



MARCH 2017

The Vine

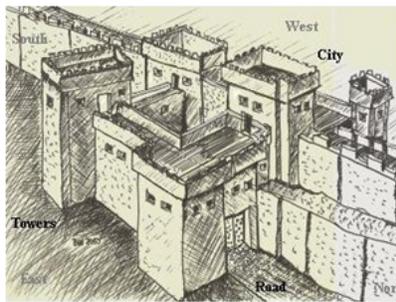
Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches..." John 15:5

Storming the Gates of Hell

Jesus said that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against [my church]" (Matthew 16:18). What does that mean?!? If you think of the church as a fortress against the evils of this world, then it just doesn't make sense. Would the gates of hell come battering the doors of the church? No. Gates are designed to keep attackers out, not to attack others.

Ancient cities were surrounded by thick tall walls. Their gates were much more than a heavy door. Their gates were embedded in a massive section of the wall with a stone gatehouse and places for defenders to shoot arrows or pour boiling oil. The gate was the most heavily guarded section of the wall, designed to keep the enemy out. So when Jesus said the "gates of hell shall not prevail against [my church]," He was saying that the church will be assaulting the gates of hell and that they shall not prevail against our assault! Instead of the church protecting the people from the influence and dangers of hell, the church will be defeating and assaulting the gates of hell!

When Jesus said the "gates of hell," what was he talking about? The biblical understanding of hell is a place for torment, an eternal prison for those who reject the Lord Jesus. Satan does not rule hell (that is an ancient Greek concept), rather Satan will eventually be a resident of hell. Therefore, there would be no need for us – the church – to assault hell. So what was Jesus talking about? Jesus spoke these words at Caesarea Philippi, a very pagan place, a place where



Gate Complex of Bethsaida, Israel

the Greek god Pan was worshipped. At this place, from deep underground, a third of the volume of the Jordan River emerged from a cave. The locals thought this was an entrance to the underworld, the place of the dead in Greek thought, Hades (or hell). This was a place of false gods and false religion. Niches, which were carved in to the huge rock wall, held idols of Pan.

It was here that Jesus said, "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). The rock has been interpreted by Roman Catholics as Peter and the clergy who would follow him in Apostolic Succession. It has been interpreted by Protestants as the confession of Peter, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." I believe both are true. Yet, in the context of this place and this passage, the rock is also the place of pagan worship and false doctrine. Jesus is saying that He will build His church on top of and over the false gods and beliefs of this world. He is saying that the church will take the life-giving Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world, that we will assault the gates of hell, that we will assault the false gods and beliefs of this world, and that as we face fierce resistance, that resistance "shall not prevail" against Jesus' church.

Jesus expects His Church not to cower in the safety of the Holy Huddle, but to boldly assault the enemy's strongholds, to expose the bankrupt philosophies and beliefs of this world with the love and truth of Jesus. Brothers and sisters in Christ, you and I are the church of which Jesus spoke!!!

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).

Shrove Sunday Pancake Luncheon February 26th at Noon

Before our Lenten fast begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1st), enjoy a time of fellowship and feasting! Pancakes will be provided. Bring fruit toppings, drinks, and breakfast meat to share.

For the Children: The children will be invited to assist Fr. Herb in burning last year's palms to make this year's ashes for Ash Wednesday.



What is Shrove? The word shrove is a form of the English word shrive, which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by way of Confession and doing penance. Thus Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the custom for Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent.

March 1st (Noon and 7 PM)

Ash Wednesday liturgy says, "I invite you, therefore,



in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and

self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word..." Please make plans to attend either our Noon or 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday service with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Child-care is available at the evening service. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st and concludes on Good Friday, April 14th. Lent begins and ends with our only two official fast days of the year. Please plan on beginning and ending this Lent with fasting and prayer. If you have questions or concerns about fasting, please contact one of our priests.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 12th. Move your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday, March 11th.



The Spiritual Discipline of Simplicity

In his book *The Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster said, "The Christian discipline of simplicity is an *inward* reality that results in an *outward* life-style." What does simplicity look like? Simplicity is living free from the lust of possessions or the need for possessions to find self-worth or happiness. Simplicity is reducing the clutter and complexity of your life, so you and your resources may be more devoted to God and his people. Simplicity includes reducing the clutter of your life, your mind, and your possessions, so more of your life, your mind, and your possessions may be devoted to God and His kingdom. It's time to do some spring cleaning! It's time to reduce the clutter!

Eight Street Mission for Jesus Christ

What does Eight Street Mission do?

- Provides a 6.5 month in-house program at no cost for alcohol and drug recovery to those ready to accept Christ and His life transformation through faith! Part of this program includes 25 hours a week in Bible study, worship and prayer.
- Offers emergency services for the walk-in homeless and destitute.
- Thrift Store on site for donations and sales helps to support.
- www.8thstreetmission.org to learn more

What does Faith Anglican Church do?

- Quarterly, meals are prepared and served to the residents, local walk-ins, and in-transit folks by Faith volunteers. We share food and fellowship. We want to be there every other month.
- Annual BBQ, either at 8th Street or Faith.
- Budgeted Financial support

What can I do?

- See Chuck Glover, call at 901.674.0926, and/or email at cgllover@cjbindustries.com

March Birthdays

Phil Laquinta	3/03	Ann Satchfield	3/21
Harrison Bourie	3/05	Leah Trippel	3/25
Patty Kirby	3/10	Josh Ortiz	3/27
Lynda Zachry	3/11	Patricia King	3/29
Jason Lurry	3/15	Bill Fisher	3/30
Pat Covington	3/17	Tyler Howard	3/30
Pat Reese	3/20		

Anniversaries

Bill and Sudy Fisher	3/01
Chuck and Deb Glover	3/13
Joseph and Sarah Atem	3/16

Prayer Corner

George Conner
Noland Pipes
Ed & Nancy Ebbing
David Meredith
Emily Dalke

Ginger McDowell



The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom (Isaiah 35:1).



Flowers

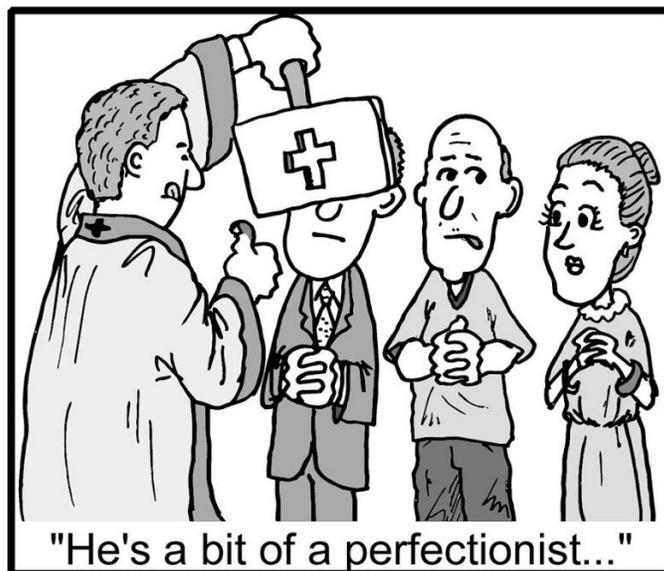
Valentine's Day has passed, but that does not mean it is too late to show someone you love, care, or remember them. You can do so by dedicating flowers on a given Sunday to a family member, friend, church member, or to God. Here is how:

1. Sign up on the clipboard in the narthex
2. Your dedication will be noted in the bulletin for that date
3. Place a check in the offering plate indicating in the memo line that the \$40 is for a flower dedication
4. Plan to take the flowers home or to someone you know who is ill or needs a pick me up after the 10:30 service by bringing some containers for transport
5. Questions? Contact Mary Forsdick at 901-216-3434.

The Benedictines of Christ the King

Brother Kirt Gerber of Christ the King Benedictine Monks will join us in worship on Sunday, April 2, 2017, to speak with us about one of their current missionary stations in Nairobi, Kenya. In the heart of the slums of Nairobi, a city of 5 million people, you will find the Benedictine Brothers of Christ the King providing medical and surgical services to the poor and impoverished people of Kenya. Kenya is in East Africa along the coast of the Indian Ocean, south of the Sudan. Kenya is a very Christian country and the vast majority of Christians are Anglicans. The poverty there is beyond description and within the limits of this very modern city lies a huge Third World slum. Social Services are scarce and without the services of free clinics such as this, many would have nowhere to go in times of medical or surgical emergency. Please join us in extending a hand to the mission of Brother Kirt's Brotherhood by attending a wine and cheese gathering iApril 1, 2017 (location and time to be determined). Help us make fools of Satan by showing our support for the great mission work of the Benedictine Brothers of Christ the King. Your donations are most welcome and sorely needed to continue their great enterprise.

David Hightower





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www.faithanglicanchurch.org

Service Times:

Sunday:

Holy Eucharist8:10/10:30am

Sunday School9:30am

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

Called to the Quiet ~ Saturday, March 25th, 9-Noon



Lent is here. With God's help, have you finished the Spring Cleaning of your soul? On **Saturday, March 25th**, 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. Bring your Bible and an open heart. You may enjoy walking the grounds or sitting in a lawn chair for a portion of your personal time of prayer and meditation. Spiritual Direction and Reconciliation of a Penitent (Confession) will be available.



Archbishop Foley Beach to Confirm at Faith

On Sunday morning, March 26th, Archbishop Foley Beach will preach at both services here at Faith Anglican Church and preside over our Confirmation service at 10:30. Archbishop Foley is a graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, the School of Theology at the University of the South, and Georgia State University. He has served in ministry with Young Life, the Episcopal Church, and the Anglican Church. His passion is to share the Word of God in such a way as to help others discover the incredible living Jesus. Be sure to attend and to invite your friends!!!

