



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

# Fifth Sunday after Trinity Independence Day

Sunday Report



Wednesday we celebrated Independence Day, 4 July 2012, which marked 236 years since the establishment of this country on the solid foundation of Divine Providence. That would be God.



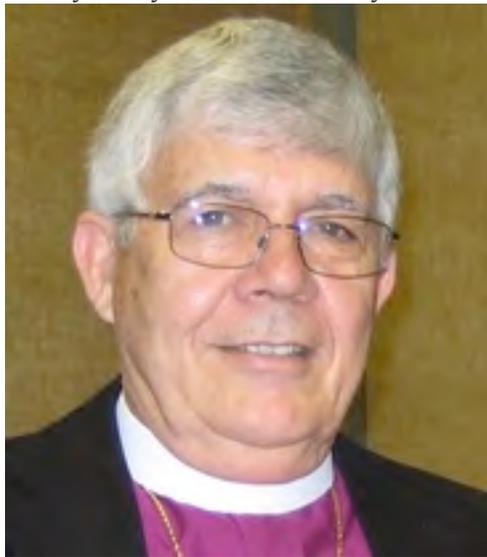
There is a marked tendency to think of the Fourth of July as just another holiday, perhaps special because of the fireworks. It is not. This day marks the establishment of the only successful Republic the world has ever seen. It is a special country with special relationship with God. It is not that God is on our side, but rather we are on God's side. If we lose that relationship, we lose the special nature of our country.

We trust you and your families had the very best Independence Day. While you were enjoying the day, we hope you took the time remember the terrible cost of our freedom and those who paid it for us.

I commend to you the Independence Day message from our Presiding Bishop Jerry L. Ogles:

**"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."** (John 8:36) and **"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."** (John 8:32)

Today (July 4th) is the day in America on which we celebrate Independence Day! But



what did that Independence, gained from Great Britain, entail for the people of America? It provided a free and open society in which her citizens could enjoy those inalienable rights granted by God of life (even to a child in its mother's womb), liberty (the freedom to worship as we please, say what we please, and do what we please as long as we do not harm others), and the pursuit of happiness (to plan for and provide for our families, or our own careers, in whatever way we deem suitable for us). These are not rights granted by the American government, or any other government – these are rights granted by God Almighty. Any government that attempts to curtail these rights, or adjudicate them into privileges, is acting without legitimate authority.

We should never forget this country was founded upon Christian and Biblical principles (notwithstanding the recent words of a President who wishes to deny that America is still a Christian nation). An old friend of mine who is also a staunch patriot and lover of the American Way, has spent much time and treasure in sharing artifacts and documents of our founding as a nation. He is the Rev. James Flanagan of Philadelphia! He sent to my church for posting a beautiful copy of George Washington's Prayer at Valley Forge which we have been honored to display at St Andrews:

"Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United states at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"  
~ George Washington

A report released in May 2011 by Harvard University entitled, "Shaping the Nation: Estimating the Impact of Fourth of July Using a Natural Experiment," finds Republicans benefit more from Fourth of July parades and activities than do Democrats. The study reveals young people below the age of eighteen who attended at least one patriotic celebration on the 4th of July are more likely to vote and support the Republican Party. I will leave the reader to draw the proper conclusion to this report whose aim is likely to discourage patriotic celebrations as threatening to the socialist agenda. Perhaps the display of Nativity Scenes and Easter Crosses might have a similar detrimental impact on the atheist faith as well.

No President should denigrate our Christian heritage or the values which made our nation great. Unless America is a Christian nation in the hearts of her people, and not the lips of a President, we may not be so. But as long as we hold dear those truths in our hearts to be self-evident that underpinned our founding as a nation, we shall ever remain strong and free.

It appears we have ventured far from those principles for which our forefathers fought and died to establish us as a Nation. The answer to our apostasy is not in whom we send to Washington to represent us – it lies in the hearts of the American people themselves to reaffirm. If America returns to God who gave us liberty, we shall find those to represent us in Washington whose values are likewise based on biblical and Constitutional principles. My prayer is that God will once again shed His Light on Thee, America!





The Anglican Church, being founded on the principal of one nation, one church, holds patriotism and true love of country in great regard. It is quite interesting that the majority of the Founding Fathers were members of the Church of England and transferred their national church identity to what became the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States. Like Henry VIII and Thomas Cranmer, they saw the need for a national church. Not a captive arm of the government, but a link to God for the people of the nation.

We hold our Independence Day dear to our hearts and it is one of our religious feasts or holidays. A proper Red Letter Day!

The Independence Day Propers are found on Page 263-264.

**Independence Day.**  
**[July 4.]**  
*The Collect.*

**O** ETERNAL God, through whose mighty power our fathers won their liberties of old; Grant, we beseech thee, that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain these liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dru Arnold read the Epistle, which came from the Tenth Chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy beginning at the Seventeenth Verse:

**T**HE LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: he doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name. He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen..

Today's Gospel started in the Fifth Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew beginning at the Forty-Third Verse:

**J**ESUS said, Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

# Fifth Sunday after Trinity

## Sunday Report

Today we celebrated the Fifth Sunday after Trinity Sunday. Summer is here, sunrise temperature on Mount Olympus was 58°F, by the time church ended the mercury had climbed to 86°F, all under bright blue and clear skies. We ended up with 2 people present for the service as Jack Arnold is still visiting the Thomas Family in Guam until next week. Jack's Travel Log is here: <http://poshkandaroo.blogspot.com/>

### *Gathering Song*

Dru Arnold played *Amazing Grace* for the gathering song.

### *Amazing Grace*

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.



We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment. But with Jack gone, Dru is playing the organ for the songs. *Amazing Grace* seems to be the parish favorite, as well as Hap's.

### *Propers*

Each Sunday there are Propers: special prayers and readings from the Bible. There is a Collect for the Day; that is a single thought prayer, most written either before the re-founding of the Church of England in the 1540s or written by Bishop Thomas Cranmer, the first Archbishop of Canterbury after the re-founding.

The Collect for the Day is to be read on Sunday and during Morning and Evening Prayer until the next Sunday. The Epistle is normally a reading from one of the various Epistles, or letters, in the New Testament. The Gospel is a reading from one of the Holy Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Collect is said by the minister as a prayer, the Epistle can be read by either a designated reader (as we do in our church) or by one of the ministers and the Holy Gospel, which during the service in our church is read by an ordained minister or our Deacon Striker.

The propers are the same each year, except if a Red Letter Feast, that is one with propers in the prayerbook, falls on a Sunday, then those propers are to be read instead, except in a White Season, where it is put off. Red Letter Feasts, so called because in the Altar Prayerbooks the titles are in red, are special days. Most of the Red Letter Feasts are dedicated to early saints instrumental in the development of the church, others to special events. Some days are particularly special and the Collect for that day is to be used for an octave (eight days) or an entire season, like Advent or Lent.

The Propers for today are found on Page 195-196, with the Collect first:

**The Fifth Sunday after Trinity.**

*The Collect.*

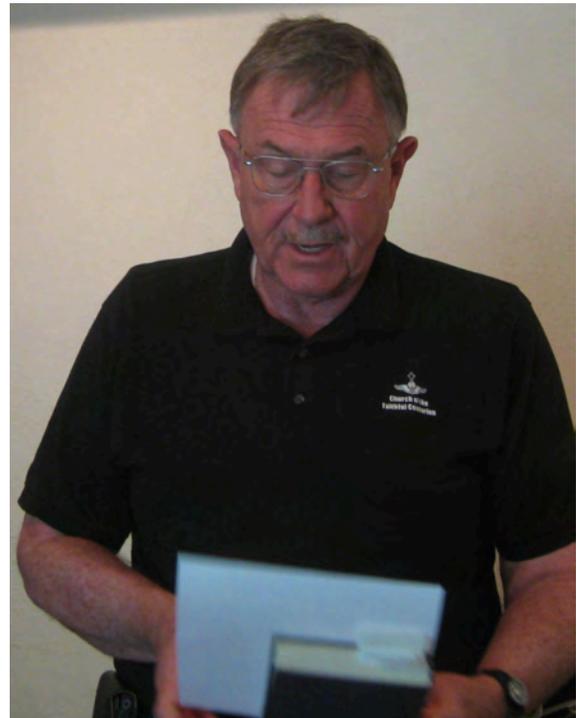
**G**RANT, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Dru Arnold read the Epistle, which came from the Third Chapter of the First Epistle of Saint Peter beginning at the Eighth Verse. Peter tells to be of one mind, have compassion and pity for each other, to be courteous, to give good to all our brethren, to return good for evil, to seek peace, to do good, not just talk good. Peter tells us to not only talk the talk, but walk the walk. To put ourselves in others' places, understand when they fall short and make good things happen.



**B**E ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.

Today's Holy Gospel started in the Fifth Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke beginning at the First Verse. This is one of the classic stories of Jesus in the Bible. Jesus had gone down to Lake Gennesaret to pray and then speak to the people. As they pressed in on him, he asked Simon Peter to use his boat as a speaking platform. Speaking from a small boat near the beach is almost like speaking in an amphitheatre. When he finished talking to the people, he told Simon Peter to go out and set his nets. Simon pointed out they had fished all night with no result, but at His word, he would set his net. The net gathered an incredible catch that Simon Peter and his friends could not board. At that point, it was clear to Simon Peter he was in the presence of one far greater than himself. He fell to his knees, saying, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Then Jesus said, "Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." From then on Simon Peter followed Jesus.



Do not misunderstand, every day Jesus speaks to you telling you what to do. It is your choice, you can listen like Simon Peter, or you can ignore Jesus. He has the pony for the lottery. He wants to give it to you, all you have to do is accept. While He is a bit more subtle than a Drill Instructor, the question is the same, "Can you hear me?"

There are none so deaf as those who will not hear.

**I**T came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, and saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: and so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

### *Sermon – Time and Action*

Today's sermon discussed the Collect, Epistle and Gospel. It is partially contained in the forewords above.

Consider these words from the Collect:

... the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness ...

In the Collect, we ask that this world might follow God's will. Why? Because in those places where it does, we find happiness and joy. It is that simple, it means more, reflect on that. After all, Amazing, is it not? Since the Garden, it has always been one of the two same choices:

1. We follow God's Will for us, we do what is good for us, individually and as a people or a country. It is hard work, but easier than we imagined; we prosper when all goes well. It was all our doing, we are happy because we were so smart.
2. We ignore God's instructions, doing what we want to do, not what we are supposed to do. It turns out to be way harder than we thought possible, in the end everything turns to weasel spit. It was not our fault, it was God's fault, He is punishing us.

<sup>3.</sup> As long as we are human, imperfect creatures with free will, it will never change for humanity. But, we can. We can learn from the past and live for the future in Him who gave His Life that we might be free eternally.

So, how do we make our little part of this world follow God's will? Peter tells to be of one mind, have compassion and pity for each other, to be courteous, to give good to all our brethren, to return good for evil, to seek peace, to do good, not just talk good. Peter tells us to not only talk the talk, but walk the walk. To put ourselves in others' places, understand when they fall short and make good things happen.

So, just how do we make good things happen? Fairly simple, do what God asks! Don't figure out ways to seem to do what He asks, while doing what you want. Consider when Jesus told Simon Peter to go out and set his nets. Simon was tired, he was hungry, he had fished all night with no result. After making excuses, he decided to do what he was told! The net gathered an incredible catch that Simon Peter and his friends could not board.

That is what happened to Simon Peter; that is what will happen to you, if you will but listen.

Do not misunderstand, every day Jesus speaks to you telling you what to do. It is your choice, you can listen like Simon Peter or you can ignore Jesus. He has the pony for the lottery. He wants to give it to you, all you have to do is accept. While He is a bit more subtle than a Drill Instructor, the question is the same, "Can you hear me?"

There are none so deaf as those who will not hear.



## Bishop Ogles' Sermon

We are off fortunate to get copies of Bishop Jerry's sermon notes. Today is one of those Sundays. Today's sermon starts off with the collect. It will give you a lot to consider in your heart.

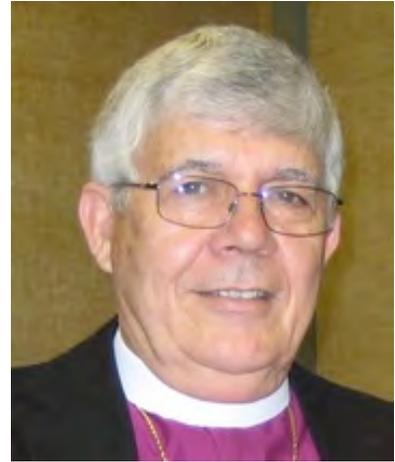
### Sermon Notes

Fifth Sunday after Trinity  
8 July 2012, Anno Domini

#### The Fifth Sunday after Trinity.

##### *The Collect.*

**G**RANT, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



*1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. 3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. 4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, **Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.** 5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. 9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: 10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, **Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.** 11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.* (Luke 5:1-11)

Jesus is once again by the shores of Galilee (Gennesaret). As usual, people of all stripes are pressing around Him, either for the sake of healing and hearing, or for a glimpse at a popular figure. Many today are no different from this latter crowd. They enjoy the 'popularity' of Christ and being 'called' Christian. Have you ever asked yourself what it is about Christ that most appeals to your own heart? Is it itching ears you have to hear a new word, or is it the Word of Truth that you truly seek?

We observe in today's Gospel text the third call of Peter, James, Andrew and John – this time to Apostleship. There were two previous calls of increasing import – John 1:35-42 & Matt 4:18-22. This third is the chief call. It is much like our level of ministry in Holy Orders.

*2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.* The ships of fishermen usually dock in the morning after a long and weary night of fishing. Night is the best time to fish for fish, **and it is the best time to fish for men.** Those who walk in darkness have great need of Light, and this Light we present to them so that "*The people who sat in darkness have seen a great Light*" and that Light is Christ! Fish are easily caught at night due to the dangers of limited vision. Those who walk in darkness as well fall prey to the snares of the devil.

The two ships are notable. The one into which Jesus steps are much like the Jewish nation to which He came first. The second is like unto the Gentile nations. In the end, both who follow Him are filled to capacity with great blessing.

*3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.*

The multitudes are great and press closely on Christ. He can hardly move an elbow for the press. He enters Simon's ship and asked him to cast out some short distance from the shore. This vantage point will separate Him from the crowd and its worldly concerns of His popular appeal. They represent the world, and He sits apart from the world and preaches to those who stand in it. It is often necessary for a minister to separate himself from the petty politics of the parish and get a deep-seated stand on the Word of God that he may preach with power and conviction, unmoved by public opinion.

Jesus, unlike many modern "Jumping Jacks of the Pulpit", often sat down to preach and teach. He spoke in even and calm accents. He sat as one having authority and not needing to scream to awaken heaven and hell to His Person.

Jesus now gives a command that would seem ridiculous to a seasoned fisherman of little or no faith: *4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, **Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.*** It might seem at first strange that so common a teacher as Jesus could command the immediate obedience of rough men of the sea, but Jesus was no common teacher, and His disciples would be, no more, rough men of the sea. Christ, through the disciples' knowledge of Him gleaned from past observation, commanded respect, obedience, and action. He has full authority over the lives of those who consider themselves His disciples – that includes you and me.

The bright morning sun would preclude a reasonable possibility of catching fish; yet, these fishermen knew that whatever Christ commanded was reasonable even if a miracle were required to bring about the result.

Of course, obedience to Christ will always result in munificent reward.

Do not simply "launch out", but also "let down you nets," and not simply "let down your nets", but let them down for a draught of fish! Even if God's commands may seem unreasonable to us, we obey to the letter and wait for the miracle.

We might prefer to fish for bait fish along the near shore, but Christ commands us to launch out far into the deep – that is where the large catches are made – Africa, India, Asia, America, the darkly lit streets of New York!

So what response do we expect from a faithful disciple?

*5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.* The labors of the hands of men profit nothing apart from the hand of the Lord working in, and through, him. Working all the long night will avail no riches in heaven unless it is in obedience to God's Word.

Even though the disciple has labored all night, at the opportune time for fishing, and achieved nothing at all, yet, the Lord's commands are not empty of meaning. Peter acknowledges that he has failed in his own strength to catch any fish, but, *"at Thy*

**Word"** Peter will let down the net. We can fish for men all we like under our own power, but we will change no hearts, nor save any souls. It is the Holy Ghost working in the hearts to draw them to the NET that counts.

*6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.* Even when we begin with faith, we are overcome in amazement at the surprising power of God to bring victory from hopelessness. It is unlikely that these men had ever caught so many fish that their nets began to break, but at the most inopportune time of day for fishing, this is the very thing that happened. Obedience to God ALWAYS pays dividends.

The laborer may look at his pitiful seven loaves of bread and wonder how can this ever provide sufficiency to feed a family, or a household with guests, but he then remembers the One who fed on one occasion four thousand, and on another, seven thousand, with such little provision of bread. That increase, which God gives, though seemingly small, will always be sufficient to meet the needs.

*7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.* Instead of constantly struggling for the greatest mansion of a building, or for pride and prestige, the churches should be working for the greater need – the salvation of souls and propagation of the Gospel. Instead of playing petty politics with sex and sin, they should be manning the rescue boats for the saving of souls. And they must labor together and not at odds with each other or the Word of God in doing so. The number of boats will never be sufficient to land the haul of souls caught in the net of the Gospel if we are obedient to God.

*8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. 9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken.*

Are you astonished at the work of Christ in your own life and that of others? If not, perhaps you need to be more diligent in prayer and study. Do you believe that Simon Peter really desired Christ to depart from him? Not at all! He could not suppress his humility and gratitude that such a Majestic Lord would bend ear to him. Though Peter had come to expect the unexpected, he was nevertheless surprised at the Grace and Power of God evidenced by Jesus.

We note, first, the awakening of conscience in Peter. When he observed the righteousness and glory of Christ in comparison to his own poverty stricken soul, he was ashamed of his own sins. Have you been?

Following the awareness of our sins comes the cry of fear and contrition! How can Christ receive poor Peter in view of his past sins? How can Christ receive you and me in view of our past sins? But He does!

*10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, **Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.*** If Christ abides with you, FEAR NOT! Yes, you have been heavy laden with sins, but He will remove that unbecoming yoke from your shoulders and place His own yoke upon you that does not bear down, but rather lifts up. Your earthly nets may break with sin, but Christ will make you fishers of men and that NET will never give out for abundance. In the two previous Gospel accounts of fishing, Christ had told them that He would make them fishers of men. Now, they are told that they SHALL catch men.

*11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.* The disciples had abandoned all to follow Christ on previous occasions: *And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.* (Matt 4:20) And following the Crucifixion, they did so again: *Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.* (John 21:3) Following this event when Christ again commanded them to drop their nets, Peter and the others never returned to their secular professions. They left the life of fishers of sea creatures, and took up the full mantle of fishers of men according to Christ's command to them – and to us! Are you?

*Guest Sermon by Bishop George W. Connor, Anglican Episcopal Church*



**CHRISTIAN MANLINESS**

Fifth Sunday after Trinity  
Saint Bede's Tucson, Arizona  
8 July 2012

In this morning's Baptismal Office young Jonathan Lindsey was received "...with the sign of the cross, in token that hereafter he shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under His banner, against sin, the world, and the devil..." (p. 280, BCP). The phraseology is the same, whether the individual being baptized is male or female.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary says this regarding the word manful: It can be used as an adjective, and it dates from the 14th century. Its definition "*having or showing courage and resolution*" The adverb that goes with this is manfully, and the corresponding noun is manful-ness.

It appears that certain political groups, in their efforts to promote a gender-neutral culture, object to the attribution of the quality of manful-ness to a soldier, even though the meaning is well understood. This is an example of the constantly recurring linguistic bias in contemporary bibles against masculine characterizations.

Another word that we encounter is "manliness". "Christian manliness" became a common catch phrase that represented a strategy for commending Christian virtue by linking it with secular notions of moral and physical prowess. "Manliness" in this context generously embraced all that was virtuous and vigorous and it is this blend of recurrent religious principle with contemporary heroism that became central to our understanding of the period and determined the construction of the modern masculine ideal.

For most of the nineteenth century and certainly until the 1930's, the prevailing definition of "manliness" as a code of conduct for men was a matter of keen interest to educators and social critics. Experts who ranged from Thomas Arnold through Thomas Carlyle, Charles Kingsley and Thomas Hughes to Robert Baden-Powell variously placed emphasis on moral courage, sexual purity, athleticism and stoicism.

A similar word is "boldness". Let's consider a phrase from this morning's second lesson: "And when they beheld the boldness of Peter and John, they took knowledge of

them, that they were unlearned and ignorant men, that they had been with Jesus.”(Acts 4: 13)

The boldness of Peter and John. The Jewish religious leaders were about to encounter men who had a courageous quality about them. Peter and John would no longer be intimidated. They knew in Whom they believed and were persuaded that He was able to keep them in the center of His will. Lives that had been marked by cowardice were now marked by confidence.

The Jewish religious leaders noticed this confidence of Peter and John, but they still thought they could intimidate them: We read at v. 18: Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. <sup>20</sup>For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. <sup>21</sup>So when they had further threatened them, they let them go. (Acts 4:18-21a)

The religious leaders' tactic was simple, and it is still the tactic the world uses today: If you can't ignore the Christians, intimidate them. The goal, of course, is to get Christians to cool it when it comes to living out biblical Christianity.

The religious leaders were willing to let them believe anything they chose. What they were not willing to let them do was to act on what they believed. That is precisely what the world tells us today. "*We respect your right to your religious belief, just don't impose that belief on anyone else.*" The fact of the matter is that we can't impose anything on anyone. But that's not what they mean. What they mean is that they don't want us acting on what we believe. They don't want us talking about what we believe. They certainly don't want us trying to influence other people to believe what we believe. And when we live out what we believe and stand up for what we believe, they are threatened, so they seek to threaten us. They just want us to calm down, to lay low, and to blend in.

Peter and John would have nothing to do with it. They said that they couldn't stop speaking what they had seen and heard. In essence, they told the religious leaders that they had to obey God rather than men. They didn't say that they would not stop speaking, they said they could not. You see, it wasn't their choice. They saw it as obedience to God's command. It wasn't God's suggestion that they be witnesses, it was God's command. They had no choice but to obey. "For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" was their reply.

We see here evidence of the confidence and courage which now possessed these disciples. But we mustn't miss the truth that this was a tense situation. They were speaking to the highest religious authorities of the day. It was a fearful thing to be dragged before the great Sanhedrin court. These were the same leaders who decided to put Jesus to death and set in motion the events for His crucifixion. Who was to say the same wouldn't happen to these disciples? This was a fearful situation which they faced. But face it they did, and in the power of God.

We face situations like this in our lives as we seek to live out biblical Christianity in a secular society. We have to face our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, and our employers. We have to face the people with whom we do business — our clients, our customers, the mechanic who works on our car, the shopkeepers who sell us our clothes

and our food, and the list goes on. We must relate to people in the society in which we live, and sometimes they intimidate us because we are afraid of how they may respond.

The problem is, when we do so, we come away from the situation feeling like we have somehow failed the Lord. We don't feel good about ourselves, and we vow to do better the next time. But the good news is we don't have to feel that way. We can face our fears and overcome them. We can live in the boldness of the power of God. We can make a difference in the lives of others. We can turn our community upside down for Jesus Christ. We can have the same confidence and boldness that Peter and John had in the face of fears which could have immobilized them. We have the same resource available to us which was available to them. And I believe we have the same desire to be bold witnesses which was theirs.

Let's consider some scriptural references to the word "bold".

From Acts 9: 27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus Here Barnabas brought Paul to the apostles and related a story which he himself believed and which would rehabilitate Paul in the mind\ of the Christian leaders. In particular he told how Paul had spoken out boldly on behalf of Jesus and thereby had placed his own safety at risk.

From Ephesians 6: 19-20 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. In this passage, Paul asks his readers to pray, not for his liberation from prison, but for wisdom and boldness, clarity and courage in proclaiming the message. Like the early apostles, his prayer wasn't for success, or for deliverance from danger or suffering, but for boldness in proclaiming the Gospel of God that was entrusted to him.

From 1Timothy. 3: 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. Here Paul writes to Timothy regarding the role of a deacon, that great boldness must be shown in relationships with men, and possibly also in relationship to God

From Hebrews 4: 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. The Christian's approach to God is to be characterized by confidence or boldness, by a freedom of expression and deliverance from fear. It is perfectly reflected in the Lord's prayer, where the use of an address like "Our Father" reflects a marvelous boldness.

From Hebrews 13: 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me The Lord is on my side, I will not fear what man doeth unto me. It is taken for granted that Christians can appropriate OT words as an expression of their own experience. This passage actually is based on Ps. 118, vs.6: The LORD is on my side; \* I will not fear what man doeth unto me. Moreover, the words prompt us to do so confidently. The words are suitable because they affirm the changeless character of God as helper. .

From 1 John 4: 17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. John is writing here of the

unshrinking confidence that we should have at Christ's coming, and the bold assurance we should enjoy as we approach God in prayer.

One of the distressing by-products of secular humanism has been the tendency of individuals who adhere to that philosophy to attribute qualities of their own perversions onto historical persons. As an example, St. Paul often is described as a woman hater, a closet homosexual, and a tyrant. For decades, blasphemers have tried to manufacture an affair between our Lord and Mary Magdalene. The Episcopal (that is TEC, not AEC) Bishop of New Hampshire, in speaking to a conservative Episcopal group in Massachusetts, opined that Jesus might have been gay.

<sup>1</sup>Many are alienated from Christianity because they have never realized that the ideal Christian life and the ideal manly life are one and the same. Unfortunately, there are a lot of unmanly Christians. Nonetheless, when you read your New Testament you cannot find an unmanly Christ. Christ is the ideal in our religion. Therefore, if you want to behave in a manner befitting a man, if you feel the need to be brave and true, strong and tender, if, in Milton's magnificent phrase, you would learn "*to hate the cowardice of doing wrong*", then follow Jesus Christ. We will mention several of the facts which illustrate the true manliness of our Lord.

- (1) His moral courage. Neither in word nor in deed did He take into account the person of a man. One of the first acts of His public ministry was to enter into the Temple where the bargainers and moneychangers carried on their unholy traffic, and with a whip of small cords, single-handedly, to lash them from the House of God.
- (2) His physical courage. Just revisit (or visit for the first time) the Mel Gibson film *THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST*, and imagine what suffering our Lord endured.
- (3) His steadfastness of purpose. As Emerson writes, "*The characteristic of heroism is persistency. All men have wandering impulses, fits and starts of generosity. But when you have chosen your part, abide by it, and do not weakly try to reconcile yourself with the world.*" Measure Christ's life by that test and see the result.
- (4) His union of strength coupled with feeling and sympathy. Perhaps we never truly feel how nobly strong Christ was until we have seen in Him strength united with the most wonderful refinement of feeling and perfection of sympathy.

Christ Jesus is the perfect Man; for true manliness can stoop as well as climb; it knows how to be gentle and unresisting, and also to be bold and self-assertive. It can forgive and hold back, as it can also be angry and condemn. Tennyson writes of "that gentleness which, when it weds with manhood, makes a man". We find the most splendid examples of simple fearlessness and heroic self-devotion among those who have consider it their greatest joy to call Christ Jesus Lord. Let us take to heart this word above all ---and realize that we too may gain all that Peter and John gained by communion and fellowship with Christ.

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<sup>1</sup> from G. Jackson, *First Things First*.

LET US PRAY:

Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on,  
Strong in the strength which God supplies through his eternal Son;

Strong in the Lord of hosts, and in his mighty power:  
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.

Stand then in his great might, with all his strength endured,  
And take, to arm you for the fight, the panoply of God.

From strength to strength go on, wrestle and fight and pray:  
Tread all the powers of darkness down, and win the well-fought day.

That, having all things done, and all your conflicts past,  
Ye may obtain, through Christ alone, a crown of joy at last.

Jesus, eternal Son, we praise thee and adore,  
Who art with God the Father one, and Spirit evermore.

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Acts 4: 1-14: <sup>1</sup>And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, <sup>2</sup>Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. <sup>4</sup>Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup>And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, <sup>6</sup>And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, <sup>9</sup>If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; <sup>10</sup>Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole. <sup>11</sup>This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. <sup>12</sup>Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. <sup>13</sup>Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup>And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

<sup>15</sup>But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, <sup>16</sup>Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them *is* manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny *it*. <sup>17</sup>But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. <sup>18</sup>And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup>But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto

you more than unto God, judge ye. <sup>20</sup>For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. <sup>21</sup>So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all *men* glorified God for that which was done.

### *New Nametags*

We had no new nametags today.

### *After Church Hospitality*

Sadly, no after church snacks. The same story every week, is it not? The fact is that we are supposed to be on a low carb diet and there really aren't any low carb snacks that appeal to us. So, with no fatted dog nut in sight, it was off to the next village for Fred's Hamburgers. Fatted dog nuts next week! We are hoping between now and next Sunday some invents no-carb dog nuts.

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
15 July 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Sixth Sunday after Trinity</b>
22 July 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Seventh Sunday after Trinity</b>
29 July 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Eighth Sunday after Trinity</b>
5 August 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Ninth Sunday after Trinity</b>
12 August 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Tenth Sunday after Trinity</b>
19 August 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</b>
26 August 2012	<b>Opportunity Available – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</b>

*People in our Prayers* - <http://faithfulcenturionprayerteam.blogspot.com/>

### **Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.**

It is not that God knows not our needs, for He surely does. Yet, Jesus commanded us to ask God for those same needs. In addition to the obvious of asking God for help, offering thanksgiving and the like, prayer helps us focus our thoughts on how we might do God's work.

The Prayer Team of the Church of the Faithful Centurion was established to help our members and fellow Christians pray for those in need and to give thanks as well for the blessings we have been granted.

### **Who can be on the list? Do I have to be a member of the Church of the Faithful Centurion to be prayed for?**

No! The only qualification to be on the list is that you want our prayer team to pray for you. We are Christians and are happy to pray for you, no matter who you are. If you want help from God, you are our kind of people.

### **What is the commitment from the prayer team?**

Each member of the team will pray for the desired outcome at last once per day.

### **How do I get myself or someone else on the prayer list?**

You can email one of the prayer team leaders: Jack - [jack@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:jack@faithfulcenturion.org) or Dru - [dru@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:dru@faithfulcenturion.org), or call the church office at (619) 659-3608 or fill out a prayer card at church.

### **What should I ask for?**

Depends on what you want. Some people merely want God to be asked to heal their ills

and be mentioned by their first name, others want a specific outcome and / or have more of their personal information known to the team. Ask for what you want. It is your desire and need for prayer the team is attempting to meet. For typical examples, see the list below.

### **Updating the Team**

If you are on our prayer list, or if you have submitted a person that you have asked us to pray for, please update one of the team members or Hap in person, by telephone or email. It helps to be able to pray specifically for these individuals including their specific needs; plus if they get better, it is nice to give thanks!

Please note that on the yellow (maybe green or orange if you get an old one) cards at church, you can ask that those to be prayed for have their names disseminated to the prayer team. Those names will be said in church and appear here. Or, you can ask that their names and purpose be kept confidential, then only Hap will know to pray for them.

*Prayer List Notice – If you have someone on the prayer list and their needs have changed, please let us know. We'd like to update our prayers to reflect the need and most important to give thanks!*

### **Travel**

*Jack Arnold* is on travel to Guam. If you want to track him, you can find him here:

<http://poshkandarog.blogspot.com/>

<http://share.findmespot.com/shared/faces/viewspots.jsp?glId=0yREOEBWEr3x4Y77i jqDMZvnbVizvezAe>

*Mona Mukerji* traveled from England to Pakistan recently, in order to commemorate the opening of a church she and her extended family had built in the town of Stunzabad, Pakistan, a very volatile area. Also, Mona's brother was a very, very renowned priest or bishop, in Lahore until he passed away. This family is heavily involved in uplifting Christians in Pakistan; as we know, they have their work cut out for them. God bless them and keep them safe.

### **Move**

*Ryan Hopkins* has moved to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, to study Dressage Riding through June 2013. Please pray for God's guidance in his life as he works and studies.

*The Thomas Family* is on a short tour assignment in Guam through August 2013. Please pray for the assignment to continue to go well for Kurt and for Mary and the kids to make new friends. In particular pray that Kristyna and Mitchell will develop good friends and school mates there so as to further their development as both Christians and citizens. Things seem to be going well where the sun rises on the United States, so keep praying! Give thanks and ask for continued good developments.

### **New Position**

*Rev LTC Al Ryan* has been appointed Deacon-In-Charge of the mission parish of St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church, Anglican Church in America (ACA) parish in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. It is a small but growing mission, which has been plagued by clergy change. Al, the diocesan pilot, has been appointed for one year, during which time he is to help them identify what their needs are

for a vicar. He has done this before and asks you to pray for God's help one more time; not only for himself, but for the parish.

### ***Birthday***

*Laurel Bessesen* celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on 26 April 2012.

### ***Nearing the end of their time here on earth***

*Caroline*, good friend of Sara Simmons, was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer last week. Her doctor believes she has two weeks or so left here on earth. Please pray for her to retain her trust in the Lord and ease her transition to home. Sara asks in particular that she truly understand that God will welcome her with His open arms and that her pain be relieved as she makes this last trip.

### ***Homebound or Infirm***

*Norma*, Sara's mother is in a state of deteriorating health, both physically and mentally, with both onset dementia and Alzheimer's. On 30 January 2012, she broke her hip and had a partial hip replacement. She is not doing well, but has decided she would like to live a bit longer. Please pray Norma might come back to God and for peace of mind for her and the ability for both Sara and her mother to put their cares and worries on God's shoulders so they can deal with the many problems involved.

### ***Departed***

*Elizabeth Brooks*, mother of Reverend Tom Brooks, Rector of All Saints Church in Pensacola, Florida, and Chancellor of the Anglican Episcopal Church. Mrs. Brooks passed away the morning of 6 July 2012, at after a long illness at 0130 EDT in Rochester, New York. Thankfully, her son Tom was in attendance for her final illness and at the time of her passing. She was born on 6 January 1920, and so was 92 ½ years old. Please pray for the repose of her soul, now safely in the arms of our Lord, and for the strength and consolation of Tom and her other children.

*Robert "Bob" M. Hall* passed away the afternoon of 5 July 2012. Bob, a lifelong follower of our Lord, left behind children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who are a testimony to his work here. His family misses him, but rejoices in his freedom and happiness. Please pray for their comfort as they deal with the temporary separation, in particular remember Elaine, his wife of 65 years, who will miss him dearly.

*Alice Berry* passed away 24 May 2012, after a hard fought battle with cancer. Please give thanks for her life here and pray for comfort for her husband Larry and their family who remain behind, pray that they can look to the Lord for comfort during this very hard time.

### ***In need of a miracle or understanding of God's Plan***

*Todd* and *Kenny* have both been fighting osteocarcinoma for over five years and have been told their time here on earth is nearing its end, absent a miracle from God. Both are ready to go home and leave the pain, but would like to stay. Please pray for them and their families.

### ***Healing***

*Kevin Gerhart* discovered cancer on his neck. They have not found the primary site and his doctors are trying to find the source site. In the mean time, he is undergoing radiation and chemotherapy. Please pray for the medical team treating Kevin that they might pay attention, do their very best and find the source; that the

treatment might be successful and he might live a long and healthy life to His honor and glory. Pray also for trust in God and peace of mind for Kevin, his wife and family.

*Gil Garcia* had surgery at the VA hospital in Long Beach. The surgery was successful, they are predicting a 12 week recovery time. Please pray for a rapid recovery for Gil, as well as peace of mind for Gil, his wife Mary and their family.

*Sylvia Lee*, Sandra Lee's mother, has progressive lumbar stenosis and sciatica, which is causing increasing pain in her back and weakness in her legs. Sylvia has already had mobility issues because of the strokes she had almost 20 years ago. She uses a wheelchair and walker as it is. Various pain pills and injections have not helped, so now it is time for a consultation with a surgeon. If this continues and Sylvia gets to the point where she can't walk or even stand, they will have to face moving out of the house they've lived in for 45 years. Please pray for strength, healing and easing of pain for Sylvia and her family's continued faith and in God as the Great Physician. They pray for help to listen to God's voice and guidance through this journey together.

*Sara Simmons* sustained a fractured right knee as the result of a fall on a slate patio. She is now in a leg brace, but is still challenged for mobility and undergoing physical therapy while trying to take care of her mom, her husband Bill and Caroline. Please pray for patience for Sara and her husband Bill, as well as rapid and complete healing.

*Bill, Sara's husband*, had a third abdominal surgery on 22 November 2011. This time the tumor was removed. Bill is having difficulty keeping the doctor's instructions, including taking a chemotherapy once a day for three years, radically decreasing the consumption of alcohol and eating properly, he is also having difficulty maintaining equilibrium, please pray for help for him to do all this. Please pray also that Bill might turn his heart outward to help those around him, as well as live a long and healthy life to the honor and glory of God. Pray also for peace of mind for Bill and his wife Sara.

*Kay Denton* (Mrs. Kay) got a blood clot, which affected two of her fingers. She underwent an angiogram which seemingly had the desired result and the Eveready Bunny rebounded once again. Please pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the positive outcome and pray for continued peace of mind for Mrs. Kay and her family. Give thanks for her trust in the Lord and her positive attitude.

*Izaiah Urista* (4) has a brain tumor. He was playing with his older sister, Jade, at McDonald's when she noticed he wasn't using his right side to climb, etc. Jade took her brother to their mother after which they realized he couldn't lift his arm. They took him to the hospital where it was discovered he has a brain tumor. He will undergo about 18 months of chemo to see if the tumor will shrink. At this point they do not think they can do anything else for him. Please pray for strength and guidance for Izaiah and his entire family, as well as provide guidance for medical treatment team.

*James L. Cavanah* had surgery the afternoon of 10 February 2012, to remove two small but cancerous tumors. James is a minister with the AOC in Savannah, Georgia. Please pray for his recovery and remission from the cancer. Give thanks for the surgery and pray for both him and his family to allow God to carry their worries while he recovers.

*Dotty Valkenaar* had successful surgery for a shoulder ligament problem on 28 February 2012. Physical therapy seems to be working, but is painful. Please pray for continued recovery and peace of mind through trust in God for Dotty and Lew, her husband, as well as their entire family.

*Morris Martin, 91*, has had multiple bouts of pneumonia and lost his ability to swallow; he is still trying to regain his ability to swallow. We are very thankful Morris was released home from the nursing home after gaining strength and getting his blood sugar under control. Towards the end of June, he was doing very poorly and it was looking bad. But, he did not give up and on Independence Day he did three rehabs and two walks. Never, never, never, never give up! Pray for continued gain of strength and peace of mind for Morris and his family, in particular his son Paul. Pray for his trust in our Lord and for both him and his family to let God carry their worries while he recovers.

*Steve Sundberg* had a heart attack after Easter. After some time, the medical team treating him decided he was not a candidate for stents and a five-way heart bypass was performed the week of 6 June 2011. Please pray for his complete recovery and for his three children and family who are very worried about him, pray also for his trust in our Lord and for both him and his family to let God carry their worries while he recovers.

*Matt Alcantara, age 15*, has Osteosarcoma (bone cancer), a very rare and often lethal form of cancer with limited treatment options. This is a disease that is about 90 percent fatal in a couple of years. He has no hip joint on one side, but he walks and swims! Courage? Guts? You bet! Matt just came back from his what is now every four month bone scan – CLEAN! Thanks be to God for the way things have gone. Thanks also for the great faith of Matt and his entire family. Their faith and trust is a wonderful example for each and every one of us. But, now is not the time to stop praying. Actually, it never is the time to stop praying!

*Judith Clingwall*, is afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). She is currently in Laurel Place, an extended care facility in Surrey, British Columbia. Judith's condition has worsened recently. She is no longer able to stand, in fact she has a lot of trouble sitting upright. Judith is depressed and wants to go home to watch her birds, which given everything seems unlikely at present. Please pray for her to take an active part in her own life, for her strength, peace of mind, trust in God and remission of the disease so she might return home to her family. Pray also for strength for her husband Martin as he deals with all the problems and stress of Judith's situation.

*Becky Madden* is paralyzed from the neck down as the result of a tragic shooting accident. Her husband is doing his best to take care of her; it is hard and he is learning the best he can. Please pray for further recovery for Becky, as well as strength and guidance for her husband.

*Betty Macauley*, Tim's mom, fell and cracked her hip. The surgeons were able to put a pin in the hip. She made it home after a week of rehabilitation, which is a good sign. She is now walking with the aid of a walker around the house and wheelchair when out side of house. Tim says she is tough and hanging in there, considering she was 92 in June. Please pray for her to keep a good attitude and most important for trust in God to keep her moving while she is here.

*Lauralee* underwent a lumpectomy on Friday after Thanksgiving. A further anomaly has been discovered and she had additional preventative radiation treatment. Please pray for a complete remission of the cancer. Pray also *Lauralee* will maintain her great attitude and trust in God.

*Vince* (age 15), reoccurrence of Osteosarcoma, recent testing found a nickel sized tumor in his lungs. The doctors are consulting with a specialist in Houston. Please pray for guidance for the medical team and for peace of mind for *Vince* and his family.

*Obra Gray* continues to take day by day. Please continue to keep *Obra* in your prayers, and give him the strength of knowing the Lord is with him and will never forsake him. *Obra* needs security of what lies ahead of him, and only the Lord can grant the solace to answer his prayer.

### **Guidance**

*Sara* asks that you pray for guidance for her as she deals with the stresses of her family and life. Pray that she can separate those things which she can affect from those things which she cannot and give her grace to accept that she cannot do everything and can only change those things within her control.

*Jacquie* to open her heart to God and accept His Love and Grace.

*Hap* and *Ryan* both ask you to pray they might be able to trust God will help them make the right decisions at the right time and not to worry uselessly, to change those things they can change, accept those things they cannot change, sleep well to be able to do the correct things with a clear head and that they will open their hearts to the Holy Ghost.

### **Armed Forces & Contractors**

Airman Donny Patton (Kadena AB, Japan), Jordan (USMC – 29 Palms), Trevor (USAF - KC-10 Boom Operator), Trevor (USN – Whidbey Island, EF-18 Pilot), Kurt Thomas (USN – Guam)

### **Persecuted**

Around the world, Christians are under attack, not only in the Muslim world, but from Hindus and others in India. Also, they are under continual attack in the name of “Separation of Church and State” in the western world, as it becomes actively atheist or pro-devil buddy. Please pray for God’s guidance and protection for all persecuted Christians and those around them.

### **Various Special Requests**

We ask that you pray, please ask God that the Holy Ghost might give you insight into how you might make the lives of your friends and family better. Remember helping others is not just those who you don’t know!

Please join us in praying that the *Free Teen Guitar Class* will be continue to be an opportunity for God to work in the lives of the kids and their families. Please ask God to guide the class to new opportunities to make Him known to others. Help us to let the love of our Lord shine through us into their lives, putting Him first, so that He might enter in to their hearts and lives.

### **Question that only you can ask**

What would you like to know about our history, what we believe, what we do or how we operate? *Hap* is looking for material for the continuing education class and *Thought*

for the Day material. Help us help you. Please send your question to Hap so we all can get an answer. Just because you don't know the answer to your question doesn't mean you are the only one who doesn't know. But, if you don't ask, no one will know.

*I'd like to get a different point across or announce something*

If you have a different point of view, I would be happy to give you room to get your point across. While this publication is my perspective on events, I recognize not everyone may agree and that some people would like to express their own opinion. If you want to write something, please forward your item to Hap (with a note as to whether or not you would like editing help) to: [hap@faithfulcenturion.org](mailto:hap@faithfulcenturion.org).

*Epistleers*

We post the list of Epistle Readers in the Sunday Report each week so you can either plan your attendance or your pre-reading as the spirit so moves you.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>
14 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Sixth Sunday after Trinity
22 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Seventh Sunday after Trinity
29 July 2012	Dru Arnold – Eighth Sunday after Trinity
5 August 2012	Dru Arnold – Ninth Sunday after Trinity
12 August 2012	Dru Arnold – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

*The near future, as well as Next Sunday*

14 July 2012 – Sixth Sunday after Trinity – Evening Prayer - Service start time 1800 (6:00 pm); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 1745 (5:45 pm); **Time 1800 (6:00 pm); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

22 July 2012 – Seventh Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

29 July 2012 – Eighth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

5 August 2012 – Ninth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

12 August 2012 – Tenth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

19 August 2012 – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

26 August 2012 – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**