



Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Report

Today was the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Sunday. The weather was picture perfect, clear, dry and 48°F at sunrise, rising to 85°F by the end of church under those same blue skies! Once again, the gathering song gathered not one and we ended up with 3 people present for the service.

Gathering Song

Jack 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.

As everyone knows, we love *Amazing Grace!* It is a favorite among sinners.

On Point

Someone asked, where do the quotes come from? The answer is from the people who uttered them. But, how did you find them? Oh, that. Most are from Rev Bryan Dabney, a few from other places, but overall mostly from Bryan. He always has a few great ones to share. On to the On Point quotes –



Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

St. Matthew 7:15

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

II St. Timothy 4:7

All the good we do is done by the power of his grace, and all the good we have is the gift of his mercy and therefore he must have all the praise ... Do you ask where he is? He is at the beginning and end of everything and not far from any of us.

Rev. Matthew Henry
17th and 18th century English pastor and author

Take away free will and there will be nothing to save; take away grace and there will be nothing to save with.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux
12th century French theologian and scholar

There are myriads of professing Christians ... [who] Sunday after Sunday ... allow the devil to catch away the good seed that is sown on the face of their hearts. Week after week they live on without faith, fear, knowledge or grace, feeling nothing, caring nothing, taking no more interest in religion than if Christ had never died on the cross at all. And in this state they often die and are buried and are lost for ever in hell. This is a mournful picture but only too true.

JC Ryle
19th century Anglican bishop and author

The problem with wealth is not in having it. It is when it has you. It is how we get it, how we guard it and how we give it. It can be used for good or for bad.

Greg Laurie
20th and 21st century American evangelist

I am concerned for the security of our great nation; not so much because of any threat from without, but because of the insidious forces working from within.

Douglas MacArthur
20th century American general officer and war hero

The government turns every contingency into an excuse for enhancing itself.

John Adams
Founding Father and 2nd President of the United States

Washington proclaimed that a "threat" was discovered that al Qaeda ... was going to blow up US embassies ... Washington did not explain why al Qaeda, a recipient of Washington's largess, was going to turn off the money spigot by attacking US embassies ... Once you give a moment's thought to Washington's claim, you see that Washington is proving its impotence by hyping such non-existent threats. Officially, the US has been at war with al Qaeda since 7 October 2001. The "superpower" has been battling a few thousand lightly armed al Qaeda for almost 12 years, and what is the result? Despite Washington's claims to have killed al Qaeda's top leaders ... Washington is losing the war. Al Qaeda has grown so powerful that it not only fights in Syria, with

Washington's help ... but also has prevented the US military from occupying Afghanistan. Moreover, in addition to [its] success against the "superpower" and the chaos that [it] continues to produce in Iraq, al Qaeda now is so powerful that it can shut down US embassies all across the Middle East and North Africa. The "threat" which was supposed to boost the NSA's position actually proves Washington's powerlessness. We can only pray that soon al Qaeda shuts down Washington itself. Imagine the sense of American liberation if Washington simply was shut down, or even better if [it] could be put under Punjab's magic blanket and disappeared. For the 99 percent, and the rest of the world, Washington is nothing but an oppressor.

Dr. Paul Craig Roberts

20th and 21st century American statesman, political commentator and author
(Washington Thinks You Are Stupid, 8-7-13)

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. If you have a hard time remembering, "Do I read the Collect from last Sunday or next Sunday during the week?" Remember Sunday is the first day of the week. There are also two Bible readings, the Epistle and the Gospel. While they are "lessons", they are not the First Lesson and the Second Lesson, they are the Epistle and the Gospel. 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 priest as a prayer, the Epistle can be read by either a designated reader (as we normally 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.

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 Feast, 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 204-205, with the Collect first:

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity.

The Collect.

O GOD, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity; Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

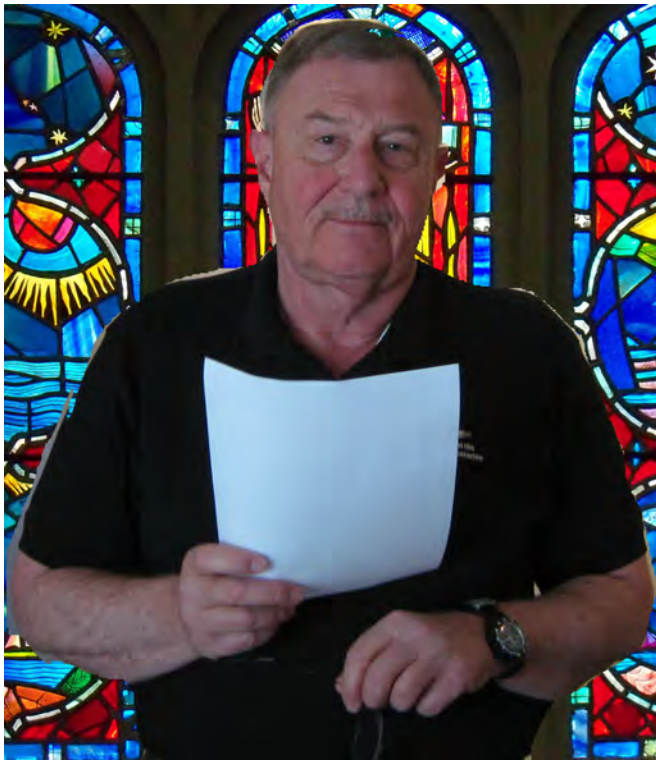
Dru Arnold read the Epistle, which came from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, the Fifteenth Chapter beginning at the First Verse. Paul tells us he is delivering the message he received, the Good News of the Saving Grace of God through Jesus. He points out that if he, who had been Saul the Persecutor of Christ's Church here on earth could be saved by the Grace of God, then salvation was open to all who would act on their wishes. Thus all who believe on the Name of the Lord Jesus will be saved, if they do not depart from that course.

He recounts the death and resurrection of Jesus; noting the various witnesses to the resurrection, including himself. He goes on to say, if he, who he categorizes as the least of the apostles, not even meet to be called an apostle due to his persecution of the Church of God, can be forgiven and work the Work of God, who cannot?



Brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed."

Hap Arnold read today's Holy Gospel which started in the Eighteenth Chapter of the



Gospel according to St. Luke, beginning at the Ninth Verse. Jesus tells a parable to an audience which apparently consisted of some self-righteous people, which likely fits each of us. The parable is that of a Pharisee¹ and a publican² both of whom pray in the temple. While the Pharisee might well have been a "better" man than the publican, he clearly was not the man he thought he was, for he "prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." Quite the holy fellow. The publican, quite aware of how much he fell short of God's perfection stood "afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a

sinner." Jesus told his audience, "this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." None of us is truly good, we can only strive to be better and look to our Lord to help us. Only through Christ will we be accounted as just before God.

Jesus spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

¹ Pharisee - One of a sect or party among the Jews, noted for a strict and formal observance of rites and ceremonies and of the traditions of the elders, and whose pretensions to superior sanctity led them to separate themselves from the other Jews.

² Publican 1. (Rom. Antiq.) A farmer of the taxes and public revenues; hence, a collector of toll or tribute. The inferior officers of this class were often oppressive in their exactions, and were regarded with great detestation.

Literally a Publican is one who farmed the taxes (e. g., Zacchaeus, Luke 19: 2) to be levied from a town or district, and thus undertook to pay to the supreme government a certain amount. In order to collect the taxes, the publicans employed subordinates (5: 27; 15: 1; 18: 10), who, for their own ends, were often guilty of extortion and peculation (defrauding the public by appropriating to one's own use the money or goods intrusted to one's care for management or disbursement; embezzlement). In New Testament times these taxes were paid to the Romans, and hence were regarded by the Jews as a very heavy burden, and hence also the collectors of taxes, who were frequently Jews, were hated, and were usually spoken of in very opprobrious terms. Jesus was accused of being a "friend of publicans and sinners" (Luke 7: 34).

Sermon – Reverend Deacon Jack Arnold - Time and Action

Today's sermon tied the Collect, Epistle and Gospel together and is mainly contained in the forewords above.



Consider the words from the Collect, wherein we ask God ... who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity; Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; ...

Once again, this Collect is kind of a follow-on to the last few weeks' Collects. First, we acknowledge God's power which is manifested not in terror but in mercy and pity on our failures. This is important to note; with all the power in and of the universe, God chooses to manifest His Power in showing infinite mercy and kindness to us, not in causing us more tears. Rather, He is there to comfort and help us. He does not act as a human would in His position, but rather being a merciful and mindful God to us. He realizes our struggles and gives us resources to us to help with those struggles. Thus,

the Collect goes on to ask His Help in following His Commandments that we might gain the good that comes from that following. And we would hope that we recognize the good that comes from that following and choose to repeat doing the following as opposed to going astray such as our tendency is.

As imperfect creatures of free will, the norm is to choose what we want, not what we need and come to calamity. We are each grievous sinners, some worse than others, none better. Yet, we come before God all equal. In equally big trouble, some more, none less. It is only through faith we are saved.

This is the point Saint Paul is making when he says that first he gave unto us³ that understanding he got directly from God as to the role of Jesus Christ. He recounts some of the factual information about Jesus' time here on earth after the crucifixion, the descent into hell and the resurrection. He notes the various witnesses, still alive or recently passed away. He makes the point that we must spread the gospel so that others might believe. He tells us we are saved by faith alone.

Our faith? Partly, but not chiefly and not first.

We are saved by the perfect faith of Christ, our only mediator and advocate before the Father. The perfect faith of Christ allowed a single sacrifice to be made at one time, to right the account the sins of all mankind for all time. This is the faith that saves us and

³ Though Paul was writing to the people of Corinth, the information is just as applicable to us, perhaps more so now than ever before.

our faith in Him allows Him to operate in us. One of Paul's points in today's Epistle was that if he, the previous Chief Persecutor of the church could be saved by Jesus' that option was available to each of us. All we need to do is repent and follow. Thus, we need to Lead, Follow or Get out of the Way towards Christ and God's grace.

The other point is that Jesus is real, He is Who He says He IS. He is not a fictional character, he is not a great teacher. He is THE SON OF GOD and He came to save us, body, heart, mind and soul. Just as we are real sinners, He is a real Savior.

If that is not enough to turn your heart, consider the parable of the publican and the Pharisee related by Saint Luke. The man who was proud of his performance was not the example Jesus chose for the one justified, rather the one who acknowledged his failures and asked God for forgiveness and help.

Let us ask God for the help we need to follow His Will. For we must have His Help to act as we must here on earth!

Action counts. For by their actions ye shall know them.

Heaven is at the end of an uphill trail. The easy downhill trail does not lead to the summit.

The time is now, not tomorrow. The time has come, indeed. How will you ACT?

It is by our actions we are known.

Be of God - Live of God - Act of God

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, and like always, it will give you a lot to consider in your heart.

Sermon Notes

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
Saint Andrew's
Anglican Orthodox Church
11 August 2013, Anno Domini

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity.

The Collect.

O GOD, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity; Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed." (1 Corinthians xv. 1)

Jesus spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (St. Luke xviii. 9)

Once more, the Prayer of Collect calls us to a dependence upon mercy and grace rather than a reliance on the work of our own hands. For it is by grace that we are saved and not of our works. The Epistle of the Day complements both the Prayer of Collect and the Gospel reading in its revelation of grace as being the sole agent of labor in the ministry of Paul, and of all who call upon the Name of the Lord.

I have preached and written often on the Gospel passage from Luke 18 - of the Pharisee and the publican. But with each visit to this account of Christ, my heart is stirred in new and mysterious ways in seeing its beauty and truth.

This parable was spoken in the closing days of our Lord's earthly ministry. The lesson Jesus teaches is one that is hard for man to grasp when viewed through the eyes of the flesh. If we can grasp the point of this parable, it must be through the eyes of the Spirit and of the humble heart. The purpose of the account is presented in its opening line: "*And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others.*" Do any here trust that they are righteous? If so, we are not unlike the hypocritical Pharisee about whom Christ speaks. Before we can ever be saved, we must first recognize that we are hopelessly lost and unable to save ourselves – it is upon the Mercy Seat of God that we must cast our appeal for deliverance. If we believe that the Scriptures are true – and we MUST – there is none righteous. "*There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*" (Romans 3:10-12) While it is true that none may enter heaven under the condemnation of sin, it is also true that God has provided a means whereby we may be accounted righteous – that is through the redeeming and atoning blood of Jesus Christ! The PRIDEFUL will be the

most difficult to understand that they can never earn their salvation by doing good works since even GOOD WORKS are sin to the unsaved.

All who do not know Christ are truly walking dead, or, as Boris Karloff would claim - ZOMBIES! Have you ever been dead and required resuscitation? Have you been dead and brought back to the land of the living? If you know Christ as your Lord and Savior, surely, you were once dead and are now made alive. Read these verses from Ephesians 2: *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”* (Eph 2:1-2) and *“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”* (Eph 2:4-6) So now, the question I asked earlier takes on a deeper and more significant meaning, doesn't it? Have you, friend, been dead and made alive? Pride makes it very hard to admit that we were, indeed, dead in time past. A dead person can do nothing to help themselves for they are DEAD. Only the revitalizing and life-giving Spirit of God can make a DEAD person live! So we can do nothing to save ourselves – it is a work of Grace through Faith!

So we come to the example of two men who have come to the Temple for the same reason – to pray. *“10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.”* These two men represent the whole of the professing church today. One of these men is a fancy-dresser and a hypocrite. The other is a sin-laden and humble publican. They both have come to the RIGHT place for the RIGHT purpose; but there is a difference that separates the two through which you could drive Napoleon's army. To all appearance, the Pharisee is a devout and righteous fellow, but there is a darkness about him that lies unrevealed to the observer – it is a heart that is 'full of itself' and not of Christ! Each man prays, but the prayers are vastly different. Let us read on:

“11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.” Though it is not stated specifically, the impression is that the Pharisee stood with proud posture. His words reveal truly his self-pride. *“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.”* (Matt 6:5) Notice how the Pharisee prays: *“prayed thus with himself.”* His prayer never got any higher than the pit of the heart from which it sprang. He prayed just as many professed Christians pray today – to be heard of men, not to be heard of God. And WHAT did the Pharisee pray? *“God, I thank thee.”* This is well and good. I believe if some of our prayers ended at the salutation, they might be more Godly. But WHAT did the Pharisee thank God for? “. . . *I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.*” Oh, I see! “Thank God that we are so very good and pious!” It would seem that God needs to forgive nothing in this Pharisee since he is so righteous, but wait! There is none righteous but God! So, regardless of his personal faith, something, in the eyes of the Pharisee, makes this publican, and all men, less righteous than himself. What is it? It is a smug religious self-righteousness that has prevailed in the prideful hearts of lost men from Cain until our own day – especially, our own day! NO one is as good as pretty, innocent, little-old ME! Just look at my clean washen hands and noble posture.

Unfortunately to his own soul, the Pharisee is not finished damning himself in the eyes of God for he continues: *"I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess."* Though this may be true, it is a false righteousness. He is boasting of that false righteousness. Jesus has clearly counseled on the ways in which we must fast: *"Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."* (Matt 6:16-18) The moment we boast of our righteous acts, they become egregious sins! This Pharisee, like many of his fellows and Christians today, was a flaming hypocrite! But to those standing by, it is perhaps true that he was regarded as more righteous in the eyes of the crowd. Do you pray to the crowd or to God? Do you live unto Him, or unto THEM? How long do you labor for the fancy words to impress the listening crowd?

Now comes the prayer of a man who knew he was unworthy of the mercies of God – just as none of us are worthy! He came with a very pitiful opinion of himself, but a mighty high opinion of God! He is a man hated by the people for his perceived collusion with Rome as a tax collector. He is considered, along with Zacchaeus, as the scum of the earth, before Christ! He does not dare come so near the Temple as the 'honorable' Pharisee – *"And the publican, standing afar off."* So he stands back at a respectful distance – not daring to set his foot upon the Holy ground that he believes surrounds the Temple. May I suggest that all approach God from a "far off" place for it is not our natures to be Holy? We return as the Prodigal Son – from a far country into the loving arms of the Father. This publican has missed the 'self-esteem-building classes' of our modern public schools. He esteems himself as nothing, and he regards God as the All-in-All! How can any sinner approach God in any other way? Would that the Pharisee could have followed the example of the publican!

What was the outward attitude of the publican? Was it prideful and boastful? Would any person, raised up in the pride of their persons, come to God as does this publican? Observe his approach and plaintive cry: *". . . would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner."* He makes no DEMAND of God as is so common in the modern charismatic services. He was in deep mourning for his sins. He was not good enough to look God in the eye. His sins had become an intolerable burden from which he desperately sought relief. Our Lord had this poor man, and you and me, in mind when He said: *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (Matt 11:28-30)

Please note the object of the publican's prayer as opposed to the prideful boast of the Pharisee: *"God be merciful to me a sinner ."* He asks for NOTHING more than MERCY and Grace! Because he was humble and sincere, he uttered the very words which were entirely in the Holy Will of the Lord to grant. A sincere prayer of repentance is ALWAYS heard by the Lord and answered. It is the only prayer an unforgiven sinner can utter that is heard in Heaven. *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."* (Psalms 66:18) Have you ever been so overburdened by your sin that this prayer was evoked from a heart full of pain?

What is the effect of the two different prayers? Does God regard persons and their social status in hearing prayer? What of the poor bum on skid row who, slowly dying in his filth and misery suddenly sees a Light in Heaven and makes humble and desperate appeal thereto? Will God save the wretched sinner in his filth, and reject the dignified and proud boaster? See what Jesus says of the two: "**14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other.**" So much for pomp and circumstance! The prayer of the Pharisee was heard where it was sent "**with himself**" but not by God. The publican, being a desperate sinner, had his prayer heard and answered. He was forgiven and justified! "...**the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.**" (1 Sam 16:7) "... **every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**" Once more, we see that PRIDE is the mother of all sins.

Though there are many stark truths to inform us in this text, there is one that stands out foremost – **the proper means of prayer!** We may pray beautiful and sophisticated words, yet the pride that motivated them sink them to the depths of the sea. We may pray with utter simplicity out of a sincere heart, and these simple and unpolished jewels of prayer may rise to the 'third heaven.' Attitude is everything. If the sentiment is not in the heart, it will not find a genuine expression through the lips.

Are you resurrected in Christ today?

Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sermon

Bishop Dennis is a brilliant speaker. He is able to take biblical precepts and make them perfectly understandable, even to me. Oft he provides the text of his sermons and I take the utmost pleasure in passing them on:



Christians Receive

Psalm 124, 125, 1 Corinthians 15:1, Luke 18:9

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

August 11, 2013

Last Sunday I spoke to you about what Christians want. Today I would like to speak about what Christians get. The Title of the sermon is, "Christians Receive." We are of course talking about what Christians receive from God as the gifts of His grace, and the very first thing we receive, which is the foundation upon which all else stands, is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Paul wrote in our first lesson for this morning, "I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved." According to Paul it is the Gospel which causes us to stand before God. Stand is used here as it might be used when we say, "stand fast." We can picture ourselves as part of a great army facing a powerful, advancing enemy along the line of battle. But we do not run. We do not even tremble at the size and power of the enemy. We stand fast. When I think of this metaphor in Scripture I often think back to the movie, "Three Hundred Spartans." The Spartans had gathered at a gap in the mountains called Thermoply to try to stop the advance of the Persian army into Greece. As the three hundred Spartans stood in the gap, they faced several thousand of the best soldiers in the Persian army. I don't know if this happened in real life, but in the movie, the leader of the Spartans drew a line in the sand with his sword and said, "Spartans, from this line, we do not retreat." They did not retreat. They stood at the line of battle and fought to the last man. When the Bible says we are enabled to "stand" it means we

also are able to stand in the face of the enemy. God has drawn a line in the sand, this line is the Gospel. It is the Bible. It is the faith once delivered to the saints. We stand on the line. From this line we do not retreat.

To stand is also the opposite of falling. We read in history, and in the Bible itself, of people falling before an enemy. We read of the fall of Rome, the fall of Jerusalem, and the fall of the great empires of the past. The Bible even tells us that God raises up empires according to His own will and purpose, and casts them down according to that same will and purpose. But to the Church He does not say we will fall before our foes. To the Church He promises overwhelming victory, accomplished through His power and grace. Thus, not only will we never retreat, we will also never fall. We will stand against all odds and all enemies. We stand in the Gospel.

Paul said we are saved by the Gospel. The world considers that an insult. The world does not want God to save it, it wants to save itself. And it only wants God on its terms. The Gospel is a stumbling block to the world. The preaching of the cross is offensive to its people. But we must take God on His terms, not expect Him to accept us on ours. And His terms are given in the Gospel, "by which ye are saved."

Saved means to be forgiven of our sins and restored to fellowship with God. It means to have our sins forgiven, and our status changed from criminals against God, to honoured guests in His House. It also means to be delivered from the self-destructive life-style, habits, thoughts, and actions that kill the soul and destroy lives.

I heard Rush Limbaugh say something very profound last Friday. I think it was the most profound thing he has ever said. He was talking about the things people do to gain recognition from others, and he said, in essence, that such recognition will not make anyone happy. In fact he said such people are looking for happiness in the wrong places. The things they turn to not only are incapable of giving happiness, but are also absolutely destructive of happiness in every way. I agree. The Bible agrees. And the Gospel of Jesus Christ wants to rescue us from those destructive forces and deliver us into a new life, which can and does bring joy to the soul. The Gospel saves us.

What is the Gospel that saves us? It is the Gospel of Christ. As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:3 and 4,

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

God entered human history and human life and human death. He experienced it all Himself, with no special treatment or exemptions. He lived by faith. He suffered. He died. He went to the grave. And He did it all for you. He did it to save you.

This brings me back to the point of my sermon, "Christians Receive." Christians receive all that Christ died to give us. Our sins are forgiven, all of them forever. No matter how bad you have been, or how good you think you are, those who believe in Christ are forgiven and our sins are removed as far away from us the east is from the west. Paul persecuted Christians before he was converted. Yet his sins, including the deaths of many Christians, were fully and completely forgiven. That is the promise of God to all believers. And that new way of life that I was talking about, the life lived in fellowship

with God, restored to His ways and will, which is the only real life of happiness and joy, is ours also. It is given to us as a free gift. We have only a foretaste of it now, but we are only eating the appetizer. Or, in more Biblical language, we might say we are enjoying the earnest, the down payment, of the joys and bliss and heavenly treasures we can only fully know in Heaven. But we are enjoying what we have now.

And this leads me to the conclusion for today, Christians receive because God gives. He gives freely and generously and at His own expense. He gives that we may obtain what He promises, and that we may be made partakers of His heavenly treasure through Jesus Christ. I think John 3:16 says this very well. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

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+Dennis Campbell

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Rev Rick Reid of Saint Peter's Sunday Sermon

We are happy to have a sermon from Reverend Rick Reid, minister of Saint Peter's, whose congregation is right at the Worldwide Headquarters of the Anglican Orthodox Church. Rev Rick has all the resources and challenges right at hand.



Concerning Spiritual Gifts

The apostle Paul spoke of gifts from the Spirit often, in his letters. He gave detailed lists of what kinds of gifts there were, much like he did in today's Epistle to the Corinthians. He also spoke of gifts differing in his letter to the Romans.

The word he used for these gifts was charismata, which is a Greek term, (in the plural), related to our word for grace. Like grace, charismata are given freely by the Holy Spirit. But there is one thing expected of those who are given charismata: the gift is to be used for building up God's people.

God gives us the charismata, so we can express the love of one another which is at the core of the Christian way of life.

A gift of the Spirit is something that God gives for the purpose of building up others, in a life of faith. It has been the experience of Christians the world over, that the Holy Spirit usually harnesses one's talents in the service of the purpose, for which the gifts were given.

Yet sometimes, the spiritual gifts seem to, not work along with a person's natural gifts. God used a person who stuttered, (Moses), to lead his people out of Egypt. He made a

shepherd boy named David into a renowned warrior and king, and turned simple, uneducated, fishermen into leaders who left their mark on the course of history.

There are examples everywhere of people who don't have special training, who aren't highly skilled, and have no particular talent, but when the time comes for them to benefit others, the gift of the Holy Spirit is there.

Sometimes there's a spiritual gift that goes along with our natural abilities and the skills we have developed.

There is the gift of healing, and there are the natural healing processes, and the medical skills learned to assist those processes.

There is prophecy, and there is the ability to discover the truth, and the skill to figure out, how and when, to share it.

If you find that you have a talent, use it and develop it as best you can. But it takes the Holy Spirit working within the believer to put the natural, and the supernatural together with power to serve.

"The Holy Spirit not only unites us, but also ensures our infinite diversity in the Church: at Pentecost the tongues of fire were 'cloven' or divided, descending separately upon each one of those present.

The gift of the Spirit is a gift to the Church, but it is at the same time a personal gift, appropriated by each in his or her own way."

There are so many spiritual gifts, and so many ways to put them to use for the church and its mission, that no one gift, no one calling defines the Christian life. The Giver does. If you look at any one gift that way, you're putting a limit on the sovereign Holy Spirit in a way Scripture never does. Through the gifts, the fruit are borne.

As spiritual gifts are given to all who believe in Christ, something strange happens. Priests, pastors, theologians, and church leaders are no longer the sole rivers for the flow of God's grace. The Spirit gives just plain folks the power to give the love and grace of God to each other.

This was always true, but the Church of the past had mostly forgotten it. Faithful people do this every day in tough circumstances, when they reach out to help their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jesus said his followers would be known by their fruits. The fruits he spoke of were acts of love and marks of a Godly character.

The apostle Paul also discusses the subject of spiritual gifts in his letter to the Romans.

⁴For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office...⁵ So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another...⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith...⁷ Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;⁸...Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.-⁹Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good...¹⁰ Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;...¹¹ Not slothful in

business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;...¹² Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;...¹³ Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality....¹⁴ Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not....¹⁵ Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.....¹⁶ Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate... Be not wise in your own conceits.
Romans 12:4-21

Paul is talking about the attitude of the believer in Christ, someone who is given to God. He then starts to speak against an attitude of not feeling better than anyone else. Each member has value in the Body of Christ.

Paul is not writing, just about the Spirit's gifts, but about the attitude taken when using them. Though the talk is spiritual gifts, the intent is more like that for the spiritual fruits. Paul is writing about the character that marks a Christian; the gifts are there for putting that character into action. Paul holds the gifts of the Spirit to be so important that when he teaches about other matters, he teaches about the gifts. The role the spiritual gifts play is so central to a healthy relationship to Christ that they affect everything else as well.

So let's face every new day ready to use the gifts God has given us, and be ready to serve in ways that we are not gifted, if that's what He asks.

Just know, that by being the person He has made us to be, we are bringing Him joy, and doing the work He has called us to do.

To the only wise God our Saviour be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. *Amen*

Rev Bryan Dabney of Saint John's Sunday Sermon

We are fortunate to have Bryan's Sunday Sermon. If you want people to come to The Truth, you have to speak the truth, expound the truth and live the truth. This is really a good piece and I commend it to your careful reading.



Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

In today's Holy Gospel lesson, our Lord had to contend with those who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others (St. Luke 18:9). His parable of the Pharisee and the publican illustrates God's disdain for those whose lack of humility has led them into arrogance before his throne.

The particulars of this parable are these: two men entered the temple for the purpose of prayer. The former was a Pharisee and the latter was a publican or tax collector. The former individual stood before God and recited his litany of supposed good things he had done for the LORD; while the latter stood afar off, having judged himself a sinner, smote his chest as he sought God's pardon. Our Lord then closed with his appraisal of the two men and identified the publican as having left the temple justified because he had humbled himself before God while the Pharisee had not.

Article XII of our Articles of Religion states in part: ". . .that good works, which are the fruits of faith and follow after justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgment. . ." And Article XIV states: "Voluntary works besides over and above, God's commandments ... cannot be taught without arrogance ... for by them

men do declare, that they do more for [God's] sake than of bounden duty is required: whereas Christ saith plainly 'when ye have done all that are commanded to you, say, We are unprofitable servants.' "

Our Lord was often chided by the scribes and Pharisees for his teachings because they conflicted with their understanding of God's word written. These gatekeepers of the truth had insulated themselves from the very thing they were supposed to protect and espouse before men, and they did so via the traditions of their fathers (see St. Matthew 23:1-39). Proverbs 16:5 states, Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD. Also Proverbs 20:6 says, Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find? And again in Proverbs 22:4 we learn that, By humility and fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life. And our Lord said (St. Matthew 18:4), Whosoever therefore will humble himself ... the same is the greatest in the in the kingdom of heaven.

Where was their humility? Clearly, they had none. It is one thing to correct an error, and to rebuke unrighteousness. Nevertheless, when we look at the comments made by the scribes and Pharisees against our Lord, they lacked the caring quality of a true teacher of God's word which he had so often used in his discussions with them (see II St. Timothy 2:24-26). They saw no need to do those things which Moses and the prophets had called on them to do in order to preserve their own souls as they were only interested in defending their traditional understanding of things (St. Matthew 15:7-9).

Today, we find that the disease of pharisaism has infected many within the modern church. They will offer up to God their lists of "look-at-what-I-did-for-you-today" never once realizing that all their works are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). They seem unable to humble themselves before God on account of their particular station in life. They may be well-to-do. They might possess the capacity to provide their families with the best of everything. And on account of these things, how can they humble themselves — or see their need for repentance — when the world they know has given them the impression that they have no need to repent or to humble themselves before God? The proper Christian, when presented with such thoughts of self-sufficiency and self-aggrandizement, ought to fall to his or her knees in humble reverence acknowledging the very God who made such wealth possible. Sadly, the numbers of those who might be termed a "proper Christian" are dwindling daily.

The publican, on the other hand, sought and received forgiveness because he humbled himself before the LORD. It is only when we come before God's throne of grace — pleading with him to take away our sins so that we might be restored in our fellowship with him — that we experience his love for us. As with the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son, so will our heavenly Father graciously receive and pardon all who come to him if, and only if, they come with a heart seeking his forgiveness. For only those who have a heart for God will be made right with him through private confession and amendment of life.

And so we have two men who entered the temple of God to offer him their prayers and petitions. The Pharisee came with pride, while the publican came in humility and regret for his actions. The Pharisee came to extol himself while the publican came downtrodden, and abased himself before God. The Pharisee sought to justify himself, while the publican sought God's pardon and mercy. The Pharisee treated God as if he

had done him a favor, while the publican sought God's favor through his self-judgment and self-condemnation.

As we continue our worship today, it is my prayer that each of you will seek a closer walk with the Godhead. That you will ask the LORD to forgive you of your several sins and trespasses. That you will come before his throne of grace seeking his pardon with humble and contrite hearts. God sees our works both good and ill so there in no reason to lay before him in pridefulness those things we have done in his service — as if we could ever do even that which is expected of us. So let us come to him with hearts desiring to first be forgiven of our sins, and then to petition him for guidance in our Christian walk. Only afterward, are we to stand up and rejoice for we know that he is just and faithful to cleanse us of all unrighteousness in the name of his beloved Son. May our good and gracious God be pleased to send his most holy Spirit to comfort and fill you so that all your doings will be acceptable in his sight, and that Christ may be seen in you.

Let us pray,

FATHER, grant to us grace sufficient to bring ourselves: our souls and bodies, into humble submission to thy will and pleasure; that we might have a more perfect fellowship with thee in this life, and for the life to come in thy eternal kingdom; for this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Have a blessed week, Bryan+

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, we were out of luck! Please someone, between now and next Sunday invent some no-carb dog nuts.

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
18 August 2012	Opportunity Available – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
25 August 2012	Opportunity Available – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
1 September 2012	Opportunity Available – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

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 least 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 or Dru - 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!

Major Disaster

Eighty people were killed as the result of a train wreck in northern Spain, Bishop of Spain Eduardo Dominguez Vilar asks the entire Anglican Orthodox Communion to join him in prayer for those who have lost their lives and have been injured in this tragedy, as well as for their families who are deeply affected by their family members deaths and injuries. Please pray for the full and speedy recovery of those injured, for the families and friends of the departed who remain behind and for those who are involved in the rescue and cleanup efforts.

Travel

Don, Ruth, and Karen are on travel this week.

Mark and Eric Wilson are on travel this week.

Birthday

Emma Langstaff celebrated her 40th birthday 26 July 2013.

Ryan Hopkins celebrated his 22nd birthday 14 July 2013.

Sara Simmons celebrated her 61st birthday 2 July 2013.

Loss of Home

Sarah who lost her home and all the contents when her house caught fire and burned to the ground near the end of January 2013. Her beloved dog was taken in the fire.

Please pray for Sarah as she has many decisions at this time and help her to know Jesus will be with her to help to make the "crooked road straight."

Move

Jason Naylor and his lovely wife Marla are currently stationed in Southwest Asia, probably through the end of 2013. Pray for their continued safety and a reasonably tolerable stay in that part of the world.

Ryan Hopkins has moved to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, to study Dressage Riding through June 2014. Please pray for God's guidance in his life as he works and studies. Help him to see where God would like him to go from here and how he should get there.

The Thomas Family has just moved to Okinawa for a second short tour. Please pray for this new assignment 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 schoolmates 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.

Departed

Bernie Garcia, 56, passed away on 31 July 2013, as a result of complications of Hepatitis C. He was hoping for a liver transplant but because of circumstances was unable to receive one in time. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and pray for his family who remain behind, in particular his mom and dad, Mary and Gil Garcia.

Shirley DeLong passed away early the morning of 29 July 2013, after complications from surgery for injuries sustained in a fall. Please give thanks for her time here on earth and pray for comfort and strength for her family who remain behind, in particular her son Ralph and his wife Hope. While Shirley had a long and wonderful life, that makes her absence all the more difficult for her family. Pray for their continued trust in God and peace of mind.

Colonel George Everette "Bud" Day passed away on 27 July 2013, after a long and hard fought battle with cancer.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/29/us/col-bud-day-vietnam-war-hero-dies-at-88.html>

<http://www.colonelbudday.com>

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/07/28/bud-day-vietnam-mccain/2593839/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bud_Day

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/col-bud-day-medal-honor-recipient-dies-88-19797029>

<http://www.familysecuritymatters.org/publications/detail/united-states-medal-of-honor-citations-us-air-force-major-george-e-bud-day-vietnam-war>



We were blessed to have Bud Day as our leader, our friend and our fellow warrior -- what an amazing warrior and patriot. Bud has been an inspiration to all of us for years, this changes nothing. He is well at peace with our Lord.

Hal Sperber passed away the afternoon of 24 July 2013, following *Thelma*, his loving wife by a month. Please give thanks for Hal's time here on earth and pray in particular for strength and guidance for their son *Roger* who was the primary person taking care of Hal and *Thelma*, as well as the rest of his family who will of necessity remain behind. Pray for the love of God to stay foremost in their hearts.

Thelma Sperber passed away the afternoon of 23 June 2013 after a long downhill existence. Please give thanks for her time here on earth and pray for her son *Roger* who has been taking care of her, as well as the rest of the family.

Beth left for home on 20 July 2013, after a hard fought battle with brain and lung cancer. She is beyond pain now and with the Lord. Her family gives thanks for all those who prayed both for her and them. They ask your prayers that they might adjust to the temporary separation.

Reba left for home about 0500 on 12 July 2013, after time with her family in particular for her daughter *Lynn* with whom she lived and her son in law *Bill*. Please give thanks for her time on earth and pray for the love of God to stay foremost in their hearts.

Pat had a massive heart attack on Sunday 7 July 2103, and died enroute to the hospital. *Pat* was the president of the Royal Canadian Legion. He was a true "officer and a gentleman." It was a privilege getting to know him in my role as Chaplain. He recently shared with me that he was reading through the Old Testament. *Pat* had connections with the Mormons and Free Masons. Please pray his surviving family members will look to the Lord for their salvation and comfort in the midst of sorrow.

Rev David

John Bylo passed away the evening of 27 June 2013 after a brief fight with pneumonia after radiation treatment then surgery for esophageal cancer. Please give thanks for his time here on earth and pray in particular for his wife *Debe* and their family.

John was a Rev Canon in the Anglican Episcopal Church on the staff of St. George's Anglican Church, Ventura, CA. He also has worked diligently in theological education and church planting in the Southwest, and so was appointed Missionary Canon with Special Responsibility for the States of California, Nevada, and Alaska in December 2010.

Bishop George Connor, AEC

Nearing the end of their time here on earth

Saundra is in ICU with congestive heart failure after a heart operation. She is aged and frail. *Saundra* is near the end of her time here on earth. Please pray for comfort, understanding, strength and guidance for *Saundra* and her family who will of necessity remain behind. Pray for the love of God to stay foremost in their hearts.

Polly is in hospice care with dementia and spinal stenosis. Please pray for her as she prepares to go home to be with her family who have gone before her. Pray for the faith of her family to build and the transition to be good.

Homebound or Infirm

Lou has aspiration pneumonia. Please pray for the infection to be knocked down and

for her continued recovery.

Frank has been coping with various ailments from older age. He is in his 90s and it has been a difficult year. Pray he will find comfort in God, that those who provide care to him will pay attention to him, do their best and give him the love we all desire. Pray that the coming year will provide relief to him.

Norma, Sara's mother is in a state of deteriorating health, both physically and mentally, with both onset dementia and Alzheimer's. She is slowly drifting away, though she still recognizes Sara and prayer gives her a sense of peace. Please pray 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.

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

Pat has been under treatment for colon cancer for sometime. He has had major complications the last few days and your prayers will be appreciated by family and friends.

Sasha a young lady with a husband and two children had diagnosed with breast cancer whose cells have spread. It would appear there is no viable treatment at this time. Please pray for a miraculous remission; that her remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Sasha and her family, particularly her husband, put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry. Right now she is "comfortable on borrowed time." Sasha is grateful for all who pray for her and asks you continue to pray for her remaining time here on earth.

Dorothy had pneumonia, on checking her lungs they found tumors which permeated the lung area. Further investigation found a primary site in the colon, with the lung being secondary. It would appear there is no viable treatment at this time. Please pray for a miraculous remission; that her remaining time here on earth might be good. Help Dorothy and her family put their trust in the Lord and let Him carry their worry.

Scott, one of our Lord's ministers who collapsed a week ago and is in the ICU of a Medical Center since he had a pulmonary embolism, with a concurrent infection of several bacterial agents. He has stopped breathing on several occasions, and may have undergone brain damage. He currently is on DNR. Please pray for recovery so that he will continue to do his Lord's calling.

Becky has fourth stage metastasized lung cancer and is not doing well with chemotherapy treatments. Please pray for Becky and her husband as they are together during this difficult time in their lives.

Larry Howes suffered a fairly severe stroke. 4 December 2012, doctors replaced a valve in a shunt that had been put in about two weeks before, and Larry responded very well. He was able to go home.

Please pray for the medical team treating him to pay attention and do their very best; that the many medical/surgical procedures he will need may succeed, that Larry be given strength and peace in these trials and he may succeed in providing himself with the resources to afford the care he will need.

Pray also for confidence in our Lord for Larry and his family. Larry needs a miracle, pray for one. Please.

Colleen has been battling pancreatic cancer over the last year and it has now spread to

one of her lungs. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Christine has cancer of the colon, which spread to her liver; she is receiving chemotherapy and is having difficulty eating. Please pray for the medical team treating her to pay attention and do their very best; pray also for confidence in our Lord for Christine and her family.

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.

New Members!

Austin was recently born with health issues. His family cannot take him home until he is healed.

Trent Joseph Hofmann has joined the world and mother *Gabby* is doing well. The whole family thanks you for your prayers.

Surgery

John will have a Vitrectomy; to address what seems a macular pucker, suck out some "gel" and thereby to marginally improve his vision in his left eye. This will be done on Friday 21 June 2013. He and his family will appreciate your prayers.

John will undergo surgery on Friday 31 May 2013. It is anticipated he will spend an additional 10-12 days at the hospital and then 6 weeks in recovery at home. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that *John* and family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

Dave Pressey, a bishop with the Anglican Episcopal Church, one of our close fellow jurisdictions, had cataract surgery; his retina tore and he had emergency surgery on Memorial Day. He still has only very blurred in his eye and has headaches. Please pray for healing for his retina and for peace of mind for *Dave* and his family.

Eddie has upcoming bladder surgery. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that *Eddie* and family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

Testing and Treatment

Bob has experienced several Transient Ischemic Attacks⁴ (TIA) recently. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for *Bob* and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment.

⁴ A transient ischemic attack (TIA) is a transient episode of neurologic dysfunction caused by ischemia (loss of blood flow) – either focal brain, spinal cord or retinal – without acute infarction (tissue death).

TIA's have the same underlying cause as strokes: a disruption of cerebral blood flow (CBF), and are frequently referred to as mini-strokes. TIA's and strokes cause the same symptoms, such as contralateral paralysis (opposite side of body from affected brain hemisphere) or sudden weakness or numbness. A TIA may cause sudden dimming or loss of vision (amaurosis fugax), aphasia, slurred speech (dysarthria) and mental confusion. But unlike a stroke, the symptoms of a TIA can resolve within a few minutes or 24 hours. Brain injury may still occur in a TIA lasting only a few minutes. Having a TIA is a risk factor for eventually having a stroke or a silent stroke.

Laurie has been ill for two years and was admitted to the Emergency Room the night of 23 July 2013, for dehydration. She received a CAT scan, which turned up a spot on her lung. Laurie is an oncology nurse and fears the worst. Please pray for peace of mind for Laurie and for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment

Mark Wilson was hospitalized with stomach problems. They turned out to be a set of very bad ulcers, for which he is grateful as they are eminently treatable. He is out of the hospital and recovering. Please give thanks for the good result and pray he will be able to follow the medical advice.

Georgia has liver and pancreatic cancer. The doctors are evaluating whether to do surgery and how to tackle the disease. Georgia is a faithful Christian and she will appreciate your prayers. Pray for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment. Pray also for peace of mind and trust in God for Georgia and her family.

Lana's doctor found something on her lymph nodes and ovaries. Pray for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find out the source of the problem and best course of treatment. Pray also for peace of mind and trust in God for Lana and her family.

Sarah wife of Rev Geordie (AOC – UK) had a cat scan and biopsy which found Stage 3 cancer in her ovaries which appears to have spread to her stomach. She has been undergoing several stages of chemotherapy, which thankfully have shrunk the cancer. They had hoped to operate, but cannot as it is too dispersed. But, there appear to be drugs which may successfully treat the remaining cancer. Sarah had hoped to be through the side effects, but is grateful for the opening of a new door. Please pray the chemotherapy will work and Sarah can tolerate the treatment. They trust all will work out in the end and ask God's help for the interim. They ask He guide them and the medical team treating Sarah and that the team pay attention and do their very best. They both ask you pray they will be able to let God carry all their worry.

Healing

Brian has now finished the chemotherapy and final radiation treatment for his upper lung and bronchial area cancer. His throat had closed, but responded well to stretching; eating is still not fun. A PET scan on 29 July 2013, turned up an anomaly, which could be an artifact, scarring, infection or another area of cancer. Brian is taking antibiotics, but is concerned. He asks that we pray for the anomaly turn out okay. Brian is gaining strength, please give thanks for this. Please also pray Brian will rest and not over extend himself. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Brian and his fiancé Mel, so he can rest and gain strength; pray for the medical team treating him to continue to pay close attention and do their very best; pray also he can quit smoking NOW.

Gil Garcia developed a bed sore which precludes sitting and is now confined to his bed. Gil has very smooth and delicate skin, please pray for a rapid healing of the sore so he can get out of bed and move around in his chair. Gil spent almost a year in the hospital the last time this happened. His faith and his attitude are almost beyond belief, he is an example to us all. But, we pray this time he will heal

quickly. Pray also for his lovely wife Mary who takes care of him. Pray for both of them also for strength to deal with the loss of their son Bernie.

Hank has osteoporosis, which has caused him a great deal of pain and inconvenience in the past few years. Pray for his healing and that his medical bills will be met.

Evelyn is an elderly woman who has had problems with her eyes and is now blind. It appears some sight will return shortly, pray for that to happen!

Emma Langstaff has now taken over the Chicken Pox her son Jack, who got them from his sister Eve who acquired them at Disneyworld. She asks that you pray for a mild case and a full and rapid recovery.

Jack Langstaff has now taken over the Chicken Pox his lovely sister Eve acquired at Disneyworld. He is thankful to be home in Perth, Western Australia. He asks that you pray for a mild case and a full and rapid recovery.

Joanne has begun kidney dialysis as a result of kidney failure due to extensive chemotherapy. Additionally she cares for an adopted drug addicted baby who is now nine years old. Please pray for her to keep her faith, to let the Lord carry her worry and concern and to give her strength. Pray also for those treating her that they might pay attention and do their best.

Mr. N. Anand is in the hospital and is seriously ill. He is being encouraged to pray for repentance of his sins and to depend upon our dependable God for a cure and recovery of his health. Pray that he will be a strong witness for Christ.

Jacob has been going through some dental procedures and has some pain and aggravation with the numbness. Please pray for comfort and strength for him, as well as for guidance for the medical team treating him that they might pay attention and do their best.

Jean fell and broke her ankle in three places. She will be in the hospital for rehabilitation for the next 6 weeks. Please pray for comfort and strength for her, as well as for guidance for the medical team treating her that they might pay attention and do their best.

Bud and his wife for their continued welfare and enthusiasm. Bud has been advised of an aneurism in his heart of a size not mandating immediate surgery. This comes at a time when he has sole care of his wife who recently broke two vertebrae and thereafter sustained pneumonia.

Virginia has Sinus and Allergy problems giving her severe problems. Pray that the Doctor will discover why it continues and find a cure.

Steve Thornell had a brain aneurysm which was found before it burst. He is home from the hospital and working hard on recovery. He lacks energy from seven days in the hospital. His doctor told him he has to make serious life changes. One of the two main arteries in the back of the head is now completely closed. He must take blood thinners, he has thick blood and recent chemotherapy made it worse. Steve has always operated at 110 percent, he needs help to slow down. Please pray for trust in the Lord and a full and rapid recovery. Pray for peace of mind for Steve and his family.

Ester Whidett (Wilson), Mark Wilson's mother, has congestive heart failure and has not been doing well. She was in the hospital due to excessive fluid buildup, which seems to have been controlled and is now home. Pray she will be able to keep

her medications under control and continue to do well at home. Please pray for her to place all her trust in God and let Him carry her concerns. Pray also for her daughters who are now taking over her care.

Arlen is receiving treatment for lung cancer and recently experienced a ruptured colon during treatment. She is alone in Oregon but does have a friend who has traveled a great distance to be at her side. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Arlen.

Oscar discovered some time ago he had blood clots in his leg and lung. He has been treated for them and has not been cured. He now will be facing surgery. Please keep him in your prayers.

Angela had an ischemic stroke (clot). Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Angela. Please pray also that she and her family might put their worries on our Lord's back so she can work hard towards recovery.

Nora had a stroke mid February 2013. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Nora. Please pray also that she and her family might put their worries on our Lord's back so she can work hard towards recovery.

Linda has been hospitalized for several days with a gastrointestinal problem. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for strength and trust for Linda.

Dester is suffering from unknown skin and diseases. Please guide the medical team treating him to find out what the problem is and cure it. Pray also for Dester to trust in the Lord.

Lee has Arterial Fibrillation; the medical people are not sure how to help her. Please pray for guidance for the team treating her and for Lee and her family to make the right decisions regarding treatment..

Nell recently adopted two children and has just been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

Sarah is recovering from a stroke, but fell and broke bones. Please pray for her peace of mind and rapid and full recovery. Pray for trust in God for her and her family.

Mary Lou has been suffering with seizures. She was in the hospital with a 24 hour monitor and is being sent home from the hospital with two medications and orders to return in 2 months for another MRI to review whatever is going on in her brain. Please pray for guidance for the medical people treating her, as well as peace of mind and trust in God for her and her family.

Kathleen has spent the last two weeks in the hospital. She has been diagnosed with colitis, shingles and possibly colon cancer. Pray she will be comfortable and begin to heal.

Rachel has Mitochondrial Myopathy. This is a hereditary disease of the muscles and they do not have a cure for it. Part of her pain is her family does not believe she is indeed ill, as she appears to be just fine. Please pray her family will learn the truth and be supportive of her; pray also the medical people treating her will find the right measures to minimize the disease. Most particularly pray for Rachel's trust in God.

Nicolas is in the hospital with serious symptoms of a heart disorder. Please pray for peace of mind for him and guidance for the medical team looking for the cause and cure.

Mrs. Baek an elderly women fell and injured her spine. Doctors cannot repair the spinal injury due to her age. She fell again the morning of 12 December 2012, breaking her collar bone which is also untreatable. Mrs. Baek is in severe pain and will appreciate your prayers.

Juanita is a young girl who was in a coma because of a blood disease. She has not come out and is gaining strength. They are awaiting results from blood samples. Her family thanks you for your prayers and asks that you continue.

Barbara had a accident while cooking and the pressure cooker blew up in her face, causing second and third degree burns over her face and upper body. Because of this she has incurred kidney problems and may need a transplant.

George had foot surgery. Please give thanks for the surgery and pray for a full and rapid recovery.

Nellie is in the emergency room of a hospital in a great deal of pain. Please pray for peace of mind for her and guidance for the medical team looking for the cause and cure.

Lauralee Meade 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.

Kevin Gerhart discovered cancer on his neck. He underwent 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.

Bill, Sara's husband, had a third abdominal surgery on 22 November 2011, to remove a tumor. Bill is doing better keeping the doctor's instructions, for which we are all grateful, including taking chemotherapy once a day for two more years. He has radically decreased the consumption of alcohol and eating at least mostly properly. Please pray for help for him to continue 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) has had a chest infection, perhaps viral, but seems to be getting better. She actually sent an iMessage last week, but did not hang around for a response a minute later! Please pray for continued peace of mind for Mrs. Kay and her family. Give thanks for her trust in the Lord and her positive attitude.

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! Please also give thanks 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. 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.

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.

Thanksgiving and Continued Healing

Kathy Cardin had successful surgery on 2 August 2013, to remove a cyst on her liver. The surgery went very well and she seems to be recovering ahead of schedule, on the other hand she also feels like she got hit by a truck. Please give thanks for the great result and pray for continued healing.

Dennis has heart problems; now the medical people treating him discovered a large mass on his liver which turned out to be a cyst, just like Kathy above! Please give thanks for this great development and pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Dennis and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that the contemplated surgery might go well.

Dwight had major oral surgery, for which he gives thanks. He is recovering slowly and asks your prayers to speed the process.

Joyce broke her left leg and sprained her right foot in a fall and had surgery the morning of 24 July 2013. She asks you to give thanks for the surgery having gone well and asks you also pray for her continued healing, she will be spending several weeks her right leg in a walking boot and several months with her left leg in a cast.

Bill had malignant mole removed. He gives thanks for the successful surgery and asks for prayers for the upcoming plastic surgery that is required.

Mike was very ill in hospital. He is doing much better now and his family asks you to give thanks for the miraculous recovery. Mike is a veteran who has served his country when she called. Please pray he will open his heart to God so He can make Mike's crooked road straight and pull him towards the summit rather than to the pit.

Pastor Roy underwent full knee replacement surgery Monday 10 June 2013. Please give thanks for a successful surgery and pray for a full and rapid recovery.

Jo an elderly woman has had a spinal disk infection and been on antibiotics for a long time. Jo was getting better but had a downward spiral. She has now recovered to the point she has been able to get out of the hospital. Please give thanks for this wonderful development.

Mike Wysocki returned home from once in a life time fly-cruise-fly Around the World in 41 Days trip that almost turned into a end of life time trip. Mike caught pneumonia and his left eye has been identified with a highly contagious infection. He is out of the hospital, home and working on recovery. After a hard hitting drug course, Mike has vision back in his eye and the pneumonia is almost gone. Please give thanks for the great progress and pray for a full and rapid recovery.

Eden (2) is doing much better now and seeing a specialist for her stomach problem. Please give thanks for the progress and pray for peace of mind and trust in God for her and her family as well as guidance for the medical team treating her.

Jim's infected blister on the bottom of his foot has apparently healed without the infection getting into his blood stream or compromising his lungs or heart. Please give thanks for the great result and pray he will be able to come home soon.

James had surgery the morning of 4 April 2013 at Cancer Treatment Centers of America which appears to have gone well. The pathology report found the high grade carcinoma cancer was confined to the bladder. There was no sign of cancer in surrounding areas, tissues, organs, etc. The Sovereign King of heaven and earth has blessed Jim immensely; he will not have to endure chemo or radiation, he will continue with various tests and see the physicians. Please give thanks for the good result and the work of the surgical team paying attention and doing their very best. Pray for James' continued recovery and for him and his wife Dawn to be able to put their worry and concern on His Back.

Jeff had successful surgery on Monday 4 March 2013, at Vanderbilt Medical Center to remove his esophagus as the doctors felt this is the only remedy for pre-cancerous and cancerous cells in his esophagus and stomach. Please give thanks for the successful surgery and pray that his pain level will go down and he will recover quickly. Pray for Jeff and his family to keep their faith in God and let him carry their worries.

Rick is recovering from hip replacement surgery in the middle of February 2013.

Buzz Baron had C5-6 surgery the morning of 3 March 2013, which went well. Please give thanks for the surgical team paying attention and doing their best and for a good result; pray also for a full and rapid recovery.

Karen had surgery the afternoon of 1 March 2013 to remove a spot on her lung; the surgery went well and the spot was benign. Please give thanks for the great result. Pray also for continued trust in God and peace of mind for Karen, as well as a rapid recovery.

Dick's left arm was amputated after treating for Merkel Cell carcinoma over a year. He is now believed to be cancer free and is waiting to be fitted with an artificial arm. Please join Dick and his family in giving thanks to Our Lord Jesus Christ for his recovery as well as for their trust in God.

Traci had surgery colon cancer on 27 December 2012. The surgery went very well and she appears to be cancer free. But, she had a pulmonary embolism and another clot in the artery to the spleen which will keep her in the hospital for at least several days. Traci is beginning to be weary of her medical situation. Please pray that she will not become despondent. Pray that she will open her heart to God's Grace that He might enter in to her heart and strengthen her.

Bob Smouse had shoulder surgery on 28 November 2012. He would appreciate your thanksgiving prayers. While the surgery apparently went well, he is still in pain and would also appreciate prayers for continued healing and the pain to subside. He promises to work very hard on recovery therapy.

Carol Stone, the sweet wife of Mike Stone, seems to have recovered far better than expected from a severe brain bleed. She thinks she can walk, etc., even though she cannot. She has improved and is nearly able to stand up by herself; this makes it almost certain that she will have another fall. Presently she can stand and walk a little with a great deal of assistance. Hopefully this means she will ultimately be able to walk, at least with the aid of a walker or cane. What's holding her back at the moment is her cognitive deficits and they are trying to find a place to get her more therapy

Please pray for peace of mind and trust in God for Mike, guidance for the medical team treating Carol and strength for Carol as well as faith and trust. No one can ever understand the why of these things here on earth. Sara who passed this request on asks that you pray in both faith and hope.

Business

Mark's business is in difficulty. He works in a shrinking field, of which he is one of the country's true masters, but there is little work available. He asks that you pray that he can find a way to survive in his industry, which he loves and needs his talents. Pray he can find new sources of business and new ways of doing things, perhaps someone to partner with to better use his talents. Pray also for those who work for and with him that they might do their best to help.

Employment

Doug recently became unemployed from his job of 18 years. He has been applying for jobs, but unable to get one at this time. His wife is working; this is not enough for the family. Please pray he will find employment with a firm that will be able to use his considerable skill and hard work to benefit both the firm and the family.

Catherine and Lewis are at a low ebb due to a struggle for employment. Your fervent prayers will be appreciated.

Lori is considering a potential change in her employment. Please pray for God's guidance in considering all aspect of her potential work.

Rodriguez Family are looking for work. It seems many obstacles have been put in their way of finding employment. Please pray they will find employment with a firm that will be able to use their considerable skill and hard work to benefit both the firm and the family.

Sarah is concerned about the future with her company. She would appreciate prayers for her continued employment and that her firm might find more and better ways to use her considerable skills.

Financial Guidance and Healing

David and Lorna are having financial problems. They are trying to find a smaller home which may be more affordable. *Lorna* has had an ongoing battle with brain cancer, her trips back and forth to the hospital have drained their finances to the point they sometimes struggle to have enough food in the house. Pleaser pray for *Lorna's* healing and guidance on how they might handle the financial difficulties in which they have found themselves.

Guidance

Jonathan is addicted to drugs. He is now in jail awaiting trial. His parents and friends will appreciate it if you will keep him in your prayers for him to find the root of his trouble and accept God's help to heal addiction.

Beth is suffering from ungodly treatment in her marriage. Please pray God will guide her in her behavior, actions and thoughts that she might be able to lead her husband to God so her marriage might prosper to the benefit of them.

Brandon a young man from a Christian family who married a year ago and almost immediately became estranged from his family. As a result he has had a serious problem with keeping the civil law. Please pray for Brandon that he will return to the Lord and the many problems will be eventually settled. Pray the hurt he has caused so many will be helped with our Lord's care and love.

Dennis has some decisions to make and will appreciate our Lord's guidance.

Earl to read and understand Scriptures he has been given.

Steve Sundberg had a heart attack after Easter 2011, then a five-way heart by-pass. In addition to the bypass surgery, he has been through a horrible divorce and lost his job after some 30 years service. Steve is very thrifty and a good investor so he is reasonably ok financially. The best thing is that he has trust in the Lord.

Jeanette has had many members of her family die from diabetes and several are near death now. Jeanette does not know the Lord and is despondent and perplexed about her family and herself. Please pray she can open her heart to allow the Holy Ghost in to bring her knowledge and understanding.

Christy just lost her sister in an automobile accident; this follows closely the loss of two family. Please pray she can let our Lord Jesus Christ carry all her sorrow, worry and care at this extremely difficult and stressful time.

Dr. Elizabeth Raj is teaching a biblical approach to the psychological problems facing many in our society today. She is battling against the growing influence of worldly psychology adopted by the churches themselves. Elizabeth constantly stresses answers are found between the covers of that precious Book, the Holy Bible. Please pray for encouragement, strength, fortitude and courage for her.

Daniel and Danielle are experiencing family strife as a result of custodial issues with a daughter. Please pray they and those they strive with might look to the child's best interests in their time of difficulty and disagreement; to work for her best interests and not use her as a weapon amongst themselves.

Abigail is a teenager who has behavior problems. She feels she is in an area of mental darkness. Please pray that she might look to God for help and not within herself.

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. She asks for God's help to grow her business while keeping up with the needs of her mother and husband and healing her own problems.

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

Hap asks you to pray he might be able to trust God will help him make the right

decisions at the right time and not to worry uselessly, to change those things he can change, accept those things he cannot change, sleep well to be able to do the correct things with a clear head and that he will open his heart to the Holy Ghost.

Thanksgiving

Eve Langstaff gives thanks for getting over the Chicken Pox in record time so she and her dad Paul could rejoin their family in Perth, Western Australia.

Paul, Emma, Jack and Eve Langstaff give thanks for safe, albeit very long travel home to Perth, Western Australia from their round the world trip.

Dustin was facing difficulty in his civilian employment pressure from his supervisors at civilian employment as a result of serving as a National Guardsman. A senior supervisor was made aware of Dustin's issues with his immediate boss and he stepped into the situation. Now, Dustin has a pay raise and a new immediate boss who is more sympathetic to his service in the National Guard. He is thankful for all the prayers. Please give thanks for the great result and pray for continued understanding for the supervisors of the good Dustin is doing for our country and for Dustin to see ways to minimize the impact on his work so everyone can benefit.

Please give thanks for *Robert* who seemed moribund returning back to his family and pray for his complete recovery

AOC Congregations

Saint Joseph of Arimathea Anglican Orthodox Church is under a lot of stress. We all are, but they need even more prayer. Rev Roger Jessup, their wonderful minister, is pressed by the duties of a primary care giver, in addition to all the worries of this world. They have one of their family's primary breadwinners who will be soon unemployed, absent His intervention. Roger's niece will lose her job at the end of the year when her tech center shuts down. As Rev Roger said so eloquently, "We must pray for those who mean us harm and deprive us of our property are our enemies: Our LORD has so commanded us." We must pray they will see light and cleave to it while turning their backs on the Prince of this World. Equally important, we must pray that the Lord will raise up a political leader from among us as He has done in the past. Pray also for trust in God for each member of the parish and for them to find economic relief.

Rev Rick Reid is the minister of the new AOC congregation in Newton, North Carolina, Saint Andrews Anglican Church. Their first Sunday was 5 May 2013. Please pray Rick will be able to bring God's Word to the people in and near Newton.

Guidance for Ministers

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.

Armed Forces & Contractors

Airman Donny Patton (Bagram AB, Afghanistan), Jordan (USMC – Fleet Marine Force - Pacific), Trevor (USAF - KC-10 Boom Operator – New Jersey), 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

Rowan County North Carolina County Commissioners have been told by the court they cannot pray in the name of Jesus Christ. The Commissioners plan to open their meeting 5 August 2013, at 1500L and pray in their usual manner in the name of Jesus Christ. Please pray they will withstand the persecution that may ensue.

Anglican Orthodox Church in Pakistan has many members who have had to leave their homes because of the torrential rains that have triggered flash floods and much damage to homes. Please pray for Pakistan and all those endangered by the storms.

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.

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.

Date	Reader
18 August 2012	Dru Arnold – Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
25 August 2012	Dru Arnold – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

18 August 2012 – Twelfth 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**

25 August 2012 – Thirteenth 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**