



# The Messenger

September 2016

## *From the Resident Priest...*

Seems like we're always somehow involved in a *mad dash* – to somewhere.  
Not too many months ago the particular rush was to get through winter's cold,  
Its drab *grayness*, short and sun-starved days.  
We couldn't wait for the life-affirming days of spring  
With their color laden buds and blossoms  
And the almost overnight emergence of the *green, green grass of home*.  
Spring is always that reassurance of a promise fulfilled –  
Life renewed, somehow always more plush and spectacular  
Than the year before, at least as we remember from the year before.

Spring's other promise is to usher in summer – arguably the favorite for many.  
(To be honest, allegiance to summer's popularity probably goes back to school days.  
As kids, hardly any of us could deny just wanting school to be finished.  
And to be even more honest, as adults, most of us would like to be back in school.)  
Whatever the reason, summer's appeal is largely its *freedom*.  
More than freedom from school,  
Summer means release from *house arrest* imposed by the simple need to keep warm.  
And it means longer daylight hours, vacation, family visits, golf, tennis, cookouts –  
Just a wide variety of activities that aren't nearly as possible at other times of the year.

But now, as September comes, summer is beginning its decrease.  
In a way it's sad, to be sure. But not devastating.  
Because that brings **a new dash**.  
This "new one" is multi-faceted, as we've learned so well.  
It starts with trying to *re-establish* what we sometimes call a "normal routine."  
Summer was so freeing, so relaxing, so *unstructured*.  
"Gotta get back on track," we sometimes say. And, while it's not easy,  
It does bring a measure of comfort to have at least some predictable pattern to life.  
And soon we are quite glad to have some habit –  
Because, without it, we'd never navigate the next **big rush** –  
The one that brings the runaway train to the *holidays*.  
Ah – there's all the motivation we need to shake off the *end of summer doldrums*.  
(That, and relief from what has been rather oppressive heat for the past month.)

Now here's the thing: there's some important **theology** in all of this.  
It's actually quite simple. **All time is God's!**  
Those seasons – that calendar-oriented experience of living, if you will –  
Are all part of the ingenious design for a most incredible Creation.  
Those patterns have absolutely **everything** to do with **life** as **God** made it.  
It is the very *Garden* into which God placed the human creature,  
The place where "we live and move and have our being," all according to God's plan.

And that Creation is all about *relationships* – between God and the creature,  
And of course, between the creatures.  
The promise made by the Great Creator is **always to be there**.  
While not about our relationship with God, and not intended to be a *hymn* by any means,  
It is reminiscent of song lyrics in Carole King's "You've Got a Friend."  
In many profound ways God **always** says to us, "winter, spring, summer or fall –  
All you gotta do is call – and I'll be there...."

Peace for **all** transitions, seasonal or any other, *Fred*

# ***ADULT EDUCATION***

*Is starting at All Saints' this October*

**On Sundays between Services**

**9:30 to 10:30 A.M.**

***Sunday School in the Parish House***

**The venture will begin on October 2**

**We'll begin with a study of the following:**

***What does it mean to be an Episcopalian Christian?***

**In this "survey class:"**

**We'll look at how the Episcopal Church started;**

**What its unique emphases are;**

**How it is both like and different from other denominations;**

**How it views the Bible;**

**What important role the *Book of Common Prayer* has;**

**How it relates to the world;**

**And many other things,**

**especially matters that arise from participants' questions.**

**This will be a refresher for some and new information for others.**

**We'll also make an effort to invite folks who are not our members**

**who might like to learn about us – and may be interested**

**in joining our church family.**

**(That gives you a chance to invite others to come.)**

**Leadership will be provided by our "clergy crew,"**

**Joan Vella, Worth Jennings and Fred Eichner**

**AND**

**by all participants as they share experiences and insights.**

***We sincerely hope you'll participate!***

# **Bible Study**

## **A New Season**

The Wednesday evening study will resume in  
**October (on the 5<sup>th</sup>)**

**Please note – this date is a change from the plan  
that was in last month's Messenger**

(The change is necessitated by a glitch in Fred Eichner's schedule)

The 12 session series will be  
**The Sermon on the Mount**

The group will meet each Wednesday  
**6:30 to 7:45 P.M.**

It will be in the Conference Room,  
lower level of the Office Building

**This account of Jesus' teachings in Matthew's Gospel  
is thought by most to have been a 'collection' of instructions  
that the author grouped together in a unique setting.**

**It has some of the best known and most cherished of Jesus'  
wisdom, including the *so-called* Beatitudes.**

**This study will offer opportunities to examine and discuss  
those teachings and to raise questions about them.**

**All participants are welcome. You may want to invite others,  
perhaps other members of All Saints' or even your neighbors and  
friends.**

**If you have questions about the study before we begin,  
feel free to contact Fred Eichner.**

## ***A Moment for Liturgy***

As the Liturgy of the Word moves toward its transition to the Eucharist there is the time for the Confession of Sins. This *public* confession is a corporate recognition of the human frailty that is shared by the people of God. Together we acknowledge that we have been disobedient and unresponsive to God's will for us by our failure to love God and our neighbor. Together we admit our dependence on the forgiveness that only God can give and our absolute need for that grace. The Celebrant then has the privilege and responsibility of declaring the promise of absolution. It is God's pardon that is pronounced, God's forgiveness that is asserted, God's grace that is confirmed.

That absolution stirs worshipers to what is probably the simplest and even overlooked and undervalued act that is a part of our worship tradition – the Sharing of the Peace. Think about what happens there. It's much more than a "social moment," more than an opportunity to say "good morning, how are you?" This act is a profound wish that the very kind of peace that comes from God's forgiveness will be fully experienced by each worshiper you greet. The liturgical style of worship, with its form that are repeated can become routine if we aren't careful and thoughtful about what we do. And likely the *sharing of the peace* is the easiest part to take for granted. So, when doing it, give extra special thought to what this action intends. It is the wish that your fellow worshipers will experience the absolute depth of *peace* that comes with the knowledge of being absolved by the God of the universe, the creator of life, the author and essence of love. That is the very best news we can hear when we gather for worship and it needs to be the source of the greatest peace and joy that we can wish for each other. It is indeed a very important part of worship. Do it with sincerity and great joy!

## ***Hymn Notes***

The sources of the hymns we sing are both varied and fascinating. They represent one of the very significant aspects of the Christian faith, namely, the time and space that is spanned by this great religious tradition. Our hymns can be centuries old or as new as yesterday. They may have come from our own national heritage or from virtually every country and culture in the world's history.

One of the hymns we'll sing during the month of September is ***If thou but trust in God to guide thee***. The original title uses a German word can be translated as either *trust* or *suffer*. So the hymn is included in many collections as *If thou but suffer God to guide thee*. The meaning is the same. The author of this hymn is **Georg Neumark** (1621-1681). He wrote the text as well as the music (Hymn tune, ***Wer nur den lieben Gott***).

Neumark composed it based on his own personal experience. While traveling to attend the University of Königsberg, he was attacked by robbers. They literally took everything he had. He was left completely destitute and thereby unable to continue his intended studies. Going from place to place he sought employment. Eventually he was hired as a tutor by a wealthy family in Kiel. Instantly grateful for this answer to his prayers, he wrote this now famous hymn of trust. After a while he had saved enough money to resume his quest to study, so he returned to the university in 1643. His educational focus was in law and poetry. After graduating he became court poet, librarian and archivist for Duke Wilhelm II of Saxe-Weimar.

The hymn was originally part of a group of hymns collected by Michael Schirmer, an educator and poet who lived in Berlin during the Thirty Years' War. He endured much personal suffering, sorrow and hardship. He wrote of that and left behind those writings as well as that collection of hymns. It was published in 1650 as *Biblische Lieder*, including the composition by Neumark.

## Planning One's Funeral - A Seminar

Monday, Sept. 26 @ 6:30 pm OR Tuesday, Sept. 27 @ 10:30 am



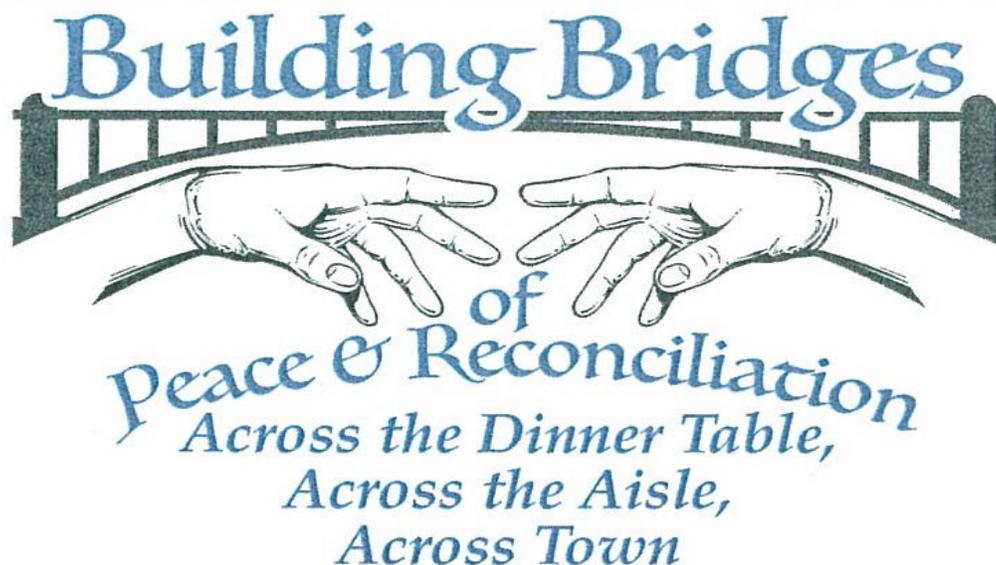
Planning one's own funeral is not the most appealing notion. Instinctively we tend to resist that idea. **However**, there really are some very good reasons to do it. Therefore, All Saints' is offering an opportunity for us to gather to examine the process and attempt to get a start on it. Father Fred Eichner will lead a workshop in which the range of details at the time of one's death will be reviewed. Quite obviously that is a time that is filled with emotion along with many details to be handled by family members. Often the responsibility of attending to the funeral arrangements themselves becomes an added burden. It is very helpful to those who come after us to know what our preferences and expectations are for that time. If the deceased has spelled out the plan before hand, such a burden is greatly relieved. This kind of planning relieves spouses, children, other relatives (and sometimes even friends) of having to make such choices under pressure at an already emotionally charged time.

It is of benefit to the individual as well. It provides the opportunity to determine the form, style and content one's own funeral will have. Many people have some rather clear ideas about what they'd like that occasion to be – or not to be. This gives the chance to express those wishes in a direct way. It is something that many people have not had or taken the opportunity to talk about because it is not a pleasant conversation to have.

This session will walk participants through a process outlined in a multi-page document, asking them to determine specific instructions about some things that should be done at the time of death. It will suggest some people to be notified, offer the chance to express a personal preference about burial or cremation, and what to do with remains. It will ask such questions as what hymns might be sung, what readings might be used (Biblical and/or secular), who should be invited to speak and participate in other ways, who should be pallbearers, where the funeral should take place (church, funeral home, graveside, etc.).

As these various choices are discussed there will be explanations of options and answers to questions that participants might have concerning any parts of the process. The leader will encourage participants to complete their own document on their own after the seminar, make copies of it for key people so that it will be helpful when it is needed, and to be prepared to make changes in it if they are desired as time goes by.

The workshop/seminar will be held in **two sessions** (your choice). If you prefer not to go out at night, you can come to the daytime version. The first session will be held on **Monday evening, September 26, 6:30 p.m. in the Conference room, lower level of the Office Building**. The second opportunity (very same program and content) will be daytime, the next day **Tuesday, September 27, at 10:30 a.m.** All participants are welcome and encouraged to attend.



**Announcing the 134TH ECW Annual Meeting  
of the Episcopal Church Women  
of the Diocese of North Carolina**

**When:** Friday, November 4  
& Saturday, November 5, 2016  
**Where:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
520 Summit St., Winston-Salem, NC  
**Holy Eucharist:** The Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Pro Tempore

The Keynote speaker is The Reverend Kathryn Mary (Kammy) Young. She is the Director of Contextual Education and Lecturer in Contextual Theology The School of Theology at Sewanee.

The Diocesan ECW is in a period of transition. The Constitution and Bylaws committee has met regularly since its appointment. Society changes and needs of the Diocese ECW have guided changes in language and roles/positions needed toward the future functions of the organization.

Nominations for presentation on the ballot for the voting delegation are as follows:

**President:** *(Mary Gordon has agreed to extend her position for another year until a President Elect is available to step into position of President. The ballot will include Mary Gordon for President.)*

**President –Elect:** This position has not been active. Will assume the position of President after the 2017 Annual Meeting.

**Treasurer-Elect:** This is a new position. Kathy MacLeod has agreed to serve as Treasurer-Elect. She will need to be asked to serve and her name will be placed on the ballot for Treasurer-Elect.

**Vice-President:** Should be elected rather than appointed by the ECW Board.

**Lisa H. Towle Endowment Fund Coordinator:** This is a new position.

**Missions Coordinator:** This is a new position. THERE IS NO LONGER A COORDINATOR OF CHRISTIAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES.

**UNITED THANK OFFERING COORDINATOR:** This position has been vacant for several years. Lisa Towle during her tenure as President has taken on this responsibility.

These positions are described in the updated Constitution and to be proposed By-Laws. The Constitution will be voted on by the delegation at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The By-Laws will be presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting. There is a need to recognize the roles/positions needed toward the future functions of the organization. More information is on their website. [www.ecwnc.org](http://www.ecwnc.org)

## Scripture Readings and Server Schedule

### **The Ushers for September**

Tom Wellman and Chris Canady

### September 4 - Pentecost 18

**8 am Chalice/Lay Reader:** Robbie Stewart  
**8 am Lector:** Jennifer Quinn  
**10 am Chalice/Lay Reader:** Patricia Barnes  
**10 am Lector:** Rae Mitchell

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20** Walk in the way of life and hold fast to God.

**Psalms 1** They are like trees planted by streams of water.

**Philemon 1-21** Paul says: Receive Onesimus as a coworker.

**Luke 14:25-33** Jesus says: Disciples, give up your possessions and carry the cross.

### September 11 - Pentecost 19

**8 am Chalice/Lay Reader:** Julian Gardner  
**8 am Lector:** Inez Gardner  
**10 am Lay Reader:** Chris Lehman  
**10 am Chalice:** Gaynell Jennings  
**10 am Lector:** Diane Sawyer

**Exodus 32:7-14** Moses begs the Lord to turn from anger against the Hebrews.

**Psalms 51:1-10** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

**1 Timothy 1:12-17** Christ Jesus came for sinners.

**Luke 15:1-10** Looking for the lost sheep, silver coin: Jesus eating with sinners.

### September 18 - Pentecost 20

**8 am Chalice/Lay Reader:** Joanne Parrott  
**8 am Lector:** Ginny Orvedahl  
**10 am Lay Reader/Chalice:** Patricia Barnes  
**10 am Lector:** Mike Scott

**Amos 8:4-7** Warnings to those who trample on the needy and poor.

**Psalms 113** The Lord lifts up the poor from the ashes.

**1 Timothy 2:1-7** One God, one mediator—Christ Jesus—who gave himself for all people.

**Luke 16:1-13** A shrewd manager: faithful in little, faithful in much; serving God/wealth.

### September 25 - Pentecost 21

**8 am Chalice/Lay Reader:** Robbie Stewart  
**8 am Lector:** Jennifer Quinn  
**10 am Lay Reader:** Scott Barber  
**10 am Chalice:** Patricia Barnes  
**10 am Lector:** Tony Short

**Amos 6:1a, 4-7** Warnings to those who are comfortable or wealthy.

**Psalms 146** The Lord gives justice to those who are oppressed.

**1 Timothy 6:6-19** Eager to be rich or eager to pursue richness of God's justice?

**Luke 16:19-31** Story of poor Lazarus and the wealthy man.

### October 2 - Pentecost 16

**8 am Chalice/Lay Reader:** Julian Gardner  
**8 am Lector:** Inez Gardner  
**10 am Chalice/Lay Reader:** Patricia Barnes  
**10 am Lector:** Mary Wellman

### **The Ushers for October**

Mike Scott and Scott Harris

### **Outreach**

There is no end to the needs in our community, our country and the world. The Outreach Committee makes decisions each month, as to what needs our congregation may be able to try to meet. This month, on Sunday, September 11, the loose offering will be designated for potential needs within our church membership. On Sunday, September 18, the loose offering will be designated for the Episcopal Relief and Developments fund to assist victims of the recent earthquake in Italy. The All Saints' membership never disappoints with their generosity. Thank you in advance for what you will do in September.

### **Rector's Discretionary Fund (RDF)**

The month of August, the RDF helped give shelter to six adults, five children, diapered three babies, helped three families keep their lights on, two families keep running water and numerous food bags. Which came to \$1153 Your donations help more than you realize.

### *Sunday Worship Schedule*

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

**On Sunday, SEPTEMBER 4  
the regular worship schedule**

#### **RESUMES**

*On September 4*

**Worship is at 8:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.**

**(And remember that on October 2  
we'll start our Adult Education Series  
That will be 9:30 to 10:30 in the Parish  
House**

## ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

635 Hamilton Street

Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

PARISH OFFICE: 252-537-3610

allsaintsrr@gmail.com

### *The Messenger*

is published the last week of each month.

Associate Priest: The Rev. Fred Eichner

Please submit articles to Vickie Irby  
via email [allsaintsrr@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsrr@gmail.com)  
Deadline for the October Messenger is  
Monday, September 26, 2016

Publications can be found on our  
website at [www.allsaintsrr.org](http://www.allsaintsrr.org)  
Webmaster: Gail Eichner

Please email the office at  
[allsaintsrr@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsrr@gmail.com)  
if you wish to receive this  
publication in the future via email.



### **Feeding the Boys of Fall (RRHS Football Team)**

All Saints' will feed the **RRHS Football Team** on **Friday, September 16, around 4 pm**. If you would like to participate in this fun project, be at the parish house around noon to help prepare the meal—3 pm to help serve. This is a very fun and easy project and you will enjoy meeting this great group of young men. One which includes Vickie's son, Bracy Irby, who is a senior this year.

### **Project Graduation—2017 Fundraiser**

Vickie Irby, our parish administrator, will be "**arrested**" on **Homecoming Day, Friday, October 7**. She needs to raise \$250 in advance her 'bail money'. There is a bail bucket on her desk for donations. Donation of any amount is greatly appreciated—no amount is too small. Another big fundraiser for Project Graduation is the Annual Golf Tournament will be on Sat. Oct. 15.

**Project graduation** provides a fun filled night at the T.J. Davis Recreation Center from 11 pm to 5 am. The funds provide a safe and exciting, alcohol free environment for the graduates—food, dj, games, prizes, etc... Graduation night statistically is a very high risk night for injuries and fatalities for students. Project Graduation has proven success in keeping these students free from harm in the past. It also gives them one last night of fun safe fellowship before they head off into the real world.

Contact Vickie if you are interested in volunteering to feed team on Sept 16, donating bail money, sponsoring a hole or being on a golf team. Her cell is 252-532-9194. Thanks for any support.