflection, and hearing from God. From nine until noon at our *Called to the Quiet Retreat*, we will begin with Morning Prayer, have a time of directed prayer, meditation, and reflection, and conclude with Noon Day Prayers. A booklet is provided to help guide your time of prayer. You may enjoy walking the grounds or sitting in a lawn chair for a portion of your personal time of prayer and meditation. You may want to bring your Bible as well. Spiritual Direction and Reconciliation (Confession) will be available.

