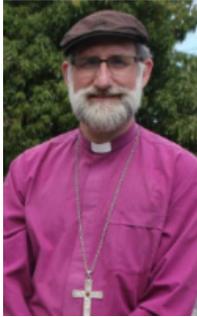


Episcopal Church of Our Saviour Newsletter
November 15, 2020

Bishop Mark Van Koevering Speaking on Saturday, November 21 at 10 A.M.



Bishop Mark will be speaking about his experiences serving as an Anglican Bishop in Northern Mozambique for 13 years, including his interactions with the Islamic community. He will be speaking in a Zoom meeting of the Christian-Muslim Dialogue (CMD) of Lexington (<https://cmdlex.org/>). The CMD was created more than 20 years ago by an Episcopal layman and a Muslim man. The CMD hosts monthly meetings to bring together faithful Christians and Muslims to talk about issues of common interest and share a potluck lunch. Mother Carol has served on the Steering Committee of CMD for ten years. During COVIDtide all the meetings are being held virtually via Zoom. To join this online meeting, please sign up for the newsletter at <https://cmdlex.org/contact-us>. The meeting link will be provided by email.

Praying During COVIDtide

I hope you may find the words of this canticle comforting:

Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.

Christ, as a shield overshadow me.

Christ under me; Christ over me; Christ beside me on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak; in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

This day be within me and without me, lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Christ as a light; Christ as a shield; Christ beside me on my left and my right.



These are anxious times in which we are living, but God is present in each of our lives and in our world, working for holiness, mercy, goodness, health, well-being and peace. If you would like someone to talk to or you would like me to pray for you, please do not hesitate to call me. I am here to help. May I give you this blessing:

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again.

God's Peace and Blessings be with you. **Mother Carol+**

Parish Annual Meeting

We have to postpone the date for our Parish Annual Meeting. We need to amend our parish bylaws and figure out how to conduct an annual meeting safely during this time of COVID. We are looking into ways in which we can have a virtual annual meeting, ensure that we have a quorum of members present, and determine how to sort out ballots and voting for new Vestry members.

We have four vacancies on our **Vestry** for **2021**. If you are interested in serving on Vestry or nominating someone to serve on Vestry please let me or any of our Vestry members know. We will be glad to help. Thank you, Mother Carol+

Anticipating Gratitude: Living Our Thanks in Advent Q&A with Diana Butler Bass

Webinar (Trinity Church Wall Street). Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. ET

We often think of gratitude as thanks for something after it happens. But what does it mean to live a life of thanks in anticipation of our deepest hopes and longings? **Advent** invites us into this holiness practice. Online presentation and Q&A with Diana Butler Bass, Episcopalian, award-winning author, popular speaker, inspiring preacher, and one of America's most trusted commentators on religion and contemporary spirituality. The December 6 event will be followed by discussion sessions at 10 a.m. Sundays, December 13 and 20. Register at trinitywallstreet.org/gratitude.



Bob Kilbourn, an Inspiration

Bob was born in northern Michigan into a religious family whose father was an Episcopal priest and whose mother earned her degree in Christian Education. From an early age, his father taught his four children to explore the world, to question and then search for answers. Bob was the 2nd of these four children. He found himself involved in the church from a very young age. His earliest memories are from about the age of 4. All of these memories are not necessarily happy ones, as being a “minister’s kid” comes with certain expectations and behavioral parameters with which Bob often found himself struggling.

In an effort to corral his son’s often too free spirit and sense of rebellion, his father decided that perhaps a military style school might be the most prudent answer for his then 15-year-old son. Maybe a change in lifestyle could change his attitude! Bob was sent off to a nearby military school that was structured on the West Point model. He recalls his introduction to the school during “Hell Week.” After 4 ½ hours of cleaning the dorm room, he and his dormmates were visited by the senior officers who began to do a “white glove” inspection. He remembers these seniors reaching down and discovering dirt between the floor and a pipe that they had overlooked. Although there was a price to pay for their oversight, and for other infractions along the way, Bob insists that this was excellent training for success later in both schooling and in his life beyond formal education. He mused that these experiences taught him to take orders, and thereby give orders and display leadership when necessary.

Bob’s father had felt that he was called to travel with his family to poorer parishes and work with the parishioners, building the churches up until they could hire a priest of their own. Between the ages of 13 and 14, Bob spent 2 ½ to 3 months living on a Navajo Reservation experiencing the culture and poverty of the community. He recalls his father’s sermons as he would speak in English, and then the message being translated into the Navajo language.

During his high school years, Bob considered the priesthood after his college experience was complete. He went to Transylvania College for a year and a half, but his higher education was interrupted by marriage and the birth of his first child. He moved to Boston where he worked with a floral designer

for a florist and import firm which handled various types of merchandise, some of which he designed. He worked with dedication for 8 hours per day, and attended the Art Academy at the Museum School of Fine Arts in the evening. While working with the import company, he was promoted to the buyer position, and made many trips to Mexico and Central America. After several years of working 7 day a week, he moved to Kentucky to enjoy the slower pace and begin again. He took a position in a mental health facility as a detox monitor, and later as a counselor, where he served for over 5 years.

After a divorce, Bob was on the lookout for something new and different to pursue. As fate would have it, he ended up as a renter/house-sitter in a huge house in Mount Sterling. There he met a surgeon who proposed the possibility of teaching Bob to become a surgical tech, and soon he was in the middle of “on the job training” in the operating room, assisting the surgeon. Following this, he started school to become a First Assistant. At the age of 55, he had a quadruple bypass that naturally slowed him down. But being Bob, we know that this did not stop him. He continued to work in Berea as a tech and First Assistant until his retirement just a few years ago. He had dropped much of his artwork after his surgery, but has recently become reengaged as his time is more available. He now has at least 2-3 painting in progress at one time, and paints several hours a day.

Bob had drifted in and out of the Church for many years due to his traveling and various political issues that he saw arising within the church. Eventually, he found *Our Saviour*, and says that he discovered a church family that he felt was practicing what they believed in, and was a true Christian family.

He learned of his cancer 6 years ago and underwent a surgical intervention to eliminate the disease. Unfortunately, the cancer returned 4 years later as stage four. This time, there was no cure for the disease but because of sharp oncologists and oral chemotherapy, the progression has been slowed. Bob says that his other therapy has been prayer. He spends time each day in prayer, self-reflection, considering “how he can do better”, and thinking of what he can do to make amends to anyone that he feels he may have wronged. He says that he is not sad about the disease’s progression and looks at his life as moving from one position to another.

Bob has been involved in the church for many years in various capacities. He prefers to work “behind the scenes” but is currently serving on the Vestry. He has been married to Lesa for 27 years and has 3 children; Rachael, Lindsey and Heather. He has started to refinish antique furniture and is currently working on pieces that are over 100 years old. He takes each apart, refinished and then reconstructs the pieces. He loves reading books, a love that was instilled in him by his father so many years ago. His favorites concern art history, and ship models, a craft/fine art that he shares with his brother. He also says that he truly relishes being a house husband and thoroughly enjoys housework, particularly laundry and doing dishes. He says that the repetition is relaxing and therapeutic. He now does what he wants and takes care of his health. He credits his church family with showing him that there is more of a future, and for giving him the opportunity to give back what he has been given. For these things, he says that he is eternally grateful and that he can never thank everyone enough for what he has received. He says that he is truly blessed, and we are in turn, blessed by him and his wisdom. **Linda Myers**

Room in the Inn

Hello everyone!! Our parish is continuing to provide lunches to the hungry once a week. We have been doing this for eight months along with many other churches/groups of wonderful volunteers.

The cold weather is coming. Brrr!!! So, Room in the Inn (RITI) will be providing housing to the homeless from December 15-March 15. Due to the Covid virus, the guests will be staying at the Relax Inn located behind Cracker Barrel.

The city of Richmond received a grant of \$52,000 that will be used to pay for “The Inn.” There are already nine different churches including the Islamic Center that have agreed to help with dinner, breakfast and registration. Our group will help with registration again this year. All public health guidelines will be followed to keep everyone safe and healthy as much as possible. Unfortunately, there is no space to store clothing and coats. But folks are already getting cold outside and they will be needed. We will need to have further conversations among our parish members to address these concerns.

Thank you to everyone for providing food, volunteer hours, support and prayers. Our hungry and homeless regularly express their gratitude!

Love to you all, **Janie Jordan**

We (CAN'T) Gather Together *(submitted by Jane Rainey)*



Two hymns most associated with our American Thanksgiving are “Come ye thankful people come” and “We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing.” But while singing those familiar tunes, have you ever wondered about their source or paid serious attention to the words?

“Come ye thankful people come” was written by Henry Alford when he was Vicar of a rural parish in England and first published in 1844. He wrote it for a harvest festival for which parishioners would decorate the church with the best examples of their harvest. (While the phrase in verse two, “first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear,” may find the ECOS garden group nodding knowingly, (Alford was probably speaking not of American-style corn but of some other grain common to his region.) Although the word “harvest” appears throughout the hymn, only verse one describes an agricultural harvest. The rest of the hymn describes a spiritual harvest. Verse two draws on Mark 4:26-29 (parable of the growing seed) while verse three invokes Matthew 13:34-30 (parable of the weeds).

“We gather together” is a Dutch hymn, first published in 1626 as a celebration of the Dutch victory over Spanish occupying forces in 1597. Because Spain’s Catholic king had barred Dutch Protestants from meeting together, the song also celebrated a victory for Protestantism. Dutch settlers in America brought the song with them but continued to sing it in their language. It was translated into English in 1894 under the title “Prayer of Thanksgiving,” and appeared in early 20th century American hymnals but became particularly popular during World War II when “the wicked oppression” was seen as applying to Nazi Germany and imperial Japan. In the 1950s, it was used to advance the Protestant-Catholic ecumenical movement (we gather together) despite its anti-Catholic origin, and President Lyndon Johnson quoted from it in his first address to Congress on Thanksgiving eve following President John F. Kennedy’s assassination on November 22, 1963.

This year we cannot gather together in large families, and in this time of political tension, phrases like “the wicked oppression” and “from the beginning the fight we were winning” might not sit well at the dinner table anyway, so I will share with you the words that my family would be singing if we could all gather together for our Thanksgiving dinner in North Carolina as we have done for the last 40+ years.

These words come from my sister who wanted something that my nieces when they were young could sing, understand, and enjoy:

We gather together today on Thanksgiving,
We gather together--our family and friends.
We're thankful for the food we eat,
Thankful for the friends we meet,
Thankful for our family, gathered here and far away.

Sources:

The Hymnal 1940 Companion (3rd revised edition)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Gather_Together

<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2017/11/the-dark-and-divisive-history-of-americas-thanksgiving-hymn/546524/>

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-we-gather-together1>

<https://www.hymnologyarchive.com/come-ye-thankful-people-come>

It is Well

Have you ever felt totally overcome by sorrow? Have you ever felt that life has not treated you fairly? I know I have. There was a man and woman who had every reason to feel this way, but through faith persevered. Horatio and Anna Spafford had pain beyond my comprehension. This article will deal primarily with the husband, but the wife also suffered and is also a hero! This article is based on a meditation which I recently gave at an Evening Prayer service. It is based on several Internet sources. There are some minor discrepancies between the articles, but I have chosen the facts most consistent among the articles.

Horatio Spafford was born in Troy, NY, which is just across the Hudson River from Albany, NY. He became a respected Chicago Attorney and prospered. He married Anna Oglende from Norway. He was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church and supported the Evangelist, Dwight Moody. They had a son and four daughters.

Then things turned very dark in their life. In 1870 their only son died of scarlet fever. This was soon followed by the Great Chicago Fire in 1871 and the "Long" depression which began in 1873. The Spaffords were financially devastated. Nevertheless; in 1873, he booked a trip to England for his family. Due to business needs he could not go with them. He sent them on and planned to join them when he could. His family sailed on the "Villa du Havre" which was accidentally rammed by another ship and sank in a few minutes. His four daughters were drowned, but somehow Anna survived. Can you imagine losing five children? I suspect it would have been so easy to sink into depression and give up.

Spafford sailed to Wales to join Anna and on the trip was inspired to write the hymn: "It is Well with My Soul." A nice version is found on You Tube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHe_qmo3gX4.

The first verse goes:

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll.*

*Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say:
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Horatio and Anna left the Presbyterian Church to form a Philanthropic mission to Jerusalem. It was respected by Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Horatio died of malaria in 1888 and Anna lived until 1923. It is well, it is well with their souls! (Submitted by **James Anderson**)

Save Our History

A few months ago, when the newsletter was just beginning, and ideas were being floated as to just what might be included, Rev. Carol indicated that she felt strongly that the history of our church needed to be preserved. There are many stories of its former life on Main Street and the transition to our present location that need to be recorded. **Sandra Plant** lovingly supplied ideas for this preservation in an email. I thought that if I printed that email, some of our members might recall these events and record them for the posterity of our present and future members. Being fairly new myself, I would love to hear these stories and enjoy the reminiscences of members, who have had a rich past with this church family. I know that the names of several of our members are repeatedly invoked, but I hope that they will only see this as an indication of their dedication and commitment to our community. If you feel that you can contribute to saving our history by using these ideas from Sandra, or have memories of your own that you would like to share, we would all love to read them. If you would prefer to tell your story, I would be more than happy to put them to paper (or computer file), or if you would rather call me with these reminiscences. Thanks for your help in this endeavor.

Linda Myers

Linda,

Here are a few ideas for your consideration for the Our Saviour newsletter. I can't volunteer to write them all, so I have suggested a few key people. But there are plenty of others who might also enjoy reminiscing about how Our Saviour got to be where it is today.

1. Secrets of Our Saviour

Messages Hidden in the Walls: I could write about the Sunday when the church was under construction. The walls were up, the studs had not yet been covered with sheet rock. **Father Birch Rambo**, our Priest-in-Charge at the time, gave out marker pens and urged the congregation to go over to the construction site and write messages on the building studs. I recall what I wrote and exactly where I wrote it. I could ask **Grace, Tom, Steve** and **Louise** if they remember that day.

Disappearing Landmarks: Steve and several others will recall that a pond was on the church property as well as a beautiful spring that was destroyed when the housing development was built on adjacent property. At one time, Steve created a walking trail around the property. Steve also rescued the pig barn from weeds, vines and neglect to become the garden shed of today. Hopefully, Steve will draft this for the newsletter.

Discovering the Property: Grace and other charter members will recall how the church acreage was found and purchased. I think I recall that **Sally Evans** spotted that the site was for sale. The site was a tobacco farm and for years Our Saviour got a most welcome payment from the government for not growing tobacco. The parish house was home to the family that owned the farm. Perhaps Grace will write this story. She is an excellent writer.

Source of the Cross and Stained-Glass Window: Who would believe that the cross, stained glass window and other features came from a deconsecrated Christian Church in California, Kentucky? A few other

sacred furnishings came from the deconsecrated Christ Episcopal Church in downtown Richmond. Father Rambo's late father was lay minister of the Christian church in Northern Kentucky and Our Saviour can thank him for these generous gifts. Several people, confiscated a very old kneeler, the Bishop's chair and more from the old Christ Church. Grace will know about the items from Christ Church. Tom Bryan hung the wooden cross on the wall behind the altar the evening before the dedication. A whole team worked feverishly to get things ready for the dedication the next day, polishing, cleaning and more. Steve and Louise and members of the altar guild at the time would remember this exciting time.

2. **Groundbreaking for the new church building:** When? Details? Grace and others on the vestry at the time

3. **Dedication of the new church building:** When? Details? (I recall that Connie Lawson was mayor at the time and she was present to welcome on behalf of the city.) Grace and others on the vestry at the time would know more or perhaps have the bulletin.

Devoted Servants:

1. Our Saviour has had a perpetual treasurer, **Laura Melius**. Also, choir member and much more.

2. **Steve Locke** served for a number of years as Senior Warden in periods between priests, plus chief pancake chef for Shrove Tuesday and mens' breakfasts, lay reader and much more.

3. **Jane Rainey** has been organist and choir director for a long, long time.

4. **Louise Locke** has headed the altar guild for a long time and has been blessed with several long-term members, who should be recognized. She is also an altar server, choir member and much more.

5. **Tom Bryan** came to the church in 2004 and has filled many key roles ever since including building committee, vestry, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, choir member, altar server and much more.

6. When something needs doing, **Jim Farris** quietly does it, from washing dishes to cutting grass.

7. **Leslie Farris** has served on vestry, Daughters of the King, altar guild and much more.

8. **Pat Harris** is Our Saviour's only true Anglican. She is a solid rock on altar guild and wherever needed.

9. **James Anderson** is a solid rock, past Senior Warden and much more.

10. **Grace Sears** is another solid rock, serving on vestry many times and leading children's Sunday School forever! She is a charter member.

11. How I wish I knew the newer members who are doing the Lord's Work so well in the six years since I moved to Nashville.

Hope this helps. I have such fond memories of Our Saviour and its very special people, some still there and a few gone to the larger life (Millie, Bob, Judy, Peggy, Martie and more).

Thanks for doing this important job of communicating. Blessings to you, **Sandra Plant**

Exciting Contest, not to be Missed!

There has been some discussion on the less than flamboyant moniker of this newsletter. *Newsletter*, although descriptive, lacks a bit of creativity and panache. Therefore, we would like to propose a small contest for the purpose of finding a more appropriate name for this endeavor. We request that you



send ideas for titles that would be more interesting. Once enough ideas are submitted, we will publish all entries. These entries would then be voted on by readers, and the name acquiring the most votes would receive a **\$25 Amazon Gift card**. Submissions can be made to rukasa05@aol.com by November 1st, or there about, as I'm not a stickler. Have fun! Be creative! We look forward to your submissions.

Donation of Books

As part of a Christmas Toys for Tots program **Leslie Farris** is collecting new books for children from toddlers to teenagers. If you would like to donate some books, please contact **Leslie**.

Ancient Joke of the Week

During a Sunday school lesson, a child learned how God created human beings. The child became especially focused when the teacher explained how Eve was created from Adam's rib. Later in the week, the boy's mother saw him lying down on the floor, so she asked him what was wrong. His reply was priceless. "Mom, I have a pain in my side. I think I'm getting a wife!"

Please submit any articles to rukasa05@aol.com, or call **Linda Myers** at 513-368-6415.