
The Shepherd's Staff

1 message

Anglican Province of Christ the King <frhines@stgeorgeanglican.org>

Reply-To: frhines@stgeorgeanglican.org

To: csunderland47@gmail.com

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Newsletter of the Anglican Province of Christ the King September, 2022

*The Most Reverend John E. Upham
The Right Reverend D. M. Ashman
The Reverend Gordon Hines, Publisher*

Parish Visitations



On August 7th, Bishop Scott Mitchell visited the parish of Saint Mark's in Portland, Oregon (top-left), where he preached and celebrated at the 8 & 10 AM Masses. Saint Mark's has just called their new Rector, Father Chad Hart, who is moving from Michigan and previously had served at the APCK Parish of Christ

the King in Washington D.C. where he was much admired and respected. Father Hart is expected to begin his formal duties in Portland this month.

On August 28, Bishop Donald Ashman visited Saint James' Anglican Church in Denver, Colorado (above) where he was privileged to confirm the son of the

Rector, Daniel Canda, Jr.. Father Canda preached and celebrated the Mass. Deacon Michael Ruffino of Saint Chad's Parish of Colorado Springs assisted.

Saint Joseph of Arimathea Fall Session



...began on August 24th with Bishop Peter F. Hansen teaching a series on Dogmatic Theology on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time. This overview of Christian Theology will be on nature and the supernatural, miracles, what is our authority for our claims to truth; the Creeds, Episcopacy, and the Great Councils, the Bible, God's attributes and apologetic proofs for His existence; the Trinity and study of His Persons;

Creation and man, Salvation and free will. Semester II will focus on the Incarnation, Christology, His Passion, Resurrection, and Exaltation; the Church as the Body of Christ, God's Spirit in mankind, Grace and Sacraments; and the Eschatological study of End times, Judgment, the General Resurrection, and Eternal Life. The required texts are Francis J. Hall's Dogmatic Theology 10-book series Dogmatic Theology (American Church Union) or the same text republished in two volumes: **Anglican Dogmatics: Francis J. Hall's Dogmatic Theology: Volume I and II** (Nashotah House Press) available at Amazon.

On August 30th, Bishop Ashman began the second year of **World History and Religion** beginning with **The Americas after 1750**. There are two independent (take one or the other or both) sections on Tuesdays, at 11:00 a.m. and at 5:00 p.m., Pacific Time. Although this class is a continuation of last year's classes, there is no prerequisite or textbook needed for this course. The laity are especially invited to audit this course.

Due to popular demand, the seminar in **Historical Homiletics** has added a second semester set of 15 lessons (16-30) on Mondays at 11:00 a.m., Pacific Time (The first class was held on September 5th).

Second Year Latin is being taught on Fridays at 9:30 a.m., Pacific Time and will continue to use **A Primer of Ecclesiastical Latin** by John F. Collins, available at Amazon (The first class was held on September 2nd).

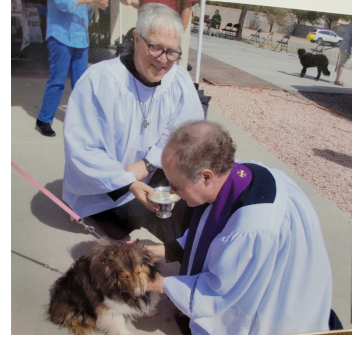
Fourth Year Greek (Reading the Greek Bible) is being offered on Fridays at 11:00 a.m., Pacific Time and will continue to use **A Primer of Biblical Greek** by N. Clayton Croy and teacher created materials (The first class was held on September 2nd).

First Year Greek is being offered on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Time (The first class was held on September 2nd).

Feast of St. Francis - Blessing of the Animals



The annual blessing of the animals service in celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi will



be held at St. George's Church in Las Vegas, Nevada on Saturday, October 8th, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.



St. Anne's ACW is hosting the festive side of the event with distribution of pet medals and treats for pets and adults. This year's highlights include free pony rides, a petting zoo, and games for children. St. Francis will also make his second annual appearance (friend of the parish Bruce Macrae) welcoming pets and their owners and showing the love of Our Lord Jesus!



Fr. Hines, Rector of St. George's, said, "Since we began the Blessing of the Animals service some seventeen years ago, it has grown in popularity. It is our hope that St. George's will be known for this event throughout Las Vegas, much like the Greek Orthodox Church in town is known for its annual fall Greek Festival. It is a way to draw new people into the church and is unique in that the social gathering, while important, is a side-note to the more profound religious undercurrent one experiences celebrating the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi."

Parishioners have been instrumental in spreading the news of this annual event to their friends and neighbors. Flyers are also distributed at pet stores, dog parks, veterinarian offices



and the event is showcased through paid advertised listings in a local pet magazine and on Facebook.

VISITATION

Sunday noon, a lunch on the counter when—*Ding dongggg!* Rising reluctantly, you open the door, annoyed. It reveals a man of slight build, long hair, a beard, more hippie than salesman.

“Yes?” you manage.

“I’m here.”

“Well, *that’s true,*” you reply.

He seems to have expected a reception. Rack your brains. You tell him your name. He nods; knew that already. “*Your name?*”

“*You know it. You’ve asked for me all day.*” He waits. Your memory strains and his face falls. “*I thought you knew me. I’m sorry.*”

He turns to go. “*Wait a minute!*” you shout. “*I’ve misunderstood.*” You catch him. “*Won’t you come inside? I’ve fixed lunch, but there’s enough for two.*”

His eyes say: “*You still don’t know me.*” He follows.

He sits at your place, you fix another sandwich. He waits, then raising his hands invokes God’s presence. You’d forgotten to say grace. You eat in silence.

Finally, “*I’m embarrassed, but I’m sure I know you, I just can’t recall your name. Forgive me.*”

“*Done,*” he replies.

No help. He goes on eating. Who IS he?

God’s visitation is a take over, an inspection, a judgment, a blessing or a repossession. That’s good news for some: not for all.

How might we fare? By Jesus we come to the Father. He visits, expects welcome and joy at His coming. If we don’t know the Jesus of the Bible, it’s a stranger we meet at our altars.

Jesus cried: “*If only you had known... There is a day coming when every stone in you will be swept away... because you didn’t know the day of your visitation.*”

God’s coming. He will strip away all that we hold important. Welcome Him. He comes for His own.

ACW-DWS Notes

Fall is almost here, and the days are getting shorter. Our thoughts turn to projects indoors instead of out in the garden. For ACW members, it is time to think about Christmas bazaars and projects for our fund-raising drawings at Synod. If you are a member of a church with a large ACW membership, items such as gift baskets come to mind, but many of us come from churches with small congregations, and rely on individual contributions, such as quilts, knitted items or a variety of handmade items. You are very inventive, and we have had a wonderful selection each year, raising money for the Bishop Morse Youth Camp.

The Diocese of the Western States and Diocese of the Southwestern States Synods in 2023 will be held in Walnut Creek, CA at Embassy Suites Hotel from Tuesday, April 25 until Saturday April 29. Mark those dates on your calendar! As we will be in the Bay Area, hopefully more churches will be able to participate, and traveling for those outside the area should be more convenient.

I particularly want to mention one item that Carol Karcher, from St. Ann's Chapel in Palo Alto, CA is working on. Carol has donated so many beautiful handmade items over the years, and for the past two years has been instrumental in raising well over \$1,000 for Student Support at St. Joseph of Arimathea Seminary with her "Preserving the Priesthood" table at the DWS Synod, selling jams, jellies and anything that will fit in a jar! This year, she is working on a beautiful cross-stitch picture, which will be framed, and tickets sold for \$5.00 each for a drawing at Synod.

This shows how the picture is progressing, and Carol aims to have it finished by mid-October. It will then be framed and Carol hopes to be able to visit some of the churches in the diocese to show them the picture and to sell tickets, which will benefit Student Support at the Seminary.



This is just an example (above) of what one person can do. I know we have so much talent in our membership, and there are so many financial needs to be met that all of us in ACW can play our part.

Thank you all for everything you do!

Gillian Golden. President ACW-DWS



The 2023 Ordo Kalendars are prepared and are available for ordering. The Ordo Kalendar conforms to the 1928 Prayer Book and both the American and Anglican Missals and is in full color and edited for Church use by Father Matthew Weber of Saint Ann's Chapel in Palo Alto. There is space on the front of the Kalendar where a parish may, if desired, insert a picture, its name and other information after receiving the Kalendars.

The Ordo Kalendar is of invaluable use to clergy and altar guilds alike. It helps determine the color for the day, whether the day is festal or ferial and a guide to whether the Gloria in Excelsis and/or the Nicene Creed is required. The same applies for proper prefaces.

Nona has mailed out order forms but if lost or you didn't get an order form, you may direct inquiries to Mrs. Nona Gourley (209) 862-2582 or email our Ordo Kalendar website: order1928bcpcalendar@gmail.com.

Instruction on the Faith



Audio recording of "Instruction on the Faith" by Fr. Gordon Hines. - "Why do we give our priests the title, "Father"? Did not Our Lord say to call no man "father" but God?"

Click on the link below to hear the recording.

[Why do we give our priests the title, "Father"?](#)



Reflections on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and Commemoration of 9/11
by Christine Sunderland

Christine Sunderland, laymember of the APCK, is a well-known novelist from the San Francisco Bay Area. Her stories, set in Europe, Hawaii, and California, draw from the past but take place in the present, dealing with themes of love, suffering, faith, family, and freedom. Visit her website here: [Christine Sunderland](#)

**September Journal, Thirteenth
Sunday after Trinity**



England's Queen Elizabeth passed into Eternity a few days before our American memorial of Nine-Eleven, the bombing of the World Trade Center towers on September 11, 2001, in New York. The two events weigh upon my heart and mind in nearly equal measure. Both the good queen and the crumbling towers are icons of Western Civilization; both are signs of a passing age and a loss of innocence, a call to defend freedom in the free

world.

There has been much of late in the news about Elizabeth Windsor, whose reign spanned seventy years. She embodied many Judeo-Christian values - courage, responsibility, humility, work ethic, duty, love of God, love of family and the "family of nations," as King Charles III said in his recent address to the nation (and to the world). Her quiet reserve gave her strength and stature and allowed her to embrace all of her people regardless of differences in background or belief. She is greatly mourned and terribly missed.

Our World Trade Center was a symbol of our freedom and democracy, our own work ethic, our desire to create and to build, rather than to destroy. The Islamist terrorists chose the towers, for they were iconic symbols of our free world. They also chose Washington D.C. targets, symbols of our nation, of our rule by the people, for the people, through representative government.



America revolted against England's monarchy in 1776, for monarchy isn't always good. While England's monarchy is limited constitutionally, nevertheless, the character and inclinations, not to mention self-discipline, of the person wearing the inherited crown affects the events of their reign, for good or ill. Americans wanted to rule themselves and, having come to these shores for pure and Puritan reasons, having been persecuted by a king, they had a history of freedom of religion. They wanted not only self-rule, but freedom to speak and worship as they chose. They risked all to travel by sea to these shores, and most made the journey because of religious persecution at home. They wanted freedom to worship, to speak.

Today those freedoms are once again threatened, not by outsiders, although that may be the case as well, but by our own people in power.



In the short history of the United States (compared to England) Americans drifted away from the Judeo-Christian ethos, a rule of behavior under the authority of God necessary for democracy to thrive, even survive. As we drifted away from God, we invited anarchy, for without a higher authority, we become little kings, dwelling in our own castles of desire, greed, and self.

And so we honor the life of Queen Elizabeth II, a life embodying the Christian ethos, a reminder to Americans the substance of our great loss, the current

denial of that ethos. And it **is** a great loss, this rejection of God's authority, for the vacuum is soon filled by tyranny.

Even a monarchy relies on this goodness to define the reign, to keep tyranny at bay. Will the new king revere the Ten Commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai and stated by Our Lord Jesus in today's Gospel? Will the new king, with a dubious past and woke religion, believe in the authority of God? Will he encourage freedom in his realm?

And so we have the death of the Queen, an icon of Western Civilization, a civilization that has tried over time to civilize the world, has fed the world, defended the world, and taught the world that life is sacred and human dignity precious. Western Civilization has given us art and music, beauty and love, truth and honesty. While the ideals are not always met, the ideals remain, albeit barely.

Today, these ideals seem to be crumbling like the imploding towers. We are told there is no truth, and it is true, there is no truth without God.

"I am the Truth," Christ said. And in today's Gospel we hear the story of the Good Samaritan, the man who cared for the wounded traveler on the side of the road. For we are told to love our neighbor, not only our own family, our own nation, but the family of nations. We are to love one another, care for one another, respect one another. This is the message embodied in Elizabeth, Queen. This is the message embodied in the American founding.



The twin towers fell to ash. In Elizabeth there seemed a permanence, a faithfulness to freedom and the ideals of Western Civilization. She has left us for a better world. We enter a new age, a time of watchfulness, a time of care, as we defend the Truth which will set us free, Our Lord of Hosts.

Thank you, Elizabeth Windsor, for your life and devotion to your people. As Americans honor those lost in the Nine-Eleven attacks that sought to destroy America, we remember your faith in freedom, born of your faith in God.

RIP, Elizabeth, Queen

Kenneth B Johnson (Dec. 5, 1922 - Sept. 10, 2022)

It is with great sadness we announce the death of Kenneth Johnson, parishioner of St. George's Church in Las Vegas, Nevada. Kenneth served in the Royal Air Force as a reconnaissance pilot during the Second World War. He was also attached to the United States Army Air Force division under Elliot Roosevelt, son of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Kenneth was born on December 5th, 1922 and departed into Eternity on Saturday, September 10th, 2022.



Kenneth is preceded in death by his well beloved wife Joyce (married 70 years), his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Kenneth was a devout Anglican who strove to emulate the love of Christ in service to others. To read more about his life, you can purchase his autobiography, [A Spy in the Sky](#), through Amazon.com. RIP - Kenneth Johnson

A Sermon for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity



Once upon a time, a little boy was playing in his sandbox. He had cars and trucks, a plastic pail, and a shiny plastic shovel. In the process of creating roads and tunnels in the soft sand, he discovered a large rock in the middle of the sandbox. With no little bit of struggle, he dislodged the rock and pushed it across the sandbox. But when he got the rock to the edge of the sandbox, however, he found that he couldn't roll it up and over the wall. Determined, the little boy shoved, pushed, and pried, but every time he thought he had made some progress, the rock tipped and then fell back into the sandbox. The little boy grunted, struggled, pushed and shoved. But his only reward was to have the rock roll back, smashing his fingers.

Finally, he burst into tears of frustration. All the time, the boy's father had been watching the drama from his living room window. At the moment the tears fell, a large shadow fell across the boy and the sandbox. It was the boy's father. Gently but firmly he said, "Son, why didn't you use all the strength that you had? The frustrated boy sobbed back, "But I did, Daddy, I did! I used all the strength that I had!" "No, son," corrected his father kindly. "You didn't use all the strength you had. You didn't ask me." And with that the father reached down, picked up the rock, and removed it from the sandbox.

Of course, you understand that that the story I taddled is an allegory and that we are the little boy, the sand box is our life situations and the father is our Heavenly Father; the rock represents sin and the smashed fingers represent the damage of sin. But the boy's tears represent prayer which our Almighty Father always answers. So, my little parable teaches us about our Salvation. God gave us humans, his children, made in his image, free will and a big sand box. But our sins, the big rock, caused us to fall from grace and, no matter how hard we tried, we could not atone for our sins. So, God came to us as the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, became one of us at the Incarnation, and removed the rock of our sins by dying on the cross and rising from the dead.

And of course, we can be stubborn like the little boy. We think that we can save ourselves. [In theology, that is called the sin of Pelagianism.] In the Gospel, the man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech [he stuttered] means that we are too often spiritually deaf to the Word of God and that we too often do not ask for God's help. And the Epistle is an essay telling us that healing – all kinds – is found in God. Like Saint Paul, when we begin to trust in God, we can boldly proclaim that our sufficiency is in God, so that we too can be ministers of the New Testament. And so, we can preach that God is always more willing to hear than we to pray and pours upon us the abundance of his mercy, removing the rock of our sins and giving us better things that we could possibly desire.

And the key virtue is compassion. Compassion is not just a feeling of love or empathy, but true compassion is both a feeling of empathy and the action the proceeds from that feeling. Saint Paul explains this interrelationship between God and his children in 2 Corinthians 1.3-4: *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.* And so it is, that just as Jesus felt compassion and healed the stuttering man born deaf, so in like manner, we must have compassion on our brothers and sisters and, in the process, heal their sins and ours.

Many years ago, I came across two maxims that can help us to follow in the spirit of Christ's compassion (the first is anonymous): *Respect people's feelings. Even if it doesn't mean anything to you, it could mean everything to them;* and: (the second, sometimes attributed to Plato or Philo of Alexandria – and others): *Everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle you know nothing about. Be kind – always.*

Save the dates for next year's concurrent Diocesan Synods - DWS & DSWS

The 2023 Diocesan Synods for the Diocese of the Western States and Diocese of the Southwestern States will be held concurrently in Walnut Creek, California, Wednesday, April 26 - Saturday, April 29. The Bishops, other clergy, and laity of the respective dioceses are excited about holding the Synods on the same date and location! More information to follow in the October issue of [The Shepherd's Staff](#).



Anglican Province of Christ the King

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St. George's Anglican Church | 7676 West Gilmore Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89129

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