



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church



## Third Sunday in Advent

Commonly called Rose Sunday

Sunday Report

Today was the third Sunday in Advent, the period including the four Sundays before Christmas; the first Sunday of which is always the nearest Sunday to the feast of St. Andrew (30 November). Advent is a season of preparation and penitence. We prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of Jesus at Christmas, but we also look forward to his second coming. The liturgical color for this season is purple reminding us of the Kingship of Jesus and that Advent is also a season of penitential preparation. Rose-color may be used on the third Sunday of Advent, signifying for us a lightening up of the penitential nature of the season as we draw closer to Christmas.

Sunrise temperature was a fairly warm 47°F on Mount Olympus with sunny skies and gusty winds. The start of church brought a warmer 54°F. The superb weather brought out three windswept rodents for the service.

### *Gathering Song*

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

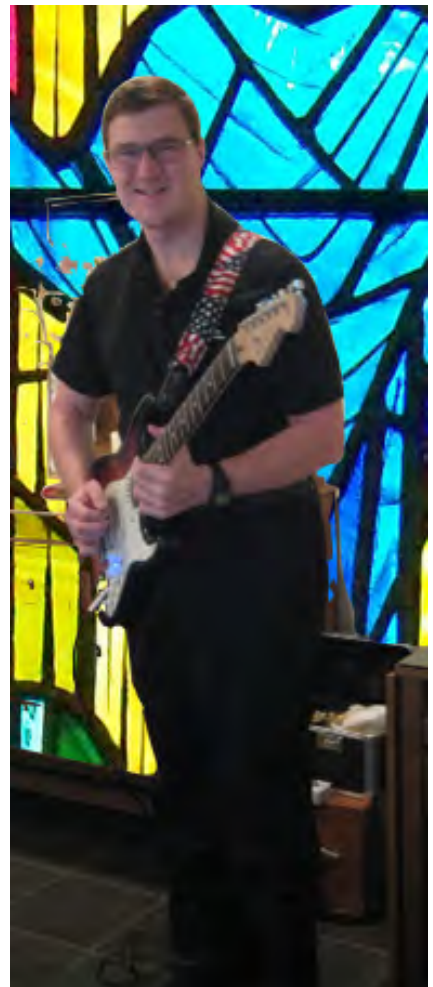
### **Amazing Grace**

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

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

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

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



We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment. *Amazing Grace* is one of Hap's absolute favorites.

### *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, 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 –

Howbeit Jesus... saith... Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

*St. Mark 5:19*

Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?

*St. Luke 12:56*

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

*I Corinthians 12:13*

Preach the word...

*II St. Timothy 4:2*

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

*St. James 4:10*

That religion which is reluctant, or forced, whether by fear or by stress of conscience, is spurious... unless the service we render to God flows from the heart, it is no evidence that we are his children.

*Rev. Dr. Charles Hodge*

19<sup>th</sup> century American theologian and author

I continue to hope and pray that the seemingly inexorable march towards a rending of this Republic can be resolved peaceably, but I am a student of history, and know that once the citizenry has judged the government is a threat and not a servant, then that government will fall, or will continue down the path of becoming monsters, devouring the very people they are sworn to protect.

*Bob Owens*

21<sup>st</sup> century American commentator  
(Bloody Calculus, 4-4-13)

### *Propers*

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

The Collect for the Day is to be read on Sunday and during Morning and Evening Prayer until the next Sunday. If you have a hard time remembering, "Do I read the Collect from last Sunday or next Sunday during the week?" Remember Sunday is the first day of the week. There are also two Bible readings, the Epistle and the Gospel.

While they are “lessons”, they are not the First Lesson and the Second Lesson, they are the Epistle and the Gospel. The Epistle is normally a reading from one of the various Epistles, or letters, in the New Testament. The Gospel is a reading from one of the Holy Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Collect is said by the minister 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 Feasts, so called because in the Altar Prayerbooks the titles are in red, are special days. Most of the Red Letter Feasts are dedicated to early saints instrumental in the development of the church, others to special events. Some days are particularly special and the Collect for that day is to be used for an octave (eight days) or an entire season, like Advent or Lent.

The Propers are found on Page 93-94, with the Collect first:

### **The Third Sunday in Advent**

*The Collect.*

**O** LORD Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

The propers for the First Sunday in Advent can be found on Page 90-92:

### **The First Sunday in Advent**

*The Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

¶ This Collect is to be repeated every day, after the other Collects in Advent, until Christmas Day.

Dru Arnold read the Epistle for today, which came from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, starting at the First Verse of the Fourth Chapter.



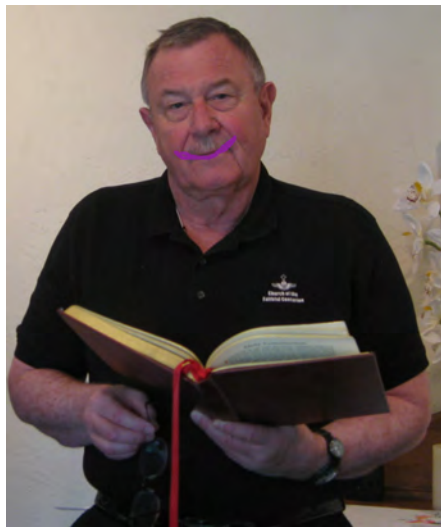
Paul calls on those who would be the ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God to be good and faithful stewards leading their flock rather than commanding from the rear. He tells them not to be fearful of the judgment of man. In fact, he tells he is not concerned of the judgment of men, or even that of himself, but rather that of God. God knows our hearts and when He judges, He “will bring to light the hidden

things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.”

Let it be fully understood that when Paul writes of ministers and stewards, he is talking of each of us, not just those who are “ordained ministers.” We each must be good and faithful stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to each of us. We each must help those around us benefit from the gifts which are freely given.

**L**ET a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man’s judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing against myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Hap Arnold read the Gospel for today which came from the Gospel according to Saint



Matthew, the Eleventh Chapter, beginning at the Second Verse. Now when John the Baptist “had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, and said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?” John was Jesus’ cousin and the one who baptized Him and heard God say, THIS IS MY SON IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASSED.” Yet, he and the rest of the Jews of the time expected the Messiah to come into Jerusalem in triumph, sit in the temple and rule, commanding, nay compelling the Romans to leave. No doubt marveling at the question, for it was asked of Him who had performed countless genuine miracles, healing the blind, the deaf the lame, “Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight,

and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.” As John’s disciples parted, Jesus talked to those about him. He asked them concerning John, “What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet?” He was counseling them, trying to help them fully understand the implications of what was around them. He was there! So, he explained that John was not “just” a prophet, but the messenger of God, the man with the flag running before the locomotive. He went on, “For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.” Because Jesus came into this world, not to be the King of the Present, but rather the King of that to Come.

**N**OW when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, and said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the

lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

### *Sermon – Reverend Jack Arnold - Time and Action*

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

#### **The Third Sunday in Advent** *The Collect.*

**O**LORD Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

#### **The First Sunday in Advent** *The Collect.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

¶ This Collect is to be repeated every day, after the other Collects in Advent, until Christmas Day.

In the Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent, we are referred to as the ministers and stewards (caretakers) of the mysteries of God, which are the Scriptures and His Word. We ask for help in getting the hearts of the disobedient, by the wisdom of the just, to turn and look to the Kingdom of God for answers and not this world. In view of the recent events, how timely can this prayer be? When we look to the world for solutions, we find the solutions of this world. This world, ruled by the Prince of this world, the Prince of Air, the devil himself! But, what will people think when we reject worldly solutions to worldly problems. There is an answer for that, conveniently following the Collect.

In the Epistle, Paul says that we must not fear of what others would think of us, but rather be concerned about what God would think of what we are doing and what direction he wants us to go in. Rather than fear man, we must switch to fearing God, and doing what He wants. Then perhaps maybe, some in this world will see what we



are doing for Him and come to know Him and join Him. We will never get anywhere if we follow the ways of this world. As in John 1:11-13 "He came unto His own and His Own received him not. But as many as received Him, to them he gave the power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of God."

If we are born of God, then it is He that we must return to and not man. As the verse from John points out, even Jesus came to us and we refused him, so how can we expect any better treatment from man, than of God Himself, who came down for us? But the next part of the verse, tells us what we will get if we join with him. He gave us the power to become the Sons of God, as we are his children. He is giving us our eternal inheritance, if we will but follow Him.

In the Gospel, Christ asks the crowd of what they expected to see? Some great big flashy sign He was going to overthrow the Romans and unite the Jews to conquer the world? No, He did not come to do this, for that would be only a temporary and in fact temporal thing to rule the world. He came for far more than that; to prepare our hearts for eternity and change us from unjust to just creatures, worthy of God's creation and His Hands. He came to mould and to shape us from being roughly made to something very valuable.

To be worthy of the charge and care of His mysteries, we must willing to listen to Him and do whatever we need to do to line ourselves up with what He wants for us, not what we want for ourselves. We must think of others, instead of thinking of ourselves all the time. I must confess that I am guilty of this, but I am always working on trying to reverse this, as we must, in order to walk with Him. We must be willing to never give up and persevere; if we follow this, we will keep getting better and better all the time.

Life is a continual process of learning in every aspect of our lives, not least of these aspects is our spiritual growth and development. The Japanese have a word for this, introduced into their industry by the American engineer W. Edwards Deming, **Kaizen** (改善) that is to say continuous improvement. Never perfect, but always endeavoring to improve. Day by day.

To care for the mysteries of God properly, we must keep learning in our spiritual lives and if we do this, we will keep growing more and more every day. Reading the Scriptures is one way to further our spiritual development, as well as helping others without thought for ourselves. We must keep doing a combination of these and similar things, if we expect to be able to facilitate our spiritual growth and change the minds of the disobedient and the unjust.

As He came to change us for the better, Paul and the Collect remind us to do the same for the others. We often resist this change, when perhaps we should not. We must put our hearts and minds together and think about what God wants us to do in the end rather than what we want to do. Put God first and all will be well, is what can be taken from today's collects and lessons, ultimately. We must be willing do to this, then we can be properly caring for the mysteries of God.

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.

Mr. Donald Lee Fultz is being ordained to the Diaconate at St Peter's today. The following sermon is taken from the Gospel Lection for the ordination of Deacons:

#### Sermon Notes

Ordination of Donald Fultz to the Diaconate  
Third Sunday in Advent  
15 December 2013, Anno Domini  
St Peter's Anglican Church



Opening Prayers:

*For the Church.*

**O** GRACIOUS Father, we humbly beseech thee for thy holy Catholic Church; that thou wouldst be pleased to fill it with all truth, in all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, establish it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of him who died and rose again, and ever liveth to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. *Amen.*

**A** LMIGHTY God, the giver of all good gifts, who of thy divine providence hast appointed divers Orders in thy Church; Give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to all those who are to be called to any office and administration in the same; and so replenish them with the truth of thy doctrine, and endue them with innocency of life, that they may faithfully serve before thee, to the glory of thy great Name, and the benefit of thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Processional Hymn is Advent Hymn #005 (Lo, He Comes)

*35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; 36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. 37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. 38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.* (Luke 12:35-38)

The first requirement of any clergy, whether Deacon, Priest, or Bishop, is to have a humble heart. In fact, that is a requirement for everyone who calls themselves Christian.

But for the clergyman, it becomes a much more grave and solemn qualification. The clergy must render the same respect for the people as they render unto him; and that respect must be earned through a humble and contrite spirit.

The Office of Deacon, Mr. Fultz, is a most important and necessary one. You will share the care and teaching of souls with the priest, conduct Morning/Evening Prayer in his absence, preach the Word in due season, and assist in any other way that your bishop prescribes.

**35 *Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning***

The Shepherd of the Church is neither, Bishop, Priest, or Deacon, but the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Good Shepherd of the Sheep.

But He has granted to His ministers the duty of safeguarding the sheep. He also grants us the privilege of feeding them in green pastures of His Word, and watering them in the still waters of His Holy Spirit.

Our lights that we must keep burning are those of Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

**36 *And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.***

The clergyman is not higher than the people to whom he ministers, except by His calling and office to preach the word and conduct the services of the church.

But the clergyman stands as an example of Christ-like love and care for those precious souls that God has placed in his care.

The clergyman must be alert for all evidences of error of understanding the Word, and improper execution of worship.

The devil does not rest either night or day. We must be on guard against that old roaring lion who seeks the destruction of souls – including, and most particular, our own.

In what manner must the deacon, priest, or bishop approach his formidable calling?

We find the answer in 1 Peter 5:1-4

*“1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” (1 Peter 5:1-4)*

If we are the example that we are admonished to be, the people will respond in the same kind of love and respect with which we conduct our lives and actions toward them.

Note the term the Lord repeatedly uses for the ministers – SERVANTS! Not lords, or masters, but lowly ministers. If we ever forget that principle, we have lost our salt and savour as His ministers. ***37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.***

The clergyman SERVES. He is not a dictator or a potentate demanding that reverence due God alone. The respect shown him is the kind that he earns demonstrates to those people in his care.

Sometimes the minister is called upon to serve in menial tasks. He is not above sweeping the floors and cleaning the church if necessary.

***38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.***



The minister is to be ready for service at every need. It matters not how well he knows the word or preaches if he has no love for his own cure, or those poor who linger beyond the walls of the church.

We do not indulge in vain speculation on prophecies of Christ soon return, but we are to be ready, and prepare of charges to be ready, at ANY time of the Lord's return.

John Jasper - 1812-1901 89 years of age.

### **BACKGROUND Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church**

Seeing that they wouldn't leave, he composed himself and walked back toward the edge of the pulpit.

And leaning over it, he said something like this: "Brothers and sisters, when I think of the glory that shall be revealed in us; when I think of the marvelous provisions of God's amazing grace; when I think of the things which I have not seen, neither hath ear heard, nor entered into the heart of man to even imagine the things that God hath prepared for his own, I can visualize that day when old John Jasper's last battle has been fought and the last burden has been borne. I can visualize that day when this tired servant of God shall lay down his burdens and walk up to the battlements of the city of God. Then as I stand outside the beautiful gate, I can almost hear the mighty angel on guard say, 'John Jasper, you want your shoes?'"

And I'm going to say, of course I want my shoes; my golden slippers to walk the golden streets of the city of God, but not now.

"Then I can hear the mighty angel as he says, 'John Jasper, do you want your robe?'"

And I'm going to say, of course I want my robe; the robe of linen clean and white which is the righteousness of the saints, but not now. "Then the angel will say, 'John Jasper, do you want your crown?'"

And I shall say, of course mighty angel, I want all the reward that's coming to me, but not now.

"And I can hear him as he says, 'John Jasper, would you like to see Moses, the great law-giver who led God's people out of bondage on the way to the promised land?'"

And I'm going to say, of course mighty angel, I want to hear Moses sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, but not now.

"Then the angel will say, 'John Jasper, wouldn't you like to see Elijah, the great prophet who called down fire from heaven? Wouldn't you like to shake hands with John, the beloved disciple who leaned on the Master's breast at the Last Supper? Wouldn't you like to shake hands with Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles and the greatest church planter and soul winner of all time?'"

And I'll say, of course mighty angel, I want to know and to shake hands and to commune with those, the saints of God, who have won the incorruptible crown. Yes, I have some loved ones over there I want to see too, but not now. You see, mighty angel, first of all, before anything else, first and foremost, I want to see my Jesus. I want to see the stripes He bore for me, the nail prints that were rightly mine, and His side that was rent for me so that I, John Jasper, would not have to die the death. I want to see the smiling face of my Lord and touch the hem of His Holy Garment. Then, I will see all of the other wonders of Heaven."

Every minister should have that humble grace and servant-spirit of the old slave, John Jasper.

### *Bishop Dennis Campbell's Sermon*

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



#### **Ministers and Stewards**

1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Matthew 11:2-10

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2013

In 1 Corinthians 4:1 and 2, the Bible addresses the issue of the nature of the ministry in the New Testament Church. Written by the Apostle Paul under the direction of the Holy Spirit, these verses help the Corinthians, and through them, all Christians, understand who and what a minister is. The Corinthian Christians were not Jews. Therefore, they were not raised in a home or culture that worshiped God. They did not know the Old Testament. They did not know the synagogue. They knew only the pagan temples and the rudimentary understanding of the Gospel they were able to learn during Paul's two year ministry in Corinth. And they knew Christ. I admire them for trying to be faithful to Christ in a hostile culture, with very limited understanding of the Scriptures, and with only novice clergy to lead them in the faith and worship of God after Paul left. But I have to recognize the fact that the Corinthians compromised the Faith. They mixed Christian doctrine with pagan mythology, and they tried to worship God the way they formerly worshiped their pagan idols. This brought them into serious trouble, so serious the Apostle Paul, referring to their corruption of the Lord's Supper, wrote, "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep" (1 Cor. 11:30). Many are dead because of their abuse of the things of God.

A big part of the problem in Corinth was the large number of self appointed apostles teaching and leading people into wrong and heretical doctrines and practices. Paul has spent much of the first three chapters of 1 Corinthians addressing this problem. He started in the very first verse, saying, he is "called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God." From there he defended and explained his calling and ministry. He was not boasting. He was not claiming to be a great man or trying to force the people to honour him. He was simply telling them he was a real apostle, called and commissioned by Jesus Christ for this ministry, and the others in Corinth who claimed to be apostles, were not. In chapter two he said the Corinthians can tell a true minister of Christ by the way he builds upon the foundation Paul laid when he was preaching and teaching in Corinth. That foundation is Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11, 12).

In chapter four he returns to the issue of his true apostleship and what that means in the way the people of Corinth should think of him and the other true Apostles. How should they account the Apostles? How should Christians account any real minister of the word? The first thing he says is "let a man so account us, as of the ministers of Christ." It is interesting to read this verse in the original Greek. We all know that the Latin word from which we derive our English word "minister" means "servant" or "slave," and I expected to find the Greek equivalent for it in 1 Corinthians 4:1. I was shocked (again) to find that the Greek says, "let a man so account us as

official representatives of Christ.” Paul is saying something similar to what he wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:20, where, again, writing about the Apostles and their relationship to the Church he said, “we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us.”

There was something special and unique about the ministry of the Apostles. They occupied and performed a unique ministry in the Church and their office ended when the last one, probably John, died. There are no more Apostles. There is an apostolic ministry in the Church, and listen very carefully to what I am saying here, because the apostolic ministry is different from the office of an Apostle. The apostolic ministry is the ministry that continues to preach and teach the Faith and Practice given to the Church by Christ through the Apostles. There is much more that I want to say on this subject, and I hope to return to it soon. For now I must simply say that a man who is duly called and ordained, and who preaches and teaches the Apostolic Faith and Practice, is to be regarded as an official representative of Christ. He is called and ordained to his ministry by God through the Church, and God Himself uses that man to lead His people.

There is another word in 1 Corinthians 4:1 I want to talk about for a moment, and that word is “stewards.” A steward is a person who cares for some one or some thing for the benefit and in the service of another. In Roman times, which is when the New Testament was written, it usually referred to a slave who was put in charge of his master’s property. A steward had authority from the master to direct the property, and other servants, for his master and according to the master’s directions. A steward could be in charge of the kitchen, the house, the estate, or several estates. There are three main points I want to make about stewards. First, he was installed in his position by the master. Second, he acted by the authority of the master. Third, the property and other servants did not belong to him. Fourth, he was accountable to the master for his actions. “It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.”

I want to turn quickly to what the Apostles and those who carry on the Apostolic Faith and Practice are stewards of. We are stewards of the mysteries of God. That, in its purest sense, means the Faith. It is our task to “preach the word,” as Paul wrote to Timothy. It is our task to guard and keep the Faith pure, to defend it from enemies. It is not within our authority to change the faith in any way. It is not ours to change. We preserve it for our Master.

The Apostolic Faith and Practice is given to us in the Bible, so we are stewards of the Bible. We are to proclaim its message and to preserve it unaltered for future generations. We are to teach all of what Jesus commanded. That is the Apostolic Faith. We are also stewards of the Apostolic Practice. We are called to preserve the practice of the Apostles in worship, Church ministry and organisation, and public and private life as followers of Christ. We are stewards of the Apostolic Practice, not innovators and inventors of new and better things.

We are stewards of the Sacraments. The sacraments are not given to individual Christians; they are given to the Church. When a person is baptized he is baptized into the Church, and especially into the local manifestation of the Church, which is the local congregation. He is not baptized to be a Christian at large. Sometimes there is no viable church to attend where a person lives. Such a person can be a member of a believing church outside of his area, as many of our Anglican Orthodox members are. But church membership and participation are important parts of following Christ. The Lord’s Supper is given to and celebrated by and in the context of the Church. It is not to

be celebrated by random groups of Christians who happen to meet at the RV park or at the beach. It is celebrated under the authority of the Church.

Finally, we are stewards of the Church herself. We are responsible for leading and teaching the Church in the things of Christ. We are responsible for ordering and organizing the Church according to the pattern given in Scripture.

I know this is a brief and sketchy presentation, and each of the points and sub points I have made today could be a sermon, or a book, or a library of its own. I hope to preach more about them in the future, especially those which may be easily misunderstood, such as the point I made about the Apostolic ministry. But I want to hurry on now to another important point, namely that clergy aren't the only ministers and stewards in God's house. There is a sense in which the Bishop is the head steward of the Church, and the priest or deacon is the head steward of the local congregation. But there is another sense in which all Christians are ministers and stewards of the mysteries of Christ. Let's go back to the Roman slave who was the head steward of, say, the master's house. Was he the only one charged with seeing that the house ran the way the master wanted it? No. Every servant in the house was a steward of something. One may have been steward of the kitchen. One may have been steward of the stable. Another was steward of the furnishings. And all were required to work together to keep the house for the master. We are all stewards of the Lord's House. We are all ministers in His Kingdom. Let us be found faithful.

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+Dennis Campbell

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### *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.

### **Third Sunday in Advent**

In this morning's first lesson we read from a portion of the book of Nahum. As a rule, Nahum is not a book that would be well-known to many Christians. Because of its length and subject matter, it is usually passed over in favor of the more popular books of prophecy. In actuality, Nahum's prophecy is a follow-on to Jonah's by some 150 years. Both men were given to preach about Nineveh: a notorious middle eastern city that was located on the banks of the Tigris River in what is now northern Iraq. But where Jonah's message was one which communicated God's mercy and acceptance of the repentant sinner; Nahum message was of God's judgment for the return of that city to its former ways of sin and wickedness.

Now, one might hear the scoffer say, "This is just another diatribe against the hated Assyrian menace which was no doubt popular during the lifetime of the prophet." As a historian, I would agree that the Assyrian Empire was generally loathed by all of its neighbors and Nahum's message of its coming destruction would have been welcomed by all including the Jews, so just a bit of background might be useful at the juncture.

The Assyrians were a Semitic people who began to conquer the region of Mesopotamia about 800 BC. They were believed to have been the first people to organize their armies into units much like our modern division which specialized in various aspects of warfare. They are also believed to have been the first people to have practiced the art of psychological warfare via their use of terror and mayhem to induce their intended victims to surrender without a fight.

The Assyrian king, Ashurnasirpal had the following record made of his gruesome tactics which were then proclaimed far and wide: "I flayed all the chief men... I covered the pillar with their skins... some I impaled... on stakes... I burned [them] with fire... I took living captives... I [mutilated them]... the city I destroyed, I devastated." As Professor Thomas Africa noted in his work, *The Ancient World*, p. 44, "Such spectacles produced an immediate effect: but Ashurnasirpal had established a precedent in ferocity that obliged his successors to continue atrocities which only made their victims lust for revenge. The frightful Assyrians continually faced rebellions." So, yes, there was a popular sentiment in the Fertile Crescent from the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC onward until the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC that the Assyrian Empire ought to "dry up and blow away."

When Jonah preached at Nineveh, the Assyrian Empire had come on the world stage as a force to be reckoned with. The fact that king right down to the lowest subject in that great city repented at his preaching is a testimony to the power of God's word presented by his appointed (but less than willing) witness. Jonah was angry that God's word had had such an effect on that city. Still, God's mercy was extended to a Gentile people upon their heart-felt recognition of their sins and their sorrow over them before God.

But for Nahum, the message was not one of a calling to repentance but to destruction. Notice the opening verse of our chapter, The burden of Nineveh... for anytime God uses this phraseology, it is to call one's attention to an approaching terrible and unavoidable judgment. Nineveh's burden was its heavy load of sins for which God would hold them accountable. As God had been gracious to spare them in Jonah's time on account of their repentance, nevertheless by the time of Nahum, they had forged an even greater chain of wickedness (to use a Charles Dickens' expression from his Christmas Carol).

Consider also verse 2, God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies. Notice the repetition in this verse. God emphasized that he is a revenger in double measure and such is an assurance of this character trait. Normally stating such only once in a chapter or book is sufficient, but when the message is immediately repeated, it compounds the notion above the norm. He is God and there is no other. He hears and sees everything. Every evil, every idle word, every wicked thought, every wicked glance of the eye. Every lying word and false teaching, God has seen. Thus, every tear, every unkindness, every broken heart, and every physical violation will be on record with him. Therefore, true vengeance belongs to him. He will punish evildoers and avenge those of his own who have been victimized by the wicked. In verse 3, we learn that God is slow to anger, and that he will not at all acquit the wicked. Consider now the words of St. Paul, And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (I Thessalonians 5:23). We are should desire God's preservation from his coming wrath, and for such did the apostle pray for the Thessalonians that they would be extended such as faithful believers in Christ, who came into the world to save sinners not destroy them. For it is through Christ alone that

we are spared the coming wrath of God because we are regenerated, born again of the Holy Ghost. For through Christ we became God's children and as such we ought to, as the apostle noted, Rejoice evermore, Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning [us]. We will also not quench the Spirit, nor despise prophesyings. We will prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearances of evil that we might be preserved as fit vessels for the Master's use.

The Assyrians had butchered and plundered their way across Mesopotamia even as far as Egypt to the west. They had carted away the Hebrews of the northern kingdom of Israel and had attempted to conquer the kingdom of Judah. God preserved the southern kingdom because they at least had a few righteous kings where the northern kingdom had none. Still, God knows how to reserve the wicked for the day of judgment and to deliver his own out of their snare if it be agreeable to his will and purpose. We must remember that not every problem or trouble we face will be addressed by our LORD in a manner which matches our notions of what is within his will to do. Sometimes, troubles are permitted to afflict us to teach us some particular lesson which he means for us to know and to prosper from. But his reservation of the wicked for judgment speaks of God's righteous nature. God's judgment will come upon all who have sinned without due consideration for its consequences, and who have not attained the means of salvation. For such there will be neither pity nor lessening of his verdict (II St. Peter 2:9). Thus Nineveh fell to a coalition of Medes, Persians and Chaldeans in 612 B.C. which the prophet Nahum (3:18-19) prophesied ahead of time saying, Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell in the dust: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them. There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit [rumour] of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?

Returning to Nahum chapter 1, we find in verse 7 that The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. This is a common theme in both testaments of the Bible. God is indeed good and will be a place of refuge for those who trust in him (see Psalm 46:1-11). Our Lord has gone before us into heaven to prepare a place for us (St. John 14:2-3), and until he comes again, we are expected to abide in his word. We are to trust him who is our strength, shield and sure defense as we pass through troublesome times of this mortal life. As one friend of mine has said, "We are either entering a storm, in the midst of it or passing out of it and headed toward another one." We have not been promised an easy journey only that with God's guiding Spirit, we will have the comfort of his presence as we go along and that we will ultimately arrive in the safe harbor of his kingdom.

And so the lesson for us is this: God will remember the evil of the wicked and will eventually bring his judgment upon them; but for us, his servants, he will be to us a strong hold, a mighty fortress preserving us as he has promised in his word. May God lead you to himself and preserve your whole spirit, soul and body unto the day of his glorious appearing.

Let us pray,

**F**ATHER, make of us vessels fit for thy use via the power of the Holy Ghost; that being so conformed to thy will, we would carry to others the truth of thy word written; and this we ask in the name of thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *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:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
22 December 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>
29 December 2013	<b>Opportunity Available – First Sunday after Christmas</b>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Updating the Team**

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

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

their names and purpose be kept confidential, then only Hap will know to pray for them.

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

### **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**

*Bishop Jerry* is on travel this week.

### **Birthday**

*Betsy Lane* celebrates her 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 16 December 2013.

### **Anniversary**

*Doug and Veronica Lambert* celebrated their 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 22 September 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**

*Ryan Hopkins* has moved to Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, to study Dressage Riding through June 2015. 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* is now in 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. Give thanks the safe move and ask for continued good developments.

### **Departed**

*Gracie Slaten* passed away on 12 December 2013, after a brief illness. Please give thanks for a peaceful transition from this world to home, as well as for the good she did while here on earth. Pray for comfort and strength for her family and friends who remain behind, in particular her sister Loretta.

*Esther Catherine Glah Wilson Whiddett*, the only daughter and last surviving child of Esther and Harry Glah passed away 5 November 2013, at 21:27 while resting peacefully. Please give thanks for a peaceful transition from this world to home, for trust in the Lord, a vision of things to come, as well as peace of mind for Esther and her family, in particular her son Mark and siblings Jolene, Ruthie, Connie and Joe. Please pray for her family and friends who remain behind.





### ***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***

*Marian* has moved to a nursing home in Fresno where her niece Cathy can keep an eye on her and visit more often. She is weak and tires easily. Marian seems to not be interested in this world. Cathy would like her to stay with us and enjoy here time here on earth. Pray that the Holy Ghost might be able to enter into Marian's heart and bring light to her; pray also she might gain strength. Pray that Cathy might be given inspiration on how to help and the strength to do so.

*Joan* has had serious medical problems that have kept her confined. On 26 September 2013, she took a fall and fall and after test and time in the hospital she does not have any broken bones. Please pray that in the weeks ahead her health will remain stable

*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***

*transient*

*Levi* was cancer free for 4 years and just discovered he has kidney cancer. Levi has a great deal of faith and said whether he is healed or God takes him home he will be fine. Please pray for the medical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also that Levi and family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders. In particular, please pray for pain relief; Levi is 22 years old.

*Ray Daley* is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion and served his country during the Korean War era. Ray is taking chemotherapy treatments for cancer. Meanwhile his son Trevor is in the hospital in a coma and seems to have lost the will to live. As volunteer chaplain, I have been asked to visit this family and offer prayers and encouragement. Thanks for your prayers in advance.

*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. Sasha has completed radiation and it was very difficult on her. She has surgery set for November and has they have discovered new tumors and the possibility of chemo again. She seems to be taking backward steps with her health. Her spirit is still strong and asks you continue to keep her in your prayers. 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. 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.

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***

*Mario* has early-diagnosed prostate cancer and will have surgery this week. Let us offering thanks for this early diagnosis. Please pray for the surgical team to pay

attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also Mario and his family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

*Priscilla* was released from the hospital and is now walking and without pain. She is waiting for doctors to come from the USA and will then have an operation. Priscilla and her family thank you for your prayers. Please pray for the surgical team to pay attention and to their best and for a good outcome. Pray also Priscilla and her family will be able to put their worry on God's shoulders.

*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***

*Mark* had swelling and fluid buildup in his lungs. It appears things may be getting under control. He needs to use a Bi-Pap mask to breathe until his lungs clear and he hates it. Pray that he will be able to adapt so his lungs can clear. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Mark, as well as for his family, and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

*Erica* has a non-malignant Brain Tumor. The tumor is growing and she is scheduled for an operation in January. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

*Penny's Mom* is having an MRI on 18 November 2013, to explore a knot in her upper leg that appeared after a procedure last week. An MRI gives her stress and claustrophobia and your prayers will be appreciated.

*Brenda* is in the hospital because of bleeding on her brain. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Brenda, as well as for her family, and for God's

guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find the best course of treatment.

*Traci* underwent her one year endoscopy on Friday 15 November 2013. Tracy did well on 18 November 2013, with second endoscopy. Both biopsies the doctors feel will be alright. One more to go next week is a mammogram. She and her family will appreciate it if you will continue her in prayer.

*Mackenzie* is a young girl with leukemia. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Mackenzie, as well as for her family, and for God's guidance for the medical people treating her that they might find the best course of treatment.

*Anita* was operated on for an Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma tumors and has been in remission for sometime. After a biopsy of her left lung, three nodules were located in one lung and two in the other. She and her husband are traveling a long distance on 25 September 2013, with hopes of being admitted to a research study at a major hospital for Genome Mapping of Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma. Furthermore, Anita is scheduled for surgery on 30 September 2013. Please keep Anita and her family in prayer as they travel tomorrow and the week ahead.

*Mack* has had diabetes most of his adult life. Circulation in his legs is very bad and doctors are considering amputation. Please pray his medication will help and he will not face amputation. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Mack and for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of treatment.

*Michael* has been diagnosed with lung cancer recently after making it through gastro intestinal cancer last year. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Michael and his wife Gayle; as well as for God's guidance for the medical people treating him that they might find the best course of 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 Attacks<sup>1</sup> (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 on her lung. Laurie is an oncology nurse and fears the worst. She has had numerous tests and the Physicians think it would be too risky to operate. Some other problems have been discovered and it is hopeful that new medicine will give her healing. Please continue Laurie in Prayer. 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) has been treating for ovarian cancer. The chemotherapy drugs she has been taking do not seem to be reducing the cancer cells the way it was hoped. She is going to stop taking them until January 2014; when they will start with new drugs. It is hoped that will shock the cancer into remission. In the meantime, she will be taking Avocet should keep the cells from increasing or multiplying. She will continue building fluid in her abdominal area which will have to be drained. This is turning into a lifetime of treatment kind of thing, rather than a one shot deal. This has been a difficult surprise for Sarah, but she is adjusting very well with God's help. There are a number of drug combinations to try, but she has a hard road ahead. Please pray this new plan for chemotherapy will work and Sarah can tolerate the treatment. Sarah and Geordie both 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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* finished the chemotherapy and final radiation treatment for his upper lung and bronchial area cancer. A biopsy and CAT Scan the week of 9 September 2013, turned out to be a re-occurrence of the cancer in a slightly different location. He cannot have any more radiation, but is on a course of a different chemotherapy, one week on, three weeks off and repeat. He made it through the fourth week of treatment, one on, two off; Brian asks we pray for strength to undergo the new process. He is weak and tired; his spirit remains high. 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 new wife 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.

*Mary Thornell* had surgery on 30 October 2013, at the Riverside Community Hospital to remove a huge mass along with about ½ her colon and part of her lower bowel. The masses appear to have been malignant, so that will have to be taken into account. She went home, then an infection set in and she was readmitted to excise the infected area and should be going home in the next day or so. There is a lot of treatment and recovery ahead. She is home now where she can rest and gain strength, so that is wonderful. Pray for strength and guidance for Mary as she works hard at recovery. Pray for peace of mind for Mary and her husband Jim, as well as daughter Janice and son Jimmy, she begins her recovery. Please pray also for a full and rapid recovery.

*Luis Martinez* had a heart attack on 1 November 2013. It appears there may be valve or blockage issues, so they ask that you pray for guidance for the medical team treating him. Please pray for proper treatment, full recovery and peace of mind for Luis, as well as for trust in the Lord for him and his wife Selma, and the rest of the family.

*Alwin Jack* has had a stroke and recently has had a relapse. Please pray for those who treat Alwin that they might chose the best possible treatment and pray for peace of mind for Alwin during the recovery phase.

*Jere Wolf*, Melanie Zimmer's dad had bacterial pneumonia, which him to go into congestive heart failure. An echocardiogram indicates his aortic valve is narrowed and needs replaced as they say a 1mm narrowing is cause for replacement and he is at 8mm and if it does not get replaced (in California) the vicious cycle of congestive heart failure (CHF) will repeat itself. The doctor also said that the CHF could have made it look as though he had a heart attack, but they think he just went into CHF. His heart function is at 30% down 10% from a few months back. An ultrasound of his remaining kidney shows a cyst. The greatest news is that all the doctors agree that he can fly home, as at first they were saying we would need to drive back and with the stops needed to prevent blood clots it would have taken at least 6 days so the news is good. Thanks again for sharing your prayers with us.

*Sylvia Lee*, Sandra Lee's mother, had been suffering from undiagnosed kidney failure; doctors finally figured out what the problem was and offered her "hospice care", a second opinion suggested dialysis. She is now on dialysis. Please pray for strength and vitality to return to her and for peace of mind for Sylvia and her

family, as well as their continued faith and in God as the Great Physician. They pray for help to listen to God's voice and guidance through this journey together.

*Carolyn* has Multiple Sclerosis with complications. Pray Carolyn and her children will be close to our Lord Jesus Christ as they and family members help to ease the problems.

*Jeong* was in an auto accident and sustained a serious back injury. Please pray for a full and rapid recovery.

*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.

*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!

*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.

*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.

### *Thanksgiving and Continued Healing*

*Otto* had massive blood clots in both lungs and a smaller one in one of his legs, treatment worked and he is recovering at home, he tires and is still on medication, but able to sleep and be free from hospital routines. His family and friends thank you for your prayers. Please pray for peace of mind and trust in the Lord for Otto, as well as for his family, and for continued recovery.

Please join together in thanking the Lord for strengthening *Christopher*, a young man with psychological problems who departed meds to a bad effect, for his maintaining healthy discipline the last six months, and join together in praying that he continue to be infused with strength and rationality.

*Pat* underwent successful major heart surgery on 25 September 2013. Please give thanks for the successful outcome and pray for continued healing and a complete recovery for Pat.

*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.

*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. Please pray for *Lorna's* healing and guidance on how they might handle the financial difficulties in which they have found themselves.

### **Guidance**

*William* is an elderly man living with his Son and Daughter in-law. William is causing trouble in the family because of his demanding ways and continually using bad language. The family is at wit's end to know how to handle him and will appreciate your guidance and prayers.

*Caitlin* is in the grip of the Prince of Darkness; she thinks there is escape from reality in drugs. The saddest part is that reality is not as she sees it. Her family is despairing as they can do nothing to help her and ask that you pray for the Holy Ghost to enter into heart and show her the need for change before it is too late.

*Nathaniel* is in spiritual turmoil. His family 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 his heart.

*Sam* and her *two children* that have been living in a shelter and are to lose their place there. Please pray a place will be found they can stay in and recover.

Please pray *Darlene* will surrender her life to Christ.

*Norrie* is facing daily exams in the weeks ahead. Pray for calmness and concentration and to do the best possible.

*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.

*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.

### ***New Minister***

*Don Fultz* was ordained on 15 December 2013, at St. Peter's Anglican Orthodox Church in Statesville, North Carolina, by Bishop Jerry L. Ogles. Please pray for Don to do his very best at fulfilling the special responsibilities he has taken on and give thanks for his commitment.

### ***AOC Congregations***

*Rev Rick Reid* asks that you pray for Saint Andrews Anglican Church in Newton, North Carolina. They would like to see their congregation grow to the point is it self-sustaining and vibrant. The congregation asks that you pray for the Holy Ghost to enter into their hearts and inspire them to do their best to further His Will.

*Nathan* 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. He would like to develop a congregation to associate with the Anglican Orthodox Church.

*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.

### ***Thanksgiving***

*Hap and Dru Arnold* give thanks for travel this week.

### ***Armed Forces & Contractors***

Airman Donny Patton (Hulbert Field, Florida), Jordan (USMC – Fleet Marine Force - Pacific), Trevor (USAF - KC-10 Boom Operator – New Jersey), Trevor (USN – Whidbey Island, EF-18 Pilot), Kurt Thomas (USN – Camp Foster, Okinawa)

### ***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 the Typhoon that hit the Philippines will ease off and the people will recover from the devastation.

This is a horrible time for the *people of India, Christians in particular*; they are having problems with Hunger, Bank Closings, Transportation and Schools not functioning. Pray for the Leaders and Members of our Church in Eluru Andhra Pradesh. Pray their basic needs will be met and God will be close to them in this time of need.

*Lisa* discovered her 9 year old daughter *Mariah* had been raped. This is in the court system now and we know that prayers are needed for this family. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" James 5:16 *Lisa* says she feels the power of your prayer in God’s hand on her heart.

Please pray for *all the people of Egypt*; Bishop Mouner 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.

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

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

### *Question that only you can ask*

What would you like to know about our history, what we believe, what we do or how we operate? Hap is looking for material for the continuing education class and *Thought for the Day* material. Help us help you. Please send your question to Hap so we all can get an answer. Just because you don’t know the answer to your question doesn’t mean you are the only one who doesn’t know. But, if you don’t ask, no one will know.

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

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

### *New Bishop*

We are pleased to announce the coming consecration of the Rev. Roy Morales-Kuhn to the office of Bishop for the Midwest on 19 January 2013, Anno Domini at Canterbury Chapel in Fairhope, Alabama.



Roy has a strong background in traditional and conservative Anglican worship and has recently retired as a high school history teacher.

Further details will follow.

Jerry L. Ogles, DD, Presiding Bishop, Anglican Orthodox Communion Worldwide & Chancellor, Faith Theological Seminary

### *Epistleers*

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reader</b>
22 December 2013	Dru Arnold – Fourth Sunday in Advent
25 December 2013	Dru Arnold – Christmas Day
29 December 2013	Dru Arnold – First Sunday after Christmas

### *The near future, as well as Next Sunday*

22 December 2013 – Fourth Sunday in Advent – 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**

25 December 2013 – Christmas Day – 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**

29 December 2013 – First Sunday after Christmas – 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**