



MARCH 2020

The Vine

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches..." John 15:5

Gospel Opportunities!!!! (Archbishop Beach)

. . . Here is the situation...and we all see it. Our Culture, which was once a place that worked *with* the church, is actually working *against* it! It is literally pushing the Christian faith aside. The Pew Research Center recently published some sobering findings: the percentage of adults who describe themselves as Christian is down *another* 12% in the last ten years. And the number of adults who say they have no faith is *up* about 10%.



The bottom line is this: There are fewer people attending fewer churches fewer times a month.

I have seen this coming for a long time. Haven't you? Two significant forces are pushing against the Church and the message of Jesus Christ. First, secularism brings the misguided belief that physical pleasure and material things are all that matter. And second, skepticism brings doubt about our need for Christ as Savior, or the need for any savior at all!

This means our Gospel opportunities at this time in history are incredible. I am more energized now about the mission of the Anglican Church in North America than I have ever been. When I see the darkness that is around us, it makes it easier to see those who are *standout* lights of hope and inspiration in our own Church.

I see heroes of the faith living and sharing the Gospel in these difficult times. The advance of the Gospel might be set back here and there, but it will never be stopped. Remember what Jesus said, that even the Gates of Hell would not prevail against his Church.

It is wonderful to see standout stories and heroes around the church. There are signs of hope everywhere. Here are a few:

- I attended the New Wineskins Conference where there were over 1,200 missionaries and mission-minded Anglicans in attendance. I was greatly inspired by so many stories of amazing, sacrificial, and heroic Gospel ministry all over the world. This was another HUGE sign of Hope.
- And not only are dozens of church planters being sent out across our Province in new mission fields, our historic churches are stepping into the work of church planting as well. In the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina, for example, historic St. Helena's, Beaufort, itself started in 1712, is now planting two new churches in neighboring areas. They are fighting the good fight and making an impact for the gospel. I see signs of Hope all around.

I am sure that you have your own stories to tell about the people who are heroic lights shining in the darkness. The Apostle Paul reminds us about this in his Letter to the Philippians where he also faced a 'crooked and twisted' generation as we do, and he called upon the followers of Jesus to shine as lights in the world of darkness (Phil. 2:15). The Good News of the Gospel always shines in the darkness! Even as the days are harder and darker, the Gospel can shine all the more brightly, bringing God's grace and light to many in need.

In Christ,

Archbishop Foley Beach

Our Path of Christian Maturity

Worship Grow Serve

The Faith Flash

Are you receiving our email newsletter, *The Faith Flash*? *The Faith Flash* comes out weekly with timely information and reminders. Sign up today by going to our website (www.faithanglicanchurch.org), or calling the church office (755-4848).

ADOT's Midsouth Deanery
 Pickwick State Park, TN

POCs:
 Fr. Chris Cairns
 865.300.7087
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 703.463.7753

Rest
 Fellowship
 Shooting
 Fishing
 Hiking
 Spiritual Renewal

MARCH 06-08, 2020

MEN'S RETREAT

saintandrewshuntsville@gmail.com

Thank You Faith

I wish to thank all of you for your prayers and words of encouragement during my recent illness with a stubborn kidney stone. On the second try they were able to extricate that nasty thing. I want you all to know that I truly felt your prayers during this difficulty and I am very appreciative of the love and prayers you extended to me and my family. Thank you is just not enough. God bless you all.

Laqueta

Way to go: FAC and Daryl

Last year, through the efforts of the Fellowship Connection Team and The Parish Council, a 12 week class was offered at FAC called Learn To Earn. It was offered as part of our partnership with Collierville Literacy (CLC).



One of the students attending was Daryl Foster. He struggled in school and was unable to get into a technical college. He came to CLC For help. Together they learned he had dyslexia. Through support and counseling, Daryl enrolled in the Life Skills class at FAC. Often, he would

leave his first job, attend the class, and immediately go to his second job.

With Father Hand teaching Financial Basics and Daniel King working on Resume writing/ Interviewing skills, as well as sessions on communication, problem solving, teamwork and professionalism, Daryl was armed with new skills for the workplace.

Since finishing the class, he has a new job and is learning to sheet rock and remodel. Daryl plans to earn a certification and continue progressing in his work life. Way to go!

Called to the Quiet Retreat Saturday, March 21st, 9-Noon

Do you want to draw close to your Lord? Then escape the noise of this world; come spend some quiet time with your Lord, a time of prayer, meditation, reflection,



and hearing from God. From nine until noon at our *Called to the Quiet Retreat*, we will begin with Morning Prayer, have a time of directed prayer, meditation, and reflection, and conclude with Noon Day Prayers. A booklet is provided

to help guide your time of prayer. You may enjoy walking the grounds or sitting in a lawn chair for a portion of your personal time of prayer and meditation. You may want to bring your Bible as well. Spiritual Direction and Reconciliation (Confession) will be available.

The Spiritual Discipline of Simplicity

In his book *The Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster said, "The Christian discipline of simplicity is an *inward* reality that results in an *outward* life-style." What does simplicity look like? Simplicity is living free from the lust of possessions or the need for possessions to find self-worth or happiness. Simplicity is reducing the clutter and complexity of your life, so you and your resources may be more devoted to God and his people. Simplicity includes reducing the clutter of your life, your mind, and your possessions, so more of your life, your mind, and your possessions may be devoted to God and His kingdom. It's time to do some spring cleaning! It's time to reduce the clutter!

Birthdays

Phil Laquinta	03	Kevin Holland	18
Patty Kirby	10	Leah Trippel	25
Lynda Zachry	11	Bill Fisher	30
Pat Covington	17	Tyler Howard	30
Ken Guess	17		

Anniversaries

Bill and Sudy Fisher	01
Chuck and Deb Glover	13



Prayer Corner

Nancy Ebbing	John White	Doug Conner
Mansell Lancaster	Bill Walsh	
Eli Ritchie	Ginger Webb	
Janie Beth Covington	Fred Robertson	
Lincoln Tatum	Family of Sandra Greene	

IRS RMDs UGH! Try QCDs for that headache!

Sometimes, a donation can be less costly if you pay attention to which pocket the money comes out of. For example, almost two years ago I turned 70 and six months after this birthday, I was forced to begin dealing with something called Required Minimum Distributions or RMD's for short. The federal government wants to make sure I spend down my tax-sheltered retirement savings (and they get their share of taxes on those funds) so they required that individuals 70 and ½ years old annually withdraw a percentage of their retirement funds from these tax-exempt accounts. That law has recently changed and for some of you the magic age is now 72. I won't go into the mystifying vagaries of how RMDs are calculated. Simply stated what makes them important is the fact that they can affect your annual income and, accordingly, your tax rate. RMDs count as ordinary income and could increase your taxes. However, the government that "takes away" also has mechanisms that might ease this burden. For example, consider Qualified Charitable Distributions or QCD's for short. They allow you to take your RMD but send some or all of it to your favorite 501(c)3 charity, such as Faith. Working with the financial institution that holds your retirement account, you may be able to get them to send an amount you allot to your charity instead of you. The charity gets the money, not you, but since you don't "touch the money" it doesn't count as income to you and you do not owe taxes on that money. You just don't get to deduct this as a charitable donation. There is also a maximum annual QCD value of \$100,000 which doesn't affect me. Obviously as with all tax issues, it is a little more complex than I've explained here but your tax advisor or the institution holding your retirement accounts can give you a better and more complete explanation. I know several folks who use this method to give donations without having to deal with the issue of paying taxes on those funds. I think it has helped me and I urge you to consider it.

Ron Kirby
Treasurer, Faith Anglican Church



A Testimonial from One of Our Rwandan Students

KWIZERA Jean Claude

KIBUNGO DIOCESE, NDEGO PARISH

a. **What has caused me to study Theology** with the help of the Church is that I love God and want to know and serve Him in a better way.



b. **Studying Theology** will help me to know the word of God in which his will is found and it will help me gain the capacity of serving Him and his Church in a good way and make me able to know and differentiate the true Gospel and false teachings that are many around.

c. **Concerning myself:** I am KWIZERA Jean Claude, I am 36 years old and I live with my wife and our 2 children. I teach languages (Kinyarwanda, English and French) in primary school. I was born in 1983 and after 7 years my mother died. My father married another wife who mistreated me so much. I attended the Sunday school where they told us the stories Joseph who was hated by his brothers and sold but continued to show his faithfulness to God and tGod delivered him from all the challenges he faced. I learnt from him that when you love God no matter whatever challenges you pass through, God protects and make better days to you. From that time, I committed my life and my all challenges in the hands of God. Now, I love Jesus, his church and my desire is to continue serving Him and his people.

d. **Concerning my studies:** I studied and completed A2 in Teaching modern languages option at Teacher's Training College. It was not easy to get school fees because of the family challenges but fortunately I got the supporters who helped me and this showed me that the Lord has a good plan for me. Now, I am a teacher of languages in primary school and I am grateful for that.

God bless you so much!!!!

Who's In Charge

As I watched the congressional impeachment proceedings a few weeks ago, I was overcome by the strong, commanding emotions I saw and heard. God impressed on me how dangerously easy it could be to fall into Satan's camp without even being aware of it. The enemy of our souls is that subtle and deceiving. How good it would be to better understand the world's ways and how they capture us. "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life." Proverbs 4:23

The things I see, think, and meditate on for a period of time may drop in my heart and become reality and truth even if they are not. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind. Even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings." Jeremiah 17:9, 10

"Search me, O God, and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23, 24

Every Sunday service we confess to God—"We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent" (God, change our minds and our hearts.)

Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane for the spiritual unity of all believers of subsequent generations. He also prayed to the Father "That the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them." John 17:26

I must say that "The Light of the World: did shine before each session of the Senate proceedings when Barry C. Black, chaplain of the Senate, prayed greatly anointed prayers. To God be the glory. Pat Covington, The Prayer Team



2020 Ladies Retreat

Ladies, mark your calendars for Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25.

We are returning to the beautiful Our Lady Queen of Peace Retreat Center for our annual retreat. Join us for a wonderful time of Christian fellowship and spiritual renewal. More

details will be coming soon. Save the date, and save your dollars. Sudy Fisher



Ministry Moment

For 14 years, The FAC Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study has been meeting at IHOP (Wolfchase) every Tuesday morning from 8:00 to 9:30. Their study is from Standard Lessons Commentary, 2019-2020, 4 quarterly subjects, 52 weekly sessions.

The current group includes: Peter Kersting, Gordon Pike, Bill Zachary, Henry Booth, Jim Johnson, Al Graskey, Bill Gresko, and Bill Fisher. These men of faith study together and then go forth, planting the seed of the Word.

If you would like to join them, contact Bill Fisher, or any of these men. There are plenty of seats open at His table- plus pancakes!

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL LADIES TEA

The Annual Ladies Tea, hosted by The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross, is Sunday, April 19th, at 12:15 pm in the Children's Ministry Area. All ladies of Faith Anglican Church are invited! Daughters, Granddaughters, and Nieces are welcome!

Please make a reservation by adding your name(s) to the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

We look forward to sharing food and fellowship with you!

laqueta@faithanglicanchurch.org
 All articles for *The Vine* are due in the office the
second Monday of the month, send to:

Service Times:
Sunday:
 Holy Eucharist 8:10/10:30am
 Sunday School 9:30am

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My Highway Miracle

When Herb and I lived near Columbia, SC, I had a 45 minute commute to work. I was driving on I-20 in heavy 8 o'clock traffic in the far left lane going 65 mph. The car ahead suddenly swerved right to move to the middle lane... then I saw a car stopped ahead of me half off the road blocking my lane.

I jerked the steering wheel all the way to the right which made the car fishtail, then I jerked it all the way to the left and I knew then the car was out of my control. I shut my eyes and cried out, "OH, GOD!!!!" and meant it with all my heart. I kept my eyes shut. I could hear tires screeching and horns honking. I slammed my foot on the brake. The car stopped. I opened my eyes and could not believe where I ended up...

I was parked perfectly parallel to the highway on the far right shoulder facing the wrong direction. Somehow I crossed 3 lanes of heavy traffic with my eyes closed and without a scratch.

That car blocking my lane pulled onto the shoulder. A man walked up to my window, and said, "Lady, are you all right? I am so sorry. I thought I had pulled off the road. I'm with Law Enforcement and we're chasing two kids who escaped from the Juvenile Detention Center near here. I don't know how you missed that eighteen-wheeler."

To be honest, I never saw the eighteen-wheeler. By then, I began to cry with tears running down my cheeks. He asked, "Is there anything I can do to help you?"

Between the sobs, I said, "Can you turn my car around and put it in the right direction?"

We both laughed. He maneuvered the car in the right direction. We said our good-byes and I sat there a minute thanking God for a real miracle.

Thirty-five years later, I still recall that miraculously God directed my car to safety- saving my life and Elizabeth's tiny life, too (I was 3 months pregnant)

"For He is the living God and He endures forever... He rescues and He saves; He performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth." Daniel 6:26-27 (NIV)

Everyone has a story to tell about how God has worked in their life. Consider sharing it with others and submit a short article to the Vine. We love hearing about the great things God has done. Mary Hand