

# THE PIPER

## SEPTEMBER 2018



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## Pilgrimage to new 'lynching memorial' fosters racial understanding

(edited for space)

By Michelle Hiskey,

Posted Aug 29, 2018



This April 28, 2018, photo shows pillars inscribed with the names of victims of lynching from Southern states hang from the ceilings inside the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. Photo: Evan Frost/AP

[Episcopal News Service — Montgomery, Alabama] A spiritual pilgrimage can lay bare old scars, change who you are and how you see other people. That's what many members of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Atlanta reported after experiencing the new National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the collective story of more than 4,400 people who were lynched in this country. "I don't think anything can fully prepare one for the atrocity that is part of our history," the Rev. Angela Shepherd, St. Bartholomew's rector, preached on Aug. 26, the morning after the pilgrimage, as participants continued to process the reality that between 1877 and 1950 more than 4,400 African-American men, women, and children were hanged, burned alive, shot, drowned or beaten to death by white mobs.

Facing that history, she and the pilgrimage participants believe, is a critical first step to countering the racial injustices embedded in our society today. Building this bridge is important at St. Bartholomew's, which in April called Shepherd as its first female rector and first African-American rector. Located in DeKalb County, a fast-growing refugee and non-English speaking county that includes part of the city of Atlanta, St. Bartholomew's 2017 profile described its membership as 96 percent white. "We long for a more racially and ethnically diverse community, but have not yet made the necessary changes for that community to flourish," the profile stated. "We are seeking new strategies."

## **We are more than the worst thing we have ever done**

At the Legacy Museum, built at the riverfront where slave trading businesses once outnumbered Montgomery's churches, the travelers learned how the elaborate narrative of white supremacy allows racial terrorism to flourish as a social custom outside the law.

While faith in God enabled many African-Americans to endure inhumane treatment, their oppressors often saw their domination as a God-given right. "Lord, how come me here?" is a lyric to a spiritual sung at the museum by holograms of actors depicting chained slaves. As slavery gave way to a legal system that metes out excessive punishment to African-Americans, a newspaper reported a 14-year-old African-American boy was sentenced in 1944 to die in South Carolina's electric chair. Because the boy was too short for his head to reach the electrodes, guards used a Bible as a booster seat.

These truths created a fresh, searing awareness among those on the pilgrimage. "The stunning justification that 'the other' is not really a human being — and therefore deserves slavery, lynching, unfair prosecution, segregation, languishing imprisonment, legal killing — brings home to me the objectification of human beings in our society," said Marilyn Hughes. "It hurts in my heart and it hurts our nation. And yet, there is still love enough for forgiveness and healing. This was my learning."

"This memorial shows us how our country's original sins — economic cruelty, slavery and genocide — are eating away at our social fabric like cancers," said Ray Gangarosa, a pilgrimage participant. "As we observe, in real time, these echoes from our sordid past eroding our democratic institutions and those of other nations around the world, God is making it crystal clear that there is no cure, no redemption, no salvation for these sins but total excision."

## **Many faith groups seeking reconciliation in Montgomery**

St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Montgomery, known as the parish where Confederacy president Jefferson Davis worshipped, has hosted several groups in conjunction with their visits to the memorial and museum. St. Bartholomew's was the latest one. Wealth, in Montgomery and other cities across the Southern states, was acquired through free slave labor and protected by Jim Crow laws.

"I loved looking at the beautiful decor, but it reminded me of how easy it is to be lulled into ignoring the ugly foundation of our privilege," said Virginia Murray of St. Bartholomew's. "The rector's informal talk to us also demonstrated the challenges the Episcopal Church has, to make a place for Episcopalians on all stages of the reconciliation process. Although my church building was erected after slavery ended, I am still voluntarily a member of a denomination that was complicit in slavery, lynching, etc." "The old satanic foe of racism is still woven into the fabric of our lives," she read. "Although, without you, we are not equal to this foe, through your grace empower us to overcome the forces that break community," the travelers answered. "You have created us as your own family. You have called us together," she said. "The time is now for new beginnings." "May we do the work we must do in your church and world, while it is still day, before it is too late," the travelers responded. "May we never tire, nor turn our back, nor believe our work is ever done. For each day we must begin anew."

— *Michelle Hiskey is an Atlanta-based freelance writer and member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church.*

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**Evening Prayer-Wednesdays-**

**5:15-5:45PM**

It's brief, quiet, and a great way to re-  
fill your spiritual tank half way  
through the week.

*Join us.*

.....



**No matter the language the message  
is the same...**

**Welcome, Bienvenido, Fàilte, chào mừng  
добрo пожаловать, እንደገኘ የህና መጣሁ,**

• • • • •

The vestry and I are delighted to announce that our new Pastor, the Rev. Rob Neville, will be with us for the 9:00 am Eucharist on September 9. Father Neville is returning to California-his home church is that "over the hill" St. Andrew's in Saratoga-after having served for some years as Rector of two parishes of about our size in Connecticut. He has worked extensively in the Hispanic community. Father Neville is an Apple veteran, and more recently had a cure at St. John's, Aptos. He and his wife Maggie have a home in Mountain View.

We will continue having a 9:00 am Eucharist with music during the month of September.

*Michael Freeman*

**101 Reasons to be Episcopalian**

**Reason # 74**

**Jesus said 'Feed my Sheep', but he didn't specify  
that they be fed a narrow and rigid diet. Our  
Episcopal/Anglican approach to the sacrament of Penance  
is a good example: 'All may, some should, none must.'**



**Dean George L. Werner**

**Diocese of Pittsburgh**

Russian, Amharic, Braille

The languages from above: English, Spanish, Scots Gaelic, Vietnamese,



### Garden Guild-Judyth Suttle

Tillie Cunningham devoted many hours of her last fifteen years of life working in the garden of St Andrews. For the last two years of that time, I was a grunt in Tillie's Army, coming over to follow her orders as she weeded, planted, and issued orders to whomever else she had recruited.

The payoff was getting to spend time with Tillie, to learn at the feet of this wise elder. If you want a friend, be a friend, she'd say, or marriage is a lot of work and lots of people don't want to do the work. Another perk was sitting in the pew with her Sunday mornings, sharing a hymnal, getting a kiss on the cheek and an I love you, and listening to her comments about this and that.

In the garden I couldn't keep up with her, though she had twenty years on me and health issues to boot! After a few hours, feeling as though I'd drop any minute, I'd have to say, I don't want to, Tillie, but I have to go home. I'd feel bad about leaving her there, but self-preservation kicked in. Later, at her memorial, one of her kids laughed when I told her this and said NOBODY could keep up with the Energizer Bunny.

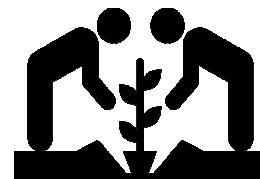
Toward the end Tillie complained a lot out of frustration at not being able to do what she used to. She worried about the garden and what would happen when she passed. She named me her successor but could see I was lacking in generalship.

She talked one day near the end about what she had *wanted* to do – have a Gardening Guild organized like the Altar Guild, with various people coming at certain times to do tasks. Tillie had concluded that there weren't enough willing and able parish members to carry out her plan.

But there **have** been willing and able people doing what they see needs to be done. Thanks to them roses have been pruned and watered, weeds pulled, redwood shoots trimmed, bushes outside the windows controlled, sprinklers tended to, and on and on. A recent

donation will enable us to have a general clean-up of the grounds before our new Rector begins September 7.

So there IS a Garden Guild thanks to Jerry, Cathy, Shirley, Ray, Jim, Michael, and Roy--and Tillie, who I am sure is right there on the grounds keeping a critical eye on us all. Inspired by Tillie, I will create a little more organization and ask Janet for tips on how she does it for the Altar Guild. If you would like to become a member of this Tillie Cunningham Memorial Gardening Guild, let me know at Church or email me at [judythsuttle@yahoo.com](mailto:judythsuttle@yahoo.com)



### **Cheap At Twice The Price**

**Author Unknown**

**A REAL BARGAIN?**

**A man and his young son went to church, and when they came out the father was complaining that the service was too long, the preacher was no good, and the singing was off-key.**

**Finally the little boy said, "Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for a dime."**

### **Presiding Bishop's statement on the death of Senator John McCain**

[Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs- Posted Aug 26, 2018](#)

The life of Senator John Sidney McCain has been a witness to the nobility of living not for self alone but for the ideals and values that make for a better world.

With countless others, we of the Episcopal Church give God thanks for his life and service and pray likewise for his wife, children and family.

May his soul and the souls of all the departed rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

## The moral case for climate action is clear and urgent

Marc Handley Andrus Tue 28 Aug 2018 9:43 BST

*The Episcopal Bishop of California writes on lessons from the wildfires ravaging his state.*

As I write, 18 wildfires are burning across my home state of California, having already taken at least eight lives and leaving thousands homeless. These fires, scientists say, are the clearest signal yet of humankind's impact on our climate, and, thus, on God's creation.



Reuters-Fire retardant is sprayed from a plane combating one of California's wildfires. These climate catastrophes – the fires in California and Greece, recent deadly heat waves from East Asia to India and Pakistan to Europe, devastating floods in Thailand and Laos – could paralyze us with fear. But what right have we to call ourselves people of faith if we stand by and watch as others suffer, or if we stand idle instead of preventing our own suffering?

Now is the time for even more of us to awaken and connect for the good of all. On our path to transformative change by 2020, the Global Climate Action Summit taking place in San Francisco from September 12-14 could prove a key collective milestone, as it will show how business leaders, politicians, faith leaders, and citizens groups are united on climate action. I urge you to take part by making your own climate commitment, from questioning whether your bank is funding projects that contribute to alleviating our suffering from climate change, to having solar panels installed on your church roof to provide cleaner and cheaper energy so more money can be spent on community projects. Every single one of us has a role to play.

I pray that the fires that burn today in my home state will have been contained, with no more lives lost or ruined, well before thousands converge for this summit. But let all of us find solemn motivation by those

who perished here – and those still suffering all around the world – and find the urgency to create a future that is safer, more sustainable, and more just for all.

*Rt Rev Marc Handley Andrus is Episcopal Bishop of California.*

### **Need A Spiritual Vacation?**

EO is pleased to partner with clergy, leaders, parishes, schools, and ministries of the Episcopal Church to provide a wide range of Christian travel opportunities. Whether it is pilgrimages to the Holy Land and other Bible lands, Canterbury Cathedral and the UK, Bible Land cruises, or sites in Europe, EO can provide high quality, life-changing experiences that will be a great value. Choose from our hundreds of scheduled tours or customize a travel experience for the needs of your group. We can also help your mission trip groups travel at discount. EO has been dedicated to changing the church, ministry, and individual lives through Christian travel for over 43 years and looks forward to serving you.

Here are some of the places you might enjoy checking out. Click on the link for more information.

[Holy Land 2019 with the Living Church](#)

[11th Annual Celebration Cruise with the Friends of the Episcopal Church of Cuba](#)

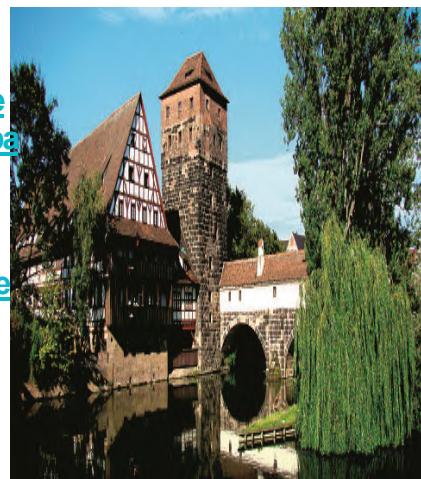
[Our Anglican Heritage in England 2019](#)

[Holy Land Tours in 2018 & 2019](#)

[Magical Christmas Markets River Cruise 2018 with Guest Speaker Annwn Myers](#)

[Celtic Christianity in Scotland 2018](#)

[Camino de Santiago 2018](#)



Contact our Episcopal Director of Travel Ministry for more information about EO Tours, mission trips and other travel opportunities.

The Rev. Donald Fishburne, D.Min.

Email: [Donald@DonaldFishburne.net](mailto:Donald@DonaldFishburne.net)

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### Angel in the Kitchen

*Feelin good when cookn  
Sharing the love of God through  
your love of cooking*



The following recipes are from St. Andrew's Church  
Christmas Bazaar & Tea Recipes by Tillie Cunningham

### Lemon Bars

#### Part I

1 cup Butter  
1/2 cup Powdered Sugar  
2 cup Flour

Mix together, lightly grease 9"X13"  
pan. Pat dough into pan. Bake 15  
min. @ 350 degrees. Cool 5 min.  
before pouring lemon mix.

#### Part II

2 cup Sugar	4 Eggs
4 T. Flour	6 T. Lemon Juice

Mix together, pour over crust. Bake 20 min. @ 350 degrees.  
Sprinkle powdered sugar over top as remove from oven. Cool –  
cut into squares.

### **MOUNDS BARS**

2 cup crushed Graham Cracker crumbs  
(14 doubles)

1/4 cup Sugar      1/2 cup melted Butter  
Mix well and press into 9"X 13" pan

Bake 10 min. @ 350 degrees. Meanwhile, mix 1 can Eagle Brand  
sweetened condensed milk with 1 pkg. Angel Flake Coconut  
Spread over crumbs, bake 15 min. @ 350 degrees Melt 1,12 oz.  
Pkg. chocolate chips and 2 T.peanut butter in double boiler.  
Spread melted mixture over coconut. Set in refrigerator for at  
least 30 min. to cool. Cut into squares.

# Events, Reminders and Happenings

**For the month of September there will be only one Sunday service at 9:00am.**

Sunday, September 9th at 9am join in welcoming Rev. Rob Neville, our new Rector for St. Andrew's. Food Blessing for VCUM Mondays at 6:30pm-AA meeting upstairs

Wednesdays at 5:15-Evening Prayer-Sanctuary

Wednesday 9/12 and 9/26 Girl Scouts-Parish Hall

Saturday, Sept. 8th at 8am Men's Breakfast at Rocky's in Felton

Saturday Sept. 15th at 3:30pm- Willowbrook service. Meet at church at 3p to carpool.

Thursday Sept 20th at 6:45pm-Vestry Meeting in the Parish Hall. Save the date-Saturday October 20th for Annual Harvest Dinner.

## Some other thoughts...

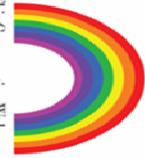
From Mary Jo Neish-For Tillie

Beloved

By both priest

And pauper

**Help Wanted**— Assistant to the Editor. Must be able to read, edit and send by email interesting, enlightening and spiritual news items for publication in the Piper. No experience necessary, but proof reading is a plus! Inquiries to Kim Rooks: larocca\_rooks@hotmail.com



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