

The Piper

June 2020



Photo by Steve LaFever

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Rev. Rob's Corner

Fellow Parishioners:

June brings with it the yearnings of Summer with longer days and I'm sure if you're anything like me you long for a return to normalcy. You may also be sick of the term the "new normal" as if that were a thing. Truth is though we need to find new paths through life and understand that there never was a normal.

As many of you know there have been guidelines for what must happen for public in-person worship to start up again. We have multiple guidelines, from the State, County, Diocese, and Federal government. We have formed a committee to come up with a plan, which is what our Diocese requires us to do before we can even think about in-person services.

If I haven't mentioned before let me say so now, we are not in this alone. God is with us, and so is the rest of our community and both secular, religious and denominational. What we do and what we plan isn't just for us. If this crisis has shown us anything it's that what effects one can come to effect all. The Diocese is requiring that all the churches in our Deanery have a plan before any individual plans can be implemented after they are approved. I concur with this decision and it will help in the situation where one community is in-person and others are not because we will know and can plan accordingly.

If you want or need to give feedback to the Committee our members are: Myself, Ray, Karen, Cathy and Paula. You can also talk to a Vestry member and they can pass along your concerns. We just started this week. I am meeting weekly with the clergy in our Deanery to share what they are doing and how they are becoming church in this new environment. We continue to meet as a whole Diocesan clergy group with the Bishop as well. Because these other two meetings are on Wednesdays I have moved on-line Bible Study to Wednesdays. And because it looks like our on-line offerings will be continuing for some time now because some may not be able or willing to join us when in

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-person worship starts I have upgraded our Zoom account.

Things are moving forward so take hope. It might be too slow for some of you. Our focus is on your health above all else. There is no reason to fear. There is also no reason to take short term risks. Your health is the most important consideration.

I hope to see you online. Our weekly Morning Prayer at 10:00 is followed by a coffee hour in the same extended meeting. Look for the Zoom links. Don't forget the changed time for weekly Bible study is Wednesday mornings at 10:30 but longer.

May the Blessing of Almighty God keep you and hold you. Stay safe and well.

I remain:

Yours in Christ;

Rob+

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June 1 will be a national day of mourning

As we mark the death of 100,000 people in the U.S. from COVID-19, an unprecedented group of **100+ national faith leaders**—from Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions representing major denominations, national faith-based organizations, local congregations, and millions of people of faith across the country—call for a National Day of Mourning and Lament. Together, they look to federal, state, and local elected officials to observe Monday, June 1 as National Day of Mourning and Lament, a day marked by moments of silence, lowering of flags, interfaith vigils, ringing of bells, and civic memorials.

Click [here](#) for the full story.

Greetings from our Senior Warden...

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope you are all surviving this most unusual time. You are all in my prayers.

I want to share that I am reading a really good book called [The Book of Common Prayer: A Spiritual Treasure Chest](#). It has an introduction by our former presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. It starts with the history of the book of Common Prayer and continues on as to how to use it in our every day lives as an anchor for our spiritual lives. I've read my Book of Common Prayer for many years, but this book gives me even more of a spiritual insight as to how it can become even more of an anchor in my spiritual journey. I haven't finished the book, yet, but I highly recommend it.

On another note, our church is being well looked after. Steve Lafever is there almost every day. Not only is he a presence there showing the world that we are not abandoned, but he regularly cleans and stocks our parish hall. Thank you, Steve.

Sharon, our faithful Treasurer, is also often there to keep up on the accounting and pay the bills. She and Jerry also were a big part in managing the tomato plant sale and moved the plants in and out daily. It was a huge success and thank you to Jerry and Sharon.

Ray brings the mail to the church office every day from the post office. He also empties the trash, takes the trash containers to the street each week for pick-up, and then puts the bins back again after the pick-up. Thank you, Ray for your many tasks!

Judyth and the garden team are keeping our garden in good shape while social distancing and it looks great. Thank you!

Kim is continuing with our Piper which helps us all to feel more connected. Thanks so much!

Thanks to Rob for keeping us connected through his weekly sermon, readings and morning prayer. It helps us to really feel that we are not alone in this trying time.

Thanks to the Altar Guild teams for continuing to vacuum and dust.

And, thanks to Cathy Newfield for keeping up with messages on our marquis – another symbol that we are still alive.

There are many others out there to thank such as our faithful counters and Jerry for keeping up on repairs.

Thanks to the Vestry for continuing to meet via ZOOM and for making sure that we stay as stable as possible during this difficult time.

On another note, the sanctuary candle has been extinguished as we no longer have blessed sacraments in the church. Thanks to Janet who cleaned them out so that we can start fresh when we are allowed to have communion again. We are going to leave the regular lights on over the altar as a symbol that we are still a light in the community.

Thanks to all of you for your love, energy and prayers.

Stay safe.

Peace,

Rochelle Kelly, Senior Warden

**Presiding Bishop Curry's Word to the
Church: When the Cameras are Gone,
We Will Still Be Here**

*"Our long-term commitment to racial justice
and reconciliation is embedded in our identity
as baptized followers of Jesus. We will still be
doing it when the new cameras are long gone."*

A partial reprint from Episcopal Public Policy Network



Our resident gardener, Judyth Suttle along with a volunteer and others on the Garden Guild have been busy beautifying the church gardens. If you enjoy gardening and have some spare time to donate please contact Judyth to see what projects need work.

Short lessons and thoughts from history and the present crisis ...

Declaration of Independence (Philadelphia 1776). We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

Constitution of the United States: Amendment 1 (Philadelphia, 1791) "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. "

Our right to worship and assemble was paid for by the deaths of 82,500 patriots from a population in 1776 of 2,500,000 (that is 3.2% of the population). Americans, when not happy with the thought of losing their freedom, tend to voice their opposition and use their freedom to demonstrate their unhappiness. We are fortunate to live in a country where we can do this. Freedom was and is purchased and secured by those who fought and those who still fight to defend our Constitution. God bless them all.

In a sense, those who choose to be at risk – the doctors, nurses, hospital workers, paramedics, fire and police, are also protecting us. They volunteer to be at risk because it is the right and moral thing to do. God blesses them and us for their dedication to helping others.

Constitution of the Episcopal Church (Philadelphia, 1785) "Resolved That: the fourth of July shall be observed by this Church for ever as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the inestimable blessings of religious and civil liberty vouchsafed to the United States of America." Further, "Alterations to the liturgy shall render it consistent with the American revolution" and further that "in the course of Divine Providence, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America is become independent of all foreign authority, civil and ecclesiastical."

In the beginning . . . was our right to worship God through a personal relationship with the Almighty – either alone or in communion

with others. We all have chosen The Episcopal Church for one reason or another. Many of us have devoted a combination of time, talent, and tithing to be able to worship here in Ben Lomond. St. Andrew's is our home, our place of serenity, our safe refuge. The storm rages, but our little red church remains. One day we will all be able to return to this oasis and participate in worship with our religious family whom we miss. That comradely is what is lacking in my life right now.

On September 14, 1814 a red white and blue flag with just 15 stars was raised over Fort McHenry signifying American troops had held the fort. A local lawyer was so inspired by the sight of the flag in the morning that he wrote a poem and titled it "The Defense of Fort McHenry". Francis Scott Key's poem was set to music and it became "The Star Spangled Banner". It has become a symbol of American perseverance. Scott was an abolitionist and freed all his slaves.

1861 saw the beginning of the war between the states. Family fought against family, friend against friend, brothers killed brothers, fathers and sons were on opposite sides, Christian fought against Christian. It was a sad war, a war against ourselves -- and yet it happened. There were around 700,000 casualties, and it is considered the deadliest military conflict in American history. Wounds are still healing 155 years later.

At the beginning of that war a song was written by an American Poet born in New York, who was raised an Episcopalian and later became a Unitarian Pacifist. She married an older man and raised her children in Boston. She was an abolitionist and an advocate for women's suffrage. I don't think anyone in this county has not heard the Civil War song she wrote. Our Bishop Curry quotes it all the time. "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Christ died to make us holy, let us live to make all free! Our God is marching on, Glory Glory Hallelujah!

In the 1893, a Russian Jewish family immigrated to the United States through Ellis Island. They were fleeing the persecution of the Jews in Moscow, their home had been burned and all their possessions lost. Arriving with no means of support (today we would most likely have not have let them enter), they settled in Manhattan. Their son had a talent for music and wrote a few songs which he sold to help feed his family. In 1918 he wrote a song which he shelved; it wasn't until he was asked by Kate Smith, a famous American singer of the time, to immediately produce a song for her to sing in 1938. He took the song he had shelved and updated the lyrics and give it to her. She sang that song, and immediately a country at war was inspirationally moved and "God Bless America" was born. That poor Jewish Russian immigrant, Irving Berlin, gave us a song of praise for

our country.

And now we are engaged in another war testing whether this nation can endure and overcome invisible obstacles. Lincoln at Gettysburg talked about dedicating the memorial when he said "the brave men who died here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract." Lincoln resolved that the dead shall not have died in vain. That while the world will little note or remember what they did there, we the living must remember. We were given a new birth of freedom where a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, cannot perish. Today lives have been given to protect our ability to live a free life. The medical, fire, police, workers in essential services and volunteers continue to provide that protection. Many at the threat of their own peril.

We are lucky to live in a county where the number of people infected is less than one tenth of one percent and a country with the infection rate is one half a percent. I am reminded of a passage from the Bible. The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night! I cannot live in fear. I cannot live in doubt. I can only live with hope, with trying to live a good life, with respecting my neighbor, and all the rest will fall in place. I don't know the end game. I only know that it is not my purpose in life to live a life full of anxiety. That serves no purpose. I must move forward. I must stay positive and support my friends and neighbors. We must lift each other up to personhood. We must !

I don't know what this particular diocese will do when it comes to allowing us to return to our church. I know that I am ready. I know that my desire to worship with my family in our house of God is greater than my fear of our family. I have survived three heart attacks, two instances of septicemia, and I have never had the flu. For some reason I am still here. I will continue to be here until it is time for me to move on to whatever is next, whatever cosmic collective claims my soul. No one knows. He will come like a thief in the night and we have no control over that. So that leaves me with living a life of hope and caring for others. I would like to do that in community. I have faith that the Episcopal Church will look at the future with hope and not fear, with worship not isolation, with communion not ignoring His words . . . "do this in remembrance of me."

I wonder where the Christian church would today be if Jesus had practiced social distancing from Lepers, from the sick and infirmed, from the unclean of society? There would be no baptisms, no wedding at Cana, no laying on of hands, no Jesus in a fishing boat with seven disciples, no last supper (12 disciples exceeds the 10 person limit) no communion, and especially no John with his head on the chest of Jesus.

There would not have been a crucifixion, no death, no resurrection, and no Thomas touching the wounds of Jesus. Most likely, there would be no Episcopal Church. However, Jesus proved to us that breaking the rules by healing the woman on the Sabbath was justified. Jesus believed that showing God's mercy and His ability to heal was greater than the law. Let us not get lost in conforming to secularism.

The early Christians were forbidden to worship. They did so anyway. Those that were caught were imprisoned or fed to the lions in the coliseum for others amusement. The point is that until 313 A.D. Christians had to meet without permission and under threat of death. Without their devotion there would be no "little red church" to meet in.

"Being a Christian is not essentially about joining a church or being a nice person, but about following in the footsteps of Jesus, taking his teachings seriously, letting his Spirit take the lead in our lives, and in so doing helping to change the world from our nightmare into God's dream, and sometimes that means marching to the beat of a different drummer. Sometimes that means caring when it is tempting to care less, or standing up when others sit down. Sometimes it means speaking up when others shut up. Sometimes it means being different -- even being crazy. *Bishop Michael Curry - A call to follow Jesus. Amen!*

THANK YOU

Wait until you see and hear the new baby grand piano that's been generously donated to St. Andrew's by Jennifer Kennedy. Not only did Jennifer donate the piano, but she arranged for moving and tuning it. Won't it be lovely to hear this beautiful instrument being played in our sanctuary?





Angel in the Kitchen
Feel'n good when cook'n
Sharing the love of God through your
love of cooking



Here are a couple recipes taken from our own St. Andrew's *Cooking in the Redwoods-A Collection of Recipes by Parishioners*.

Blueberry Torte— submitted by Tillie Cunningham

20 graham crackers, crushed (10 long)

1/2 c. melted butter

1 /2 cup sugar

2 beaten eggs

8 oz. cream cheese

1 tsp. vanilla

1 c. sugar

2 c. blueberries

2 T. cornstarch

3 T. water

1 T. lemon juice

Mix the graham crackers, melted butter, and 1/2 c sugar and press into 9 x 13 pan. Mix 2 beaten eggs, cream cheese, 1/2 c. sugar and vanilla. Pour over crust. Bake 350* for 20 min. For Filling, bring 2 c. blueberries, 1 c. sugar, cornstarch, water and lemon juice to boil in saucepan. Thicken, then cool and pour over crust. Top with whipped cream.

Cool Berry Jell-O Mold-submitted by Cathy Newfield

1 (3-oz.) pkg. raspberry Jell-O

2 c. boiling water

1 (3-oz.) pkg. strawberry jello

1 1/2 c. cold water

1 c. Cool Whip

jello mold with 8 at least

1 (10-oz.) pkg. frozen raspberries

capacity

Dissolve raspberry Jell-O in 2 c. boiling water. Pour into Jell-O mold. Chill until set. Drain berries, save syrup. Dissolve strawberry Jell-O in 1 c. boiling water. Add syrup from berries and 1/2 c. cold water. Chill in mixer bowl until slightly thickened—about 2 hrs. Whip Jell-O with hand held mixer. Add Cool Whip and berries, and stir. Spoon over clear layer in mold and chill until firm-overnight or 6 hrs.



The following is an excerpt from a piece of poetry by Mary Jo Neish. If you are interested in reading the complete work please contact Mary Jo or Kim Rooks.

Lines from "Building"

"Some say that time
moves in a circle

I do think now
More like my mother
And of how
It must have been for her
When she was busy
Building "

Zoom in to Morning Prayer **10 am every Sunday**

Coffee Hour immediately following the service

There has been a regular attendance of folks congregating (virtually) for morning prayer via Zoom and Jesse has been providing musical accompaniment, but we've been missing some of you! Please Check your email for the Zoom invitation.



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Where God is worshiped and the people are fed