



Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Report

Today was the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday. The weather was interesting; a veiled quarter moon and a star at sunrise with a temperature of 68°F, rising to 78°F by the end of church under 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 *Just a closer walk with Thee* for the gathering song.

Just a closer walk with Thee

I am weak, but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

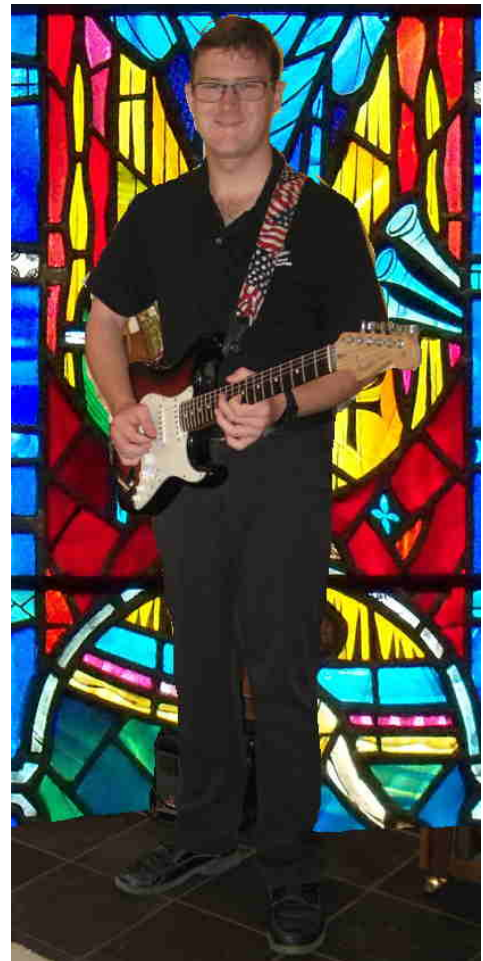
Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Take my hand, Lord Jesus, take my hand;
Take my hand, Lord Jesus, take my hand;
There's a race to be run, There's a victory to be won;
Every hour, give me power to go through.

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment. *Just a closer walk with Thee* is a parish favorite.

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. Some from Bishop Jerry, many from Rev Bryan Dabney, a few from other places, this time some from Rev Geordie Menzies- Grierson, but overall mostly from Bryan. He always has a few great ones to share. On to the On Point quotes –

I am for doing good to the poor, but I differ in opinion of the means. I think the best way of doing good to the poor, is not making them easy in poverty, but leading or driving them out of it. In my youth I travelled much, and I observed in different countries, that the more public provisions were made for the poor, the less they provided for themselves, and of course became poorer. And, on the contrary, the less was done for them, the more they did for themselves, and became richer.

Benjamin Franklin

On the Price of Corn and Management of the Poor, 1766

The way of holiness that leads to happiness is a narrow way; there is but just room enough for a holy God and a holy soul to walk together.

Thomas Brooks

There smites nothing so sharp, nor smelleth so sour, as shame.

William Langland

But the safety of the people of America against dangers from foreign force depends not only on their forbearing to give just causes of war to other nations, but also on their placing and continuing themselves in such a situation as not to invite hostility or insult; for it need not be observed that there are pretended as well as just causes of war.

John Jay

Federalist No. 4, 1787

The prosperity of the wicked is short and uncertain. The high places in which providence sets them are slippery. Their destruction is sure, and sudden, and very great. They flourish for a time and are undone forever.

Rev. Matthew Henry

17th and 18th century English pastor and author

But we are apt to look upon the apostles as extraordinary beings, scarcely subject to the same weaknesses and temptations as ourselves. Yet in so doing we are forgetful of this truth, that the nearer a man lives to God the more intensely has he to mourn over his own evil heart; and the more his Master honours him in his service, the more also doeth the evil of the flesh vex and tease him day by day.

Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon

19th century English Baptist minister and author
(Morning and Evening, p. 374)

Jesus Christ has already paid the sacrificial price for our sins. The great tragedy is that millions of people choose not to reap the benefits of his sacrifice.

Dr. Grant Jeffrey

20th and 21st century Canadian Christian author

What are cold, wandering, selfish, irreverent prayers, but offences against God, whom we pretend to propitiate by services which are but a mockery of his holiness?

Rev. Charles Hodge

19th century American theologian and author

The firewall we have against postmodernism (which is a fancy name for paganism) is an inerrant, authoritative Bible. Our sin problem finds its remedy through the gospel that is revealed in the Bible. We find morals and restraint from our sinful tendencies through the law of God revealed by God through the Biblical writers. Western Civilization used to be based on such ideas.

Bob DeWaay

20th and 21st century American Christian commentator

If you ever look about yourself and find that your country is a Goliath, towering over a small enemy, be afraid. God enjoys letting giants grow, giants like Persia, or our own country, but he always fells them, and he always fells them with something small or petty, a stone, or a ragged bunch of impoverished Greeks with schizophrenic gods. It is a curious thought to consider what God will use to rein in our present predominate unrighteousness.

Douglas Wilson

20th and 21st century American theologian and Christian Classical educator,

Never give to your friend any power that your enemy may some day inherit.

Paul Weyrich

20th and 21st century American Conservative and author.

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 209-210, with the Collect first:

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Dru Arnold read the Epistle, which came from Paul's Letter to the Galatians, the Fifth Chapter beginning at the Sixteenth Verse. Paul tells us that Heaven and Earth are in conflict in our lives, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." If we are led of the Spirit, we are not under the law. If we are subject to the law, which we are bound to break due to our own inability to be ultimately good, we are also bound to the pit. But if we are with Christ, we are forgiven of our sins, providing we are truly repentant. We will enjoy "the fruit of the Spirit ... love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."



I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Hap Arnold read today's Holy Gospel which started in the Seventeenth Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, beginning at the Eleventh Verse. Jesus comes upon ten lepers who appeal to Him, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." He does and tells them, "Go shew yourselves unto the priests." As they left him, their leprosy disappeared. One of the ten, "when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan¹." Jesus marveled at the nine who turned not saying, "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole." Once again a Samaritan, the "least" among the Jews was the only one to recognize and offer thanks to the Power of God. Do we recognize the power of God in our lives and do we thank Him for the good He does us?



And it came to pass, as Jesus went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Sermon – Reverend Deacon Jack Arnold - Time and Action

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

Today we talk consider The Law and how it failed to solve the problems of the people it was designed to help and think about how getting around technicalities is different that doing what is right.

Consider the words of the Collect, "...give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command ..."

The Collects often are repetitive, in that we ask the same thing, week after week in differing ways. Why is that?



¹ Samaritan - Of or pertaining to Samaria, in Palestine. -- n. A native or inhabitant of Samaria; also, the language of Samaria. [1913 Webster]

Samaritans were descendants of those who had stayed behind during the Captivity and had been separated for many years from the body of Judaism. They had not developed, nor did they subscribe to them, all the rules the Jews managed to invent during their separation. The main body of Jews viewed them as lesser peoples, not really Jews.

Sadly, we have the same needs and the same failings week after week. We are WEAK, we need God's STRENGTH. Today, we ask Him to help us, through the Holy Ghost, to increase our faith, to help us love what He wants us to do, to make His Wishes our wishes. To make us want to follow Him that we might gain the prize which He has promised us. That prize has multiple aspects, first and foremost eternal life which begins when we accept it, not when we die. Second, as a benefit of that eternal life, we live our lives here in far greater happiness than we would otherwise. We have peace of mind, as well as a better physical life. If we can but just put our hearts in His Heart. And if we can also remember the benefits of the prize of following Him, it would be easier for us to follow the path, maybe not much easier, but easier enough to keep our eyes on the prize. We often forget about the Holy Ghost, that Third God Guy. Without Him in our hearts, we are lost. With Him, we, like John Newton, are found. We will have that vision He gives to us in our lives and we will be able to see the way God wants us to travel.

That brings us right in to Paul's Letter to the Galatians, and us! We need to walk in God's Word and in His Spirit. We need to put aside the things of this world which are not in accord with the Way of God. If we are of God, then we will act of God, then only will we be of God.

What is important is not what you were born to, for we were all born to death. A king is born, a king dies. We are born into this world, our body will die in this world. Yet through the grace of the King, we live on. There is much conflict in us, look at all those "fun" things Paul lists in the Epistle. Those "fun" things do not bring happiness, they really just bring us closer to death. We all struggle with fun and happiness, two words that often do not mean the same thing.

Yet, God has the answer for us. He sent His Son to bring it to us. Who will listen?

The only people who listen are those who are in need, hurt, pain and despair. Often it is because they or one of their loved ones are ill or injured, perhaps near death. Perhaps they are unemployed or undergoing some family upheaval. Their situation is less than perfect. They need help and they know it. In their own mind, they are the Samaritans of this world. It was no accident that Jesus oft cast Samaritans as the stars of his parables and stories. It is also no accident that Jesus parables and stories center on actions, not words, thoughts and meditations. Actions are who you are. Without action, there is nothing. "Those who believe on me keep my commandments." Actions!

Yet, those who turn to God in "need" are no different than each of us. To quote Paul, "None are perfect, all fall short." We, each and every one of us, needs God's help. Perhaps some need it more, none need it less.

When Luke tells us of Jesus and the ten lepers whom He heals and only one expresses thanks, do you think he is only telling of lepers?

In a sense are we not all lepers, outcasts with unhealable conditions? We are outcasts of this world so to speak, we only have God and our friends in Christ to help us. The world cannot help us, but those in Christ, and God can. We cannot be healed by this world, yet there is One who can heal us and will if only we appeal to Him, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." We pray to Him every day, He listens every day.

Through our Lord, God is there for each of us if we will accept His help. When He gives that help, how do we react? Frankly most of us just think it our due. We oft fail to give thanks for all that He gives us.

Even if we get an answer we don't expect, do we thank Him? What if we get an answer do we thank Him?

Like the lepers only one in ten will show thanks for the mercy and help given them. In the case of the lepers, it was the Samaritan², showing that fancy dress and rules are not as important as doing what is right and being grateful for what we are given.

Are you part of that 10 percent?

Remember, it is Please and Thank You that are the magic words, not Please and I don't have time for you.

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

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Saint Andrew's
Anglican Orthodox Church
1 September 2013, Anno Domini

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity.

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



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Samaritans were descendants of those who had stayed behind during the Captivity and had been separated for many years from the body of Judaism. They had not developed, nor did they subscribe to them, all the rules the Jews managed to invent during their separation. The main body of Jews viewed them as lesser peoples, not really Jews.

And it came to pass, as Jesus went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, **Go shew yourselves unto the priests.** And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, **Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.** And he said unto him, **Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.** (Luke 17:11-19)

The Prayer of Collect reminds us of the biblical principle that faith and love come from God. He is the author of both faith and love, and neither can be self-generated by man.

In national diplomacy, we often refer to the “Full Faith and Credit of the U.S. Government.” The implication is that all that the American government has and believes is behind, and supports, a certain policy. Today’s Gospel theme is like unto that phrase, but with an added dimension – gratitude. We may have full faith, but that faith must be backed up with gratitude for blessings received.

Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem to be crucified for us – for the people at Jerusalem, for the very Romans who nailed Him to the cross, for the Galileans, for the Samaritans, and for all nations, tribes and tongues who believe on Him. It simply “*came to pass*” that he went through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. It was not otherwise essential for Jesus to pass through Samaria, but He did for a purpose – the same purpose decreed from eternity past; and that purpose involved ten lepers whom He knew He would meet on His way. Jesus is always going through the midst of nations for a specific purpose. Somewhere along the extended route He always took, perhaps He met YOU along the weary road, seemingly by happenstance! But it was not happenstance, for nothing of God happens by happenstance. You were dying of a filthy and odorous, blood-borne disease called sin, but He healed you and restored you, if you called out to Him as did these poor lepers. How like sin is the disease of leprosy. It was deadly, it was insidious, it rotted away the very being of a person, it could not be covered or escaped, and it relentlessly ate away at the limbs and vital organs of the body just as sin does the soul. THERE WAS NO KNOWN CURE! What was needed for a person with leprosy was simply a miracle!

Perhaps we do not understand that our salvation – our healing from our deadly disease of sin – came by the same miraculous Word that healed the lepers on the way to Jerusalem. The kind of love that Jesus offers is not a sentimental or tentative love – it is an all-consuming, miraculous kind of love. All true love descends from God. And all that God touches is a miracle! How could One of perfect righteousness – sinless in every respect, Holy and unable to even look upon sin - take all of our filthy sins, and the sins of the world, upon Himself in the shame, humiliation, and torture of the cross? Was it not a miracle? If a bitter enemy comes near and you were to insult him with your greatest offense, or even strike him or his only son, would it not be a miracle is he gave his life in preserving your own?

When you were first aware of your disease of sin, did you try to conceal the rotting tissue – the ominous and repulsive odor with perfumes? Did you cover, as long as possible, the signs of leprosy (sin) with your best apparel as did Naaman, the

Assyrian Captain? But after a bit, it becomes impossible to cover such a disease that slowly advances toward certain and eternal death. Sin separates the sinner from God, and from his loved ones, just as leprosy separates the leper from his family and friends. You will soon find that, like Naaman, you need a miracle, and that miracle can only be had in Christ.

Jesus wittingly went to Jacob's Well that noonday hour for a specific purpose – to meet a woman of ill repute there who sought physical water, but left with the Water of Life. He then used that woman to draw many more Samaritans to Himself. It was no accident of chance, but an event of purpose and known action. So our narrative from the Gospel text opens with Jesus passing through Samaria and Galilee on His final earthly visit to Jerusalem. **11 "And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee."** The Samaritans were cast-offs from the Judean religion, but Christ NEVER forgets the cast-offs. In fact, He makes special provision for them in meeting them WHERE THEY ARE TO BE FOUND, just as He came to you where you could be found. It may have been in a busy office, a train, a lonely midnight street, or even a barroom, but He always comes to where you are with His gentle prodding's of the Holy Ghost. You looked from the place where you stood and saw Him coming to you!

You will well know, if you are a person of faith, that sin separates us from God. Adam and Eve hid themselves in the Garden after sinning against their loving Creator. Cain also hid from the presence of God, or tried to do. Sin makes a great abyss between us and God just as broad and impassable as that which existed between the Rich Man and Lazarus. Only God can breach that abyss, and He must come to us in doing so. **12 "And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off."** Jesus never separated Himself from lepers. In fact, He is the only One I read about who actually dared touch a filthy leper in Scripture. ***And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.*** (Matt 8:2-3) God does not make a separation between us and Himself – WE are the ones who make the separation through our sins or leprosy. The lepers were not allowed to approach near people. If they met on the road, they were required to shout "Unclean, unclean!" as a warning for others to stay clear of them. So we see these lepers were afar off from Christ when they saw Him coming.

These ten lepers were obviously of mixed tribes for the Gospel specifically points out that one of them was a Samaritan. It may be logically assumed that some, at least, were Jews or Phoenicians. But sin unites across racial and national boundaries. Being outcast from God, the sinners are united in their darkness. The sinners travel together while their disease separates them from God and His Church. Have you known the time in your past when you slithered beneath the rocks at the rising of the Sun to shield your eyes from the great Light? Did you not find fellow creatures there who loved the darkness more than the Light?

When we have wronged our best friend, how we avoid looking that friend squarely in the eyes! Sin separates!

13 "And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When sin has choked out your last breath and paralyzed your heart, you then know that your condition is hopeless. But then you look up and see the Giver of Life and the Healer of the nations on the road coming your way. What will you do? Will you avail

yourself of the Healing Balm, or will you say, "I don't need it! I shall die in my sin?" There are three circumstances common to these ten lepers: 1) they ALL have leprosy and are dying of the disease; 2) they are together in their demise; and 3) they all have faith to call upon Jesus for healing. Their faith was not all equal, for nine only sought healing from the deadly physical disease that afflicted them, but one had faith sufficient to plead for the spiritual healing of Christ as well. Do you pray for healing of the body to the neglect of the soul? We are in a constant war against sin and evil. Our full faculties must be mobilized to watch out for the intrigues of the enemy, but also for the arrival of the Captain of our souls along the weary road to Jerusalem!

These ten lepers pled for mercy! If they could receive mercy from the Lord of Life, that would certainly suffice for their healing of leprosy. It is interesting to note Jesus' response: "**14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests.**" They sought healing, and they believed that they would have it if they followed the surprising Word of Jesus. Jesus does not always respond in the same way. He could have simply healed these lepers on the spot as He had done others, but He had a point to make to His disciples, so He told the lepers to show themselves to the priests so that they might be declared clean and able to return to their families and friends. Have you, too, received a counsel of God that simply does not seem to fit your prayer? Has Christ told you to obey some counsel that did not, at the time, make sense? If so, what did you do? Did you follow His Word, or disobey?

Sometimes, in order to answer our prayers, Christ sends us on an errand that may not make sense to us. These poor lepers all OBEYED though they were not immediately healed. Is this not an amazing miracle in itself, I mean, that they did obey without question? What was the result? "And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed." The faith they demonstrated in both calling out to Christ, and promptly obeying His command, was an elemental faith that would result in the healing of one deadly disease, but not another more serious affliction (sin) for nine of them. As they went to see the priest, they realized that they had been healed. By now, they have made some distance from the One who healed them – it is probable that they were not 'out of sight' of Jesus. How do they respond? Perhaps they reckoned, "Well, we have that for which we came. Let us not trouble the Master by returning and giving thanks. He will know that we were healed?" Their immediate joy perhaps overwhelmed their sense of gratitude so that their gratitude was diminished by their senseless joy. Now they could return to their families. Now life would again be normal for these suffering men. But what about the One who gave them such a wonderful gift? Not worth their time to return to express their humble gratitude? Do not children often grow up to resent the very parents who made their lives possible?

When we pray to God, we must accept whatever answer is forthcoming even if we do not understand it at the moment. We must be thankful enough to express that gratitude on bended knee. But do we? Do you remember the great national appeal to God through prayer that happened all across America on the Eve of the Desert Storm Operation in January of 1991? Churches and communities turned out for prayer vigil unlike anything since the Second World War. Our troops were heralded by well-wishers from the bridge overpasses as their convoys wheeled toward the points of disembarkation. It was a most encouraging and inspiring moment. There seemed to be hope for the moral decline of America at last. It was expected that the allied Forces might sustain a casualty rate as high as 60,000 in the first four hours of battle. God moved in the Heavens and His Angels of War soared above the heads of our battle elements in a manner not unlike that wonderful Pillar of fire that followed the Children

of Israel out of Egypt. The casualties were quite minimal – sixteen fatalities and only a few injured. What was the result? Did the nation's churches again turn out in droves to return thanks and gratitude to the God of Battles who sustained our forces in the field? No, not appreciably. Instead, we were treated to debriefings and continual news flashes of our good General, "Stormin' Norman" Schwartzkoff, outlining how our brilliant technology and strategic planning had "won the day." God was, sadly, not mentioned.

God always has His one faithful soul in every mixture of ingrates. He had Abel who stood against the growing evil of the first generation of men. He had His Samuel who stood against all of Israel in their desire for a king to rule over them – other than the King of Heaven. He has had his Ruth's and Naomi's, His Paul's and His Stephen's – and He now has one out of ten healed lepers whose heart, more than his body, has been touched and healed, all the way through, by Christ. *"15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God."* All quickly went on their way to the priest at Christ commands. All were healed on the way; however, one, just as promptly as recognizing his healing, immediately turned back to the Source of his healing to glorify God. This is wise for two reasons: 1) it is always wise to be grateful for gifts received. A heart of gratitude is reward unto itself for health and joy; and, 2) when we fail to express gratitude for blessings granted either by God, or by friends, we shut off the flowing Fountain of Living Waters for future blessings. This one leper was not timid to glorify God with a "loud voice." He cared not who heard his glorifying. He, in fact, wanted every living creature in earshot to hear his praises of the One who had healed his leprosy, and his heart.

How uncharacteristic, in the eyes of the disciples, for this particular leper to be the only one to return thanks for he was a disgusting Samaritan! What were you before you came to Christ, friend? Were you better than this leper? Were you better than the other nine? How the modern church disdains a poor and itinerant sinner who wonders into their marbled palaces in disarray!

"16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan." He did better than all the other nine who were comprised of at least some of the better race – Jews. Do you not yet see that God cares not for color of skin, or national origins? He looks upon the heart only! This humble Samaritan knew how Jewish society regarded lepers, but he also knew how it perceived Samaritans as well. He was BOTH, yet this loving Savior took pity upon him despite his shortcomings and condition. He was not ashamed to fall at the feet of such a beneficent Savior. Are you ashamed after all He has done for you?

Jesus' following question was rhetorical: *"17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?"* Of course, He knew where the others were – they were still hurrying to the priest to settle pressing personal consideration, not having time to return and thank their Benefactor. Even when we depart from Him to cherish our sins, He yet knows where we are. Jesus is asking this question to draw a vivid impression in the minds of His disciples. When we read the Word of God, and hear it preached from the pulpit, we may not at first understand fully, but the Holy Ghost will, in time, bring all such things to our recollection and understanding. These same disciples, though they could not grasp the full gravity of Jesus' inquiry at the moment, later proved their apostolic understanding in the lives that they lived, and died, for Christ!

This **stranger**? This stranger was once Jerry Ogles! We were all strangers to God before we came to Him in faith and gratitude. *"18 There are not found that*

returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." When we seek the favors of God, we do not go half way, but ALL the way. We must not simply "eat the fish and leave the bone." We feed on every Word that comes from the mouth of God whether every Word is personally pleasing or not. Our modern society has decided that it can edit out certain egregious sins from the Holy Bible – sins such as the murder of innocent babies in their mother's womb, or abominable sins such as homosexuality giving, it rather, a place of dignity among society and even the church. How apostate can we become! But only 'this stranger' returned out of ten to give thanks. They were all in the same congregation. All sought the same Lord. All heard His healing Words. All obeyed His command (to a certain point). But after that point of healing, nine failed of gratitude and grace expected of a Christian. Is not the same thing happening in congregations all across America today? Have we not labeled that which is good, 'bad;' and that which is bad, 'good?' Have we not sat and listened to the sermon with closed minds and ears – or, else, has the minister himself not compromised away the Word and will of our Holy Father to the detriment of millions of souls? Are we so much in a hurry to get back to the things of the world after our prayers, that we neglect gratitude for the mercies of God?

It was faith in Jesus that brought the leper to the point afar off to call upon Him to have mercy. It was a stronger faith that compelled him to return to the Source of his blessing of answered prayer. And it was faith that drew him to Christ. Though it was Christ who healed and forgave, it was faith that was the agency whereby he was drawn in the first place. His faith was a surpassing faith that went beyond simple belief, but went on to a loving gratitude that welded his soul to that of Christ. "19 *And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.*" Only when we come to Christ on bended knee can we 'arise' from our paltry predicaments and face a new life of salvation and righteousness. Christ does not heal halfway, but All the way if our faith enforces gratitude. Have you thanked God today for your next breath, your next heartbeat, and all of the more obvious ways He has blessed and healed you? If not, what are your intentions?

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. I think you will enjoy his sermon.



The Grateful Leper Luke 17:11-19

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem traveling along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them, he said, "*Go shew yourselves unto the priests.*" And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him ...and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "*Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.* And he said unto him, *Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.*" St. Luke recorded this message for us, so we might learn some important things about following Christ.

Jesus and his disciples are moving closer and closer to Jerusalem. Here Jesus is traveling in the border area in the province of Galilee, and at the north end of the area where the Samaritans lived.

Luke reminds us that this took place in a racially-mixed area, so we will be ready for the surprise at the end of the story: "..... and he was a Samaritan."

Leprosy in Biblical times was a terrible thing. Those diagnosed with leprosy were banned from society, after a visit to the priest who deemed them to be unclean. To touch a leper defiled a Jew almost as much as touching a dead person. They looked at leprosy as a sign of God's disfavor.

To rabbis, the cure of a leper was as difficult as raising a person from the dead. In all Biblical history only two people had been cured of leprosy. Miriam, who had leprosy for seven days as a punishment for speaking against Moses' leadership (Numbers 12:9-15), and Naaman, General of the Army of Aram, from Damascus. (2 Kings 5)

When he obeyed Elijah's instruction to wash seven times in the Jordan River he was healed. Healing a leper had not been done in Israel for over seven hundred years."

The Lepers stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." (17:12b-13) When Jesus and his disciples drew near; the lepers immediately recognize him and call out his name. The word "Master" translates to a term used in secular Greek for various officials, teachers, and leaders.

The lepers ask for pity, and when Jesus saw them, he said, "Go shew yourselves unto the priests." "And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed." (17:14). Remember those words: And as they went, they were cleansed.

Even though we talk about someone who "believes, "we know that faith is exhibited in what we actually do. Because the lepers believe, they begin to obey and they went to the village where the priests live.

As Jesus' brother James says, " Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." (James 2:17).

"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan." (17:15-16). All ten lepers realize they are healed, but only one comes all the way back to Jesus, praising God for his mercy in healing him.

Notice the thankful leper's response. He throws himself at Jesus' feet as a sign of utter humility. The leper gives glory to God and thanks Jesus. The thankful leper may not know Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, but he knows who healed him and he knows that thanks are due.

"Jesus asked, **Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.**" (17:17-18) Ten were healed but the only one who knew thanks were due and followed through was the Samaritan. Samaritans were at the bottom of the Jewish hierarchy. They did not have all the rules, but somehow they appear to know what is right each time they come up in the Bible.

This observation agrees with several other indictments of the Jews living in Jesus' day. Jesus points out in the Parable of the Tenants (20:9-19) that, by and large, God's people

have rejected his appointed Son. John's Gospel begins with the sad observation, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:11-12).

The account concludes with Jesus' departing blessing: "**Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole**" (17:19) This passage hints at the fact that Jesus offers this leper more than others. They received healing, but this Samaritan receives a deeper salvation in addition.

His faith has prompted him to return to the feet of Jesus in thanks, and that personal contact, that personal submission signifies a healing of the soul, far greater than just the skin.

What are we as followers of Christ supposed to learn from all this? Perhaps most obvious is that outsiders are sometimes more responsive than God's own people. One central lesson of this story is that the faith that healed the lepers was by acting on Jesus' words. Jesus said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests," implying that they were healed. If they had done a quick physical check to see if they were healed before they headed off to the priests' village.... they never would have started. The healing didn't take place until after they obeyed.

We sometimes want instantaneous healing before we'll believe that Jesus has healed us. But the faith here is shown in the going. "My point here is that we as followers of Christ we need to know that Jesus expects us to show gratitude. In the account of the Thankful Leper, Jesus is clearly angry and disappointed at the ingratitude of the nine lepers who didn't return.

Gratitude is an important component in our salvation. Were all ten lepers healed? Physically - yes. Were they all saved? No - Nine of them took the surface gift of physical healing and turned their backs literally on Jesus. One drew close to God in thankfulness and dependence.

The nine were saved physically but not spiritually. "Where are the other nine?" Jesus asks. Healing that doesn't bring a person to Jesus is incomplete and without spiritual growth. Sad to say, but being a believer can sometimes result in spiritual deafness. One is not a "believer", but rather only one who claims to believe, when they do not ACT on those beliefs. Remember, the second half of the Book of Luke is The ACTS of the Apostles, not the beliefs, thoughts, contemplations or other non-ACTIONS.

If you ACT on your beliefs, you will not find yourself deaf. We must train ourselves to show thanks, to give thanks, to be filled with thanksgiving. Without being thankful disciples, we won't be pleasing to Him.

Actually, if we are not thankful for all He does for us, we are not His.

Be thankful in all things, not for all things. God offers more than we ask for.

The question is - Do we accept, or just take what we asked for.

The lepers wanted clean skin, God gave a clean soul. Only one took it.

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.



Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Acts 17:16-34

King James Version (KJV)

16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

17 Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

18 Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

19 And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?

20 For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.

21 (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and

man's device.

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

33 So Paul departed from among them.

34 Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

In Acts 17:16-34, we were presented with St. Paul's message to the people of Athens on the Areopagus, or Mars' Hill. As he made his way through that great city, the apostle viewed the statues of those deities which the Athenians worshipped. But among those stone impressions of their gods and goddesses was an altar bearing the inscription, To the Unknown God. Later, when he delivered his sermon, the apostle remarked about how superstitious the Athenians were in their acknowledgment of even that one deity with whom they were unaware and who might cause them grief. In the simple parlance of today he was saying that they were "covering the bases."

Now the Athenians were hardly dissimilar from the other people of the ancient world whose worship of false deities was done without any real devotion, but rather out of fear. The Greeks and Romans regarded their gods as merely immortal versions of themselves. Their gods and goddesses were capricious, hateful, and prone to vengeance should any mortal cross them. The myths and legends concerning those deities contain accounts of numerous aggressive acts against mortals such as murder, mutilation, seduction, deception, revenge, and war.

And St. Paul noted in his first epistle to the Corinthians, What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should fellowship with devils (10:19-20). Thus we may safely conclude that the Athenians — along with every other idolater — worshiped demonic spirits. Dr. Merrill Unger once noted that, "The subtle allurements of idolatry and fanatical zeal of its devotees can be explained only on the scriptural basis — I Cor. 10:19-22 — that 'behind the idol there are terrible spiritual presences — demons (E. Langton, Essentials of Demonology, p. 185).'" And should we be surprised?

Long ago, God stated in his word written that, I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me ... I am the LORD, and there is none else (Isaiah 45:5-6). But to the Athenians and others he was, the Unknown God: that one among many gods whose name was yet to be revealed. The apostle Paul reminded us in his epistle to the Romans that those of the unregenerate, hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse (1:18- 20). And the apostle also noted that because of their lack of any

consideration for the person of God, he darkened their hearts and gave them up to uncleanness in their bodies (1:21-25).

It should be understood that God is from everlasting to everlasting. His handiwork is visible to all who would open their eyes to the complex world around them. The Greeks and the others of the ancient world used their religion to explain the nature of the things they observed. Nevertheless, they erred in their thinking which the apostle attributed to their ignorance. They had crafted the image of God into multiple personages which they tailored to fit their worldview. Now a worldview is set of beliefs and assumptions that governs how one views the things of this sphere, and includes in some fashion those things that ought and ought not be done in a person's daily life. Base humanity possesses a system of morality, but it is hardly a God-centered one. While unregenerated man can come up with law codes, rules and ordinances to govern conduct, he will not follow them. And such is problematic for unregenerated man on that account. For if he will not follow his own rules, then what do you suppose unregenerated man will do with regard to keeping the laws of God? He will not because he cannot. Original sin prevents the unregenerated person from doing anything that can please God. Satan understands man's nature all too well and that is why he pioneered paganism and idolatry with their worthless worship practices as a way to give humanity something to fear and reverence while at the same time keeping them away from the true worship of the living God.

The pagans made offerings of various kinds to their gods. Some of the nastier deities were said to require human sacrifice, while others were thought to be sated with food or drink offerings. Some encouraged sexual promiscuity, while a few called for their members to disfigure themselves. The tragic lesson here is that if one followed the commandments of the one true God, the offerings and sacrifices which he called for were — and remain — quite different.

Orthodox Christianity teaches that our God requires obedience. He calls on all to accept his only begotten Son as Saviour and Lord. God desires fellowship with mankind and through that fellowship he wants to give us life in abundance.

He does not charge a fee as the pagan religions did. He does not demand that we give to our detriment in our offerings and gifts. Our God is love in the most truest and purest sense. No other religion can allege that their deity is as pure and holy as the LORD Almighty.

Still, there are those today who will try and "cover the bases" with their verbal acceptance of God. But their motives are the same as the pagans of ancient Athens. The pagans placated their gods and goddesses, while we Christians, on the other hand, humble ourselves before our LORD and seek his forgiveness for our sins and trespasses. The pagans were not interested so much in forgiveness from their deities, only a pass to prevent them from being harmed by them. They sought to use their litany of magical incantations to manipulate the immortals as if anything that a mortal could come up with would be proof against the powers of the eternal.

Faithful Christians know that the Bible is not a collection of sayings designed to appease God and have him act, as it were, on cue. Our worship is about giving praise to him for his blessings and includes our confession of sin to the Father in the name of his beloved Son. Further, it includes a presentation of God's word written, and a sermon concerning its meaning. God's word is timeless as it bears an enduring message that will never pass away. Our worship also includes a memorial to his death and sacrifice in our celebration of the Lord's Supper, as well as our symbolic death to this life and rising to

life anew via our participation in the sacrament of Holy Baptism. There are occasions where we celebrate the union of a man and woman via the Solemnization of Matrimony. At other times, and when the need arises, we pray over and minister to those who are ill with our Order of Visitation of the Sick. And we also comfort one another over the passing of a brother or sister in Christ via our Order for the Burial of the Dead. We do these things as a church because we are called to be witnesses to this sin-filled world and because our Lord has called us to look after one another. There is much comfort in being a member of a true Christian body and we should rejoice that our God has given such to us.

Sadly, there are folks today who are just as lost as those Athenians who refused to accept the apostle's teaching. While they are largely found outside the church, they also can be found within the various denominations of apostate Christianity because the wayward church is much more tolerant of sinful behaviors than those churches which adhere to an orthodox understanding of the faith. They will feign an appearance of being in Christ by attending the weekly worship service, singing hymns, listening to sermons, and contributing at collection time. They might return home from Sunday worship feeling justified because they read from the scriptures to the congregation, or that they taught a Sunday school class, or that they participated in some sort of musical exposition. But, folks, do these things save a person? Where is the blood of Christ on them? Where is their heart-felt confession to the Father? Where is their obedience to him who said, If you love me, keep my commandments (St. John 14:15)?

The worldly Christian is so choked by cares of this life that he has no will to focus on the things of God. He is likely too self-absorbed. He may even come with an attitude that God does not see his evil deeds. Ergo, he does not seek God's forgiveness, and if he asks at all, it is only to "clean the slate" so that when he leaves the precincts of the church, he can then go forth and sin anew. Doubtless he will possess the same mindset about his sins the next time he shows up for church. So you see, the worldly, self-satisfied Christian is really no different from the pagans in ancient times. He is not saved, but is doubly damned for his lack of faith. Christ is not inside of his heart, but is outside knocking to come in (Revelation 3:20). If anything, he would be afraid of our Lord's return. The Bible tells us that such people will say, to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand (Revelation 6:16-17)?

Dearly beloved in Christ, we do not worship the Godhead because we are afraid of him, but because we love him. The Bible tells us that, The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom . . . (Psalm 111:10). In our understanding of who God is — in our knowledge of him — we fear — or respect — his mighty power and his awesome majesty. But then we learn that, There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love (I St. John 4:18). In the beginning when we came to know who God is, we did indeed fear his power and might. But when we came to know of his condescending love for us through Christ, then that fear was cast out and we revered God via our love for him. As the apostle John noted, Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world (I St. John 4:17).

The apostle Paul brought the knowledge of the one true God to the people of Athens. He preached to them Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected. He put a name to that which they had worshipped in ignorance. God gave St. Paul the earnest desire to preach to both Jew and Gentile the truth of his word so that they might turn unto him and be

saved. Today, God is calling out to every person in the world to do likewise. Whether you understand who God is or not, you are being called upon to know him. You are being called to recognize him, and in that recognition he will no longer be unknown to you in this life. But to pass the precincts of this mortal life having never known him in a saving sense will be to gain such knowledge for an eternity in separation from him. Choose this day to seek after him and his Christ and be freed from the power of sin and death.

Let us pray,

FATHER give us the grace to so present the gospel of thy Son to others that they too might know him as their Saviour and that they might be freed from their sins to live a life dedicated to thee; and this we ask in thy Son's most precious name, even 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
8 September 2013	Opportunity Available – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
15 September 2013	Opportunity Available – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
22 September 2013	Opportunity Available – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
29 September 2013	Opportunity Available – St. Michael & all Angels - Superseding Eighteenth 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 last once per day.

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

You can email one of the prayer team leaders: Jack - jack@faithfulcenturion.org 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!

Marriage

Brian and Mel Smith were married on 25 August 2013. Please pray that they might be brought together as one in God that their marriage might prosper.

Travel

Johnnie, Paulette and Barbara are on travel this week.

Birthday

Hope DeLong celebrated her birthday 30 August 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.

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 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. They are going to attempt a bilateral mastectomy. 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.

Surgery

Dustin who was injured in a work accident when stainless steel sheet metal fell on his right hand. His thumb was severely injured as some of the bones were crushed. Dustin will have surgery on Thursday 22 August 2013, to reconstruct and reset his thumb. They do not expect him to lose his thumb. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that Dustin and family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

Jamil was injured in a car accident. His nose was fractured and he will be operated on Thursday 22 August 2013.

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

Ken Strauch has been tired and is anemic, he had a colonoscopy which found a pair of polyps which were removed and are being tested. Just for good measure they found he has a hiatal hernia with ulcers, basically part of his stomach is pushed up into his esophagus and is bleeding from there. Sounds there may be surgery involved. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Ken and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

Jo Ann has been hospitalized for overstress, she was in the hospital with severe pancreatic pain. They found a blockage and medication has helped. Jo Ann has had some recent medical issues; appendicitis, a blood disease and more. It really seems like she has had about all she can deal with on her own now. Please pray that she might find a way to let God carry her worry and open her heart to Him and to her family; give her family the strength to help her in a manner which will be effective. Pray also for a complete and rapid recovery from her pancreas problem.

Adriano is in the hospital due to high sugar and high blood pressure. He is very weak and will appreciate your prayers.

Heather recently found out she has cancer. Please pray for peace of mind for her and for the medical team treating her will be guided to the right solution.

Jim has had an aneurism and blood clots. Pray that healing will come.

Bob has experienced several Transient Ischemic Attacks³ (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.

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

³ 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.

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.

Dale was hospitalized Sunday 25 August 2013, after a heart attack. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating him and for peace of mind for Dale and his family.

Drue McMillan is hospitalized in Canada with fluid buildup around his lungs. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating him and for peace of mind for Drue and his family, in particular his son David.

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.

Bill had malignant growth removed from a lip last month and seems to be experiencing a re-growth of the cancer. He asks your prayer for the medical team treating him and for peace of mind for himself.

Sarah has been released after several days in the hospital because of her low sodium. Pray she will continue to heal.

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

Jane, US Army Korea, had a tumor. She returned to the CONUS, underwent five hours of surgery which went exceedingly well. The tumor came out completely, on the surface it appears non-malignant, testing will be done to confirm. Please give thanks for the surgical team doing a great job and the great result. Pray for a complete recovery for Jane.

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.

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.

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, recovered far better than expected from a severe brain bleed, but fell recently and broke her hip.

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

Chris and several others at his firm were let go after many years of faithful service. Please pray that they might find a company that can use their considerable skills and dedication to their mutual benefit. Pray also for those who remain behind that they might find peace in the confusion caused by the departures.

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 sorry, 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

Hap, Dru, Jack, Hope, David and Patty give thanks for safe travel this past week.

Aleyda was in the hospital with a very bad bug bite which appears to have been a Black Widow spider. After a tetanus shot and intravenous antibiotics, she has been released and seems to be doing well. Please give thanks for the great result and for the medical team paying attention and doing their best.

Danny's job requires a great deal of physical capability and he and his fellow workers were in fear of losing their jobs because of some physical weaknesses. They prayed and practiced and passed. They would appreciate your joining them in thanksgiving prayer.

AOC Congregations

Anglican Orthodox Church in Wake Forest North Carolina needs God's Help to find others who are interested in having a Bible believing Church in the Anglican tradition.

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

Please pray for *all the people of Egypt*; Bishop Mouneer Anis of Egypt is asking your prayer as the supporters of the deposed Mursi government, with the support of the United States government, have been attacking Christian churches--Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox. They destroyed the car of Anglican priest Rev. Ehab Ayoub. The people of Egypt, the people of the United States need our prayers, even more so the people of the Muslim Brotherhood that they might repent of their evil and know God so the rest of the people may live in peace.

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.

Chain of Command – by Henry M. Morris, PhD

sent by Jerry Ogles, Presiding Bishop – AOC Worldwide

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it." (Joshua 1:9-11)

In the army of the Lord, typified here by the Israelites as they prepared for the conquest of Canaan, there must be order rather than irresponsibility. This is evidently the first reference in the Bible to a chain of command in these armies. God commanded Joshua, who had previously been appointed by God, through Moses, to be their human commander-in-chief. "Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people," who were thereafter to "command the people."

Similarly, there must be a system of orderly responsibility, with loyalty to the Lord exercised through a recognized chain of command, in any church or other Christian

organization before any kind of victory for our supreme Commander can ever be won. When "every man |does| that which |is| right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25), the organization will fail.

Jesus Christ is the "captain of |our| salvation" (Hebrews 2:10), the Greek word for "captain" meaning, literally, "chief leader," and it is He who calls and commissions those who are to serve as leaders under Him. Leadership, however, does not imply dictatorship. They must not act as "lords over God's heritage" but as "|examples| to the flock" (1 Peter 5:3).

Whether we are called to be leaders or followers in God's spiritual army, each of us must also be willing to "endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life" (2 Timothy 2:3-4).

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
8 September 2013	Dru Arnold – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
15 September 2013	Dru Arnold – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
22 September 2013	Dru Arnold – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
29 September 2013	Dru Arnold – St. Michael & all Angels - Superseding Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday Sunday after Trinity

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

8 September 2013 – Fifteenth 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**

15 September 2013 – Sixteenth 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**

22 September 2013 – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

29 September 2013 – St. Michael & all Angels - Superseding Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday – 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**