

THE LION

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Issue 1

Curate's Corner

Rev. Russell

5:30 A.M. It was half an hour before my hotel room's alarm clock would start to shriek, three and a half hours before the Holy Communion service at All Saints Anglican Church would begin, and four and a half hours before I would meet with the Board of Examining Chaplains to take a two-hour long oral examination in order to become a transitional deacon in the Anglican Province of America (APA). The original plan was to get up at six, take a shower, brush my teeth, get dressed, drink a cup of coffee or two or three, and study, study, study before going to church. That, of course, was the plan and I might add that it was an excellent plan except for one small thing: someone had forgotten to pack his own clergy shirts before driving thirteen hours to the Diocesan Synod in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Of course, I didn't discover this until about 6:20 a.m. on the day of my exam. I didn't sleep very well that night and I actually woke up before my alarm clock sounded. I was in the process of laying my clothes out on the bed when I realized my mistake. I had a white clergy collar, black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks, black suit jacket, under garments and ... and ... AND?!? Oh no. How could I have forgotten to pack a single clergy shirt? Everything else I could have easily picked up at Target or Wal-Mart, but the clergy shirt is a kind of specialty item that can only be purchased from a limited number of vendors.

Needless to say I was in a state of panic. I thought I had packed all my clergy shirts so I didn't bring anything else. Frantically, I called Father Mike only to discover he wears a different size clergy shirt. Frantically, I called Father Ray only to discover the exact same news. Thankfully, there was a Wal-Mart right next to the hotel and I ended up driving over there in order to purchase a new dress shirt and tie. That morning everything felt rushed and nothing seemed to go according to plan. I didn't get to study ahead of time like I had hoped. I didn't get my first cup of coffee until five minutes before the exam. Nevertheless, in the end everything worked out and looking back I am reminded of the words of our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew chapter six Jesus says, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. [...] Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of field, which today, is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

Yet let's face it, reading those words is one thing, but living those words can be quite another. In life there will always be times when things go wrong and nothing seems to go according to our plans, but instead of getting flustered or panicked let's remember that there is nothing that is not a part of God's plan. He who took all the suffering and misery of the cross and used it in order to achieve the greatest good is also in charge of every aspect of our lives as well. In the midst of all of life's great tragedies and even life's small comedic misfortunes (like forgetting to pack a clergy shirt at Synod), let us remember that God is still in charge and His mercy is on all those who fear His name. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Music Notes

Kathleen Knott, Music Director/Organist

What's in a Name? (Hymn Tune Titles)

If you take a look below the music in the bottom corner of our [1982 Hymnal](#), you will see the name of the hymn tune. Hymn tune titles are a fascinating topic and the meaning of the title often takes a little research to decipher. Hymn tune titles can have historical significance, a reference to mood, a relationship to place or many other connections. Contemporary composers often write variations or meditations on hymns using the hymn tune title to refer to the hymn.

“Holy, holy, holy!” is the hymn we sing every Trinity Sunday. The name of this tune is NICAEA and it was composed by John Dykes in 1861. The hymn name is a tribute to the First Council of Nicaea (325 AD) which formalized the Doctrine of the Trinity. HYFRYDOL is a favorite tune which is set to “Alleluia! sing to Jesus” and “Love divine, all loves excelling” in our hymn book. This tune was composed by the Welsh composer Rowland Hugh Prichard, and “hyfrydol” is a Welsh word for “cheerful”. We sing DOWN AMPNEY every Pentecost Sunday to the text of “Come down, O love divine”. This tune was written by Ralph Vaughan Williams who was born in the vicarage in Down Ampney in Gloucestershire, England. DUKE STREET is another popular tune set to “Jesus shall reign where'er the sun”. Little is known of the composer John Hatton (1710-1793) except that he lived on Duke Street in St. Helen's, England.

SLANE is the tune use for “Be thou my vision.” This is an old Irish folk song and the title “Slane” refers to a hill in County Meath, Ireland where St. Patrick's lighting of an Easter fire in defiance of a pagan King led to freedom to preach the Gospel in Ireland. Some hymn tunes which have been passed down through the ages are based on Gregorian chants. PANGE LINGUA is one we often sing on Maundy Thursday.

Obviously, I have only scratched the surface of this broad topic. If you have a favorite tune, take a look at the name. If you like to sing tunes, consider joining us when choir resumes in September. A music ministry is a wonderful way to serve the Lord.

To Tithe

Cal Brown, Treasurer

"You must be kidding! Surely God doesn't expect me to give 10% of my net income to St. Mark's. I have lots of other more important things to spend my money on. Sure, I call myself a Christian ... but 10%?".

Giving comes from the Spirit. “But this I say, He which sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully” (AKJV, 2 Corinthians 9:6). In today's world, we tend to covet our financial resources. We are afraid of letting go of our money, savings, securities and trusts, as well as our income. Tithing can be part of the answer to this covetousness. Everything we have on this earth comes from God. We must thank God by giving back to Him. The fear of tithing is misplaced. We seem to believe that if we give the first part to God, there will not be enough left for everything else we would need. Herein comes “trust” and comes “faith”. If we give to God first, we must trust that He will be faithful to His promises. God promises in Hebrews 11:6 that he who diligently seeks Him will be rewarded. We have examples of where today's Christians have made tithing a regular part of their faith. By first tithing, God has blessed these Christians by making sure that they do not go unrewarded. His rewards for faithfulness are exhibited in many ways. God will never leave you nor forsake you (NIV, Joshua 1:5).

I mentioned that tithing comes from the Spirit and reinforces the Christian parishioner's faith. However, there is a practical and important economic side of tithing. The church building is the place where Christians congregate and corporately worship God. The programs that the Church undertakes to do God's work must be funded - salaries, maintenance, and upkeep are necessary to fulfill God's work.

All would agree that meeting the financial needs of St Mark's is paramount in seeing that God's work is completed in each one of us, seeing that our beautiful church is properly maintained, that each parishioner's needs are fulfilled, that our outreach and mission programs are fulfilled, and seeing that our church staff is compensated.

If every member would tithe, their faith will be strengthened, their stewardship would be fulfilled, and the financial security of the parish would be guaranteed. With everyone tithing, the economic foundation of God's church will always be secure.

Consider tithing and perhaps pray, "Lord, teach me to better trust in you. Give me the ability to know that by tithing, you will care for me and reward me and that I will never be lacking."

Deus Synod July 28-31, 2015

Lisa Brenneman

With much excitement and great expectations, The Rt. Rev. Bishop Walter Grundorf opened the 47th synod of the Diocese of the Eastern United States in Charlottesville, VA. Bishop Grundorf was quick to remind the participants of the theme of this year's synod, "Building the Kingdom from generation to generation." The message for all of us is that we need to get back to our apostolic roots in living out the great commission given to us by Christ. Bishop Grundorf commended the lives of the early Christians in that we need to be about our Father's business, living our faith. The bishop called on the priests to better equip laity to reach out to the greater community, citing a continual decrease in the number of Christians in the US. The church is the place for people losing hope in the present world. The bishop related his message to our Lenten appeal to fund a mission church here at home. Bishop Grundorf reported the Lenten pledge is now just over \$60,000 for the total \$100,000.

The synod was well attended by a total of 124 participants to include 41 clergy, 55 laity delegates, and numerous guests and observers. The Rev. Randall Russell was recognized for passing all of his exams and being given the date of August 8th to be ordained as a deacon. The Rev. Roy Grote of the Reformed Episcopal Church was an honored guest. The Bishop also outlined some of his accomplishments during the past year which included 68 new confirmands into the Anglican Church. The DEUS now enjoys a membership of 3,733 with 43 congregations and 83 clergy. Suffragan Bishop Chad Jones (St. Barnabas, Dunwoody, GA) also reported on his endeavors to include overseeing our church's summer camp.

As the business of the synod continued, the bishop submitted his resignation, as required of his meeting the age of 72. This was quickly rejected and a vote conducted to instill the bishop for five more years. As Bishop Grundorf accepted the position, the audience stood to their feet in a roaring round of applause and acclamation for the Bishop, and his wife, Mary.

On the second day of the synod, a historical vote commenced to elect a suffragan bishop to serve the state of

Florida. Three priests were on the ballot: St. Mark's own, Father Mike Ward, Father Bill Perkins of Delray and Father Brad Cunningham of Fernandina Beach. After five rounds of voting with stalemated ties, Father Mike withdrew his name and Father Bill of Delray was announced the new suffragan bishop. This was certainly an admirable gesture on Father Mike's part so that peace might prevail. After this, area deans gave their reports, to include Father Gordon Anderson reporting on his area. Later in the day, the new budget reached a resolution and was voted on and accepted. The day ended with a special presentation by Ken Myers, choirmaster of All Saints Anglican in Charlottesville, presenting a commentary of how we as Christians must respond to our present culture of not being Christian.

The synod concluded on the third day with a review of the business resolutions and a report on global partnerships by Father David Haines. It was interesting to learn of the lives and challenges our Anglican brothers and sisters face in Haiti, India, and the Philippines. Father Haines reminded us of how even the smallest amount - \$30 a month can make a difference in a salary for a priest or food for the hungry. With all of the business concluded, Bishop Grundorf bestowed God's blessings on the participants and closed this historic synod.

Upcoming Holy Days

August/September/October/November

August 24 (noon) – Feast of St Barnabas the Apostle

September 21 (noon) – Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

September 29 (noon) – Feast of St Michael and All Angels

October 28 (noon) – Feast of Saint Simon and St Jude, Apostles

November 26 (10:00 a.m.) – Thanksgiving Day

November 30 (noon) – Feast of St Andrew the Apostle

St. Mark's Anglican Church

Rev. Canon Michael L. Ward, SSA

Rector

Rev. Mr. Randall Russell

Curate

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