



EPISTLE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Greenville, Ohio

Helping all people find a connection to God's community.

October 2021

Dear Friends,

As I write this, the sky is grey, storm clouds gather on the horizon. Predictions are that we will have significant rainfall over the next couple of days. Then, we're supposed to have cooler temperatures as the Autumn season begins as the rain falls.

We look at these forecasts and predictions as a type of prophecy, and that they are, especially according to current usage. Real prophecy, though, is a more tenuous task, often burdened with words we don't want to hear or admit as true. Not that we're really happy about the prospect of up to three inches of rain in a forty-eight hour period, but we don't have much choice in the matter.

Storm clouds seem to be gathering all around us. I'm reading more and more from observers of our society who warn of conflict over things that really shouldn't matter all that much. But I'm reminded that it is but one straw that finally breaks the proverbial camel's back, and find that we might have to dig through a lot of straw to find all the truth that lies beneath it. We'll probably have to deal with some camel residue in the process.

It's not the first time. While many writers look back to the middle of the nineteenth century and our own civil war for comparisons, we've been hearing words from Scripture that remind us that where two or three are gathered, there's always the possibility of conflicting desires, opinions, and choices.

We have a phrase we say and sing at the end of Psalms and canticles in the Daily Office. "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be . . ." And so it is with storm clouds, ever since that day in the garden when an alternative choice was presented to those first human beings, and they chose their own desires over the purposes of God.

And, yet, God, even then, did what was necessary to salvage their broken relationships. Leather skins were sewn together to provide clothing. Food would still be provided, they just had to work harder for it. There would be continued growth, but it will come with labor pains. And, it would all take place at a greater distance from God than they had previously enjoyed, or that God would prefer.

Can we recognize God's purpose for us, individually and as a congregation? And can we discern the difference between God's purpose and our own desires? Then, can we admit that we often choose ourselves over God, repent, and as confession rituals urge us, "return to the Lord?"

Jesus didn't die on the cross to shield us from the difficult labor of righteousness. His death at the hands of political authorities with the help of religious leaders shows us that God's purpose often stands in contradiction to the power and authority of our own world. His resurrection shows us that his choice was right, the authorities were wrong, and that same new life awaits us when we face the end of what might be more desirable and less painful for us. Because what waits for us in that new life is a "closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame." [Hymn 683] Or, if you like, an open gate back into the garden where we were supposed to be all along.

--Wayne+

A Statement of Mission



As Episcopalians in the
Diocese of Southern Ohio,
we commit to:

† Know the common story

Deut. 11:18-21

† Proclaim our common
faith

Matt. 28:19-20

† Pray our common prayer

1 Thess. 5:16-19

† Drink the common cup

Mark 10:38

† Serve the common good

Matt. 25:37-40

In the name of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ.

This is our common
ministry.

Our Bishop Provisional, The Right Reverend George Wayne Smith, will be with us on Sunday, October 31. He will preach and celebrate Holy Eucharist. You might remember that our former bishop, Thomas Breidenthal, was scheduled to visit with us in March, 2020. The Sunday he was scheduled to be here was the first weekend of our Covid-19 shutdown.

When a Bishop visits a parish, the rite of Confirmation is often celebrated, along with Reception of New Members who have transferred their membership from another denomination, or who have joined through Holy Baptism. Plus, we often celebrate Holy Baptism during the Bishop's visit. Anyone desiring any of these celebrations should speak with Fr. Wayne as soon as possible, as some preparation needs to occur.

Bishop Smith will also be available for discussion during whatever fellowship time we may be able to have due to pandemic conditions. He will also meet with Vestry for discussion.

Bishop Smith came to the Diocese of Southern Ohio on August 15, and will serve for two years during our interim period as we look ahead to the calling of our next Diocesan Bishop.

ORGAN MIDI UPDATE

On Monday, October 4, Lima Pipe Organ Company is scheduled to come and remove the organ console to begin installation of a MIDI controller. The console will be in their workshop for approximately two weeks, and then will be reinstalled in the church. So, for two or three weeks, we will be hearing and singing with piano accompaniment during worship.

After the console is returned and working, then we will be able to add more music to our liturgy, particularly some of the sung parts for the Gloria, Sanctus, and Fraction Anthem. We will also be adding some hymns during the Sequence, Offertory, and Communion. These will be recorded ahead of time, then the MIDI controller will cause the organ to play the music when someone presses the play function.

You won't see an organist sitting on the bench, but it will be our organ playing in real time. In another parish, when this device was used, folks began saying that "Chip" was playing the organ that day.



Dear Friends,

On behalf of Darke County United Way, and the thousands of people who give and receive assistance throughout our community, we want to **THANK YOU** for your generous donation. The United Way will continue to fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in Darke County. We are only able to do that through the generous support of people like you.

To say the last few years have been a challenge is an understatement. Your financial gift ensures that those in need in Darke County will continue to have food, shelter and basic amenities during this difficult time. Your gift brings hope. Because Darke County United Way actively manages and evaluates the effectiveness of its community partner agencies, you can be sure that your gift will be invested in the most successful, cost-effective, human-service program in our area.

Thank you again for making a difference in Darke County.

Sincerely, Gavin Glasscoe & Christy Bugher



Date/Proper	Readings	Assistants	Flowers*	Offertory
October 3 19 th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 8 Heb. 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16	Gary Benesh, Lector Peter Hemer, LEM/ Prayers Richard Mote, Usher	Duane Johnson	Mary Ann Cornell
October 10 20 th Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31	Chris Nelson, Lector Jan Dunwoody, LEM/ Prayers Peter Hemer, Usher	Sharon Wintrow	Kim Bohler
October 17 21 st Sunday after Pen- tecost	Isaiah 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45	Kim Bohler, Lector Marty Davis, LEM/ Prayers Gary Benesh, Usher	Millie Mote	Mary Ann Cornell
October 24 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalm 126 Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52	Karen Burkett, Lector P.J. Brumbaugh, LEM/ Prayers Chris Nelson, Usher	Marty & John Davis	Tba
October 31 23 rd Sunday after Pentecost Bishop's Visitation	Deut. 6:1-9 Psalm 119:1-8 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34	Marlene Harvey, Lector Peter Hemer, LEM/ Prayers Richard Mote, Usher	Wayne Rollins	Tba

*Please notify the office of flower dedication by noon on the Tuesday before the Sunday listed.



STRETCHING OUR BOUNDARIES

Boundaries can be a good thing. They can help us avoid abusing and being abused. They mark ownership of time and space. They are often also fluid, and can be stretched beyond our ideas of rigid walls.

In Greenville, we stretch our boundaries to reach outside our church walls to help the larger community in time of need. We do this sometimes with individuals and families, but also with entities like Grace Resurrection Community Center and FISH Food Pantry.

In the larger church, we stretch our boundaries through diocesan outreach efforts, and through Episcopal Relief and Development. This agency reaches out around the globe to help individuals and communities in time of need or disaster, and with development efforts.

We usually hear about ER & D after a major disaster, such as a hurricane or earthquake. Relief efforts are on the ground in Louisiana, areas of the northeast USA, and in Haiti at this time, providing food and water and necessary items to those affected by disaster.

That's the relief part of the name. The development part is working to help provide clean drinking water in some parts of God's world. In other areas, it might be establishing the infrastructure for electricity or sewage and trash disposal. In others, it might be helping build a way of sustainable living through farming or small industry.

You can contribute at any time to Episcopal Relief & Development by placing a check marked ER-D in our offering, or online at www.episcopalrelief.org. Overhead costs are borne by the Episcopal Church's budget, so your contributions go directly to relief and development efforts. When we reach into our pockets this way, we stretch our arms out to help show God's loving embrace of the whole world.

October 2021

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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