



JUNE 2020

# The Vine

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

## Some Will Cheer and Some Will Weep

When we had to close down our in-building public worship services, we all knew with certainty that the first Sunday back would be just a few weeks away, we would greet one another with hugs and handshakes, and we would enjoy a celebratory feast together. Now everything looks very very different. What will our first Sunday back look like?

Before describing our first Sunday back, let me re-tell the story of the first worship service in Jerusalem after decades with no temple worship. Due to the sins of God's people and their refusal to repent, the Lord brought the vicious Babylonians against Jerusalem. By 586 BC, they had destroyed the city, the walls, and the temple. Nothing was left. Many died. The educated and the leaders were all exiled to Babylon. They could not attend worship in the temple. Jeremiah – known as the Weeping Prophet – describes Jerusalem and its inhabitants like this, "... She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave. She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks ..." (Lamentations 1:1-2).

Under the Persian King Cyrus, the Jewish exiles were allowed to return to Jerusalem. It wasn't until 515 BC – 71 after the destruction of Solomon's temple – that God's people would be allowed to again worship in the rebuilt temple. However, this temple was not nearly as grand as Solomon's temple. It was but a shadow of the glorious first temple. How did the people react to the new temple? Ezra tells us this,

"But many of the older priests, Levites, and other leaders who had seen the first Temple **wept aloud** when they saw the new Temple's foundation. The others, however, were **shouting for joy**" (Ezra 3:12).

When we open our church building for in-person worship at Faith Anglican Church, there will be weeping and shouting for you. Likely for another year, worship will not be what we remember or what we had hoped to return to. No hugs. No handshakes. No feast. Many will continue to worship through Facebook Live and come to receive the consecrated bread after the worship service, so we won't see each other like before. It will be sad for child and adult alike. Yet, what a joy to be in our worship space again singing to the Lord and receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus! That is something to shout about!

The Parish Council and I are working hard behind the scenes to prepare our building to be a safe and joyful space to worship the Lord and see one another. As of the writing of this article, we have 31 items on our list which must be resolved or implemented to open safely. Much research is being done and we are listening to the counsel of our bishop, and our city, state, and federal authorities. Once our Parish Council has approved our reopening plan, we will let you know. Please keep our staff, Parish Council, and one another in your fervent prayers as we navigate these uncharted waters, that we may be propelled by the wind of the Holy Spirit!

### 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](http://www.faithanglicanchurch.org)), or calling the church office (755-4848).

## MY STORY



My story begins before my birth. My mom is a very petite woman (4'10"), and in general did not make babies easily. Part of the way through pregnancy, the doctor told her I would die in the womb. My father responded, "You don't know the Power of our God!" Needless to say, I did not die in the womb. However, I was born two weeks early via C-section. But, my birth was not without consequences. I was born with a severe narrowing of my aorta. Had I not been born early, I likely *would have died in the womb. At two days old, I had open heart surgery; the surgery itself had complications. The hope was to open my valve wide enough that my heart would grow to fit it and pump normally, but that's not what happened. Instead, my valve now has the opposite problem. It is too wide, and thus does not close all the way. My heart now has to pump twice as hard to push the blood out of it that flows back into it between beats.*

My heart problem is just the tip of the iceberg. My parents had a shaky marriage at best. When I was very young, my dad had fallen into some destructive habitual sins, and as such was in and out of our lives due to his own struggles. Screaming matches were common, and this tension continued to build in our family. Because of my dad being in and out of our lives, this left a void that cried out for something...more. At the age of six years old, I had a talk with my mom about it. She gave me the clichéd, "God-shaped hole in your heart" discussion. Even at that age, I realized that if this "Jesus fella" were real, He'd be the *only thing worth following with all of my heart. Hell was not even a concept in my coming to Christ; as far as I knew, Hell was just a place the devil lived in the Tom and Jerry cartoons. My conversion was only based on simple Love.*

Later in life, I endured verbal and physical abuse by bullies at my school. As this continued and I spiraled into feelings of loneliness, tensions at home were reaching a boiling point. On top of all this, I had my second heart surgery at 13 years old. Needless to say, this was a lot to put on a young boy. I began to descend into depression until things finally exploded. Christmas Night of 2012, my parents had a huge fight in front of my older brother and I. Harsh, terrible things were said and my father left the next day; my parents divorced (on Biblical grounds). I was distraught, confused, angry. The divorce was very, very messy and I was caught in the middle. The bullying and abuse at school was continuing, and I felt alone except for

Christ and my youth pastor at the time. My depression was mounting. Soon, I had thoughts of running away; then I began hoping I would die in my sleep. I even begged Christ to just let me die in my sleep and join Him in heaven. When this didn't happen, I began researching ways to kill myself. Eventually I attempted suicide but praise God I failed. When I failed, I heard the Holy Ghost shout, "Go tell your mother what you just did!" The next day I was in a pediatric Christian counseling center. None of the professionals did me any good. But then, God sent one of the wisest ladies I'd ever met into my life. She was a volunteer, and had the gifts of prophecy and counseling. She looked right through me and said, "Your problem is anger." I said, "I'm not angry, I'm depressed." She smiled and responded, "No, you're angry; with your father, with life, maybe with God. But you have no outlet for it, and anger turned inward becomes self-destructive; becomes depressive." I was stunned...she was right. It was then that I realized that Christ's teachings on forgiveness aren't just to reconcile others to ourselves; His teachings set us free from a self-destructive prison of bitterness and sin. That evening I repented of my sin of anger, and in my heart forgave my father. Since then, I have been very quick to forgive others in my heart and show them the abundance of Grace and Mercy that Christ has shown us. I also have been, in degrees, working on my relationship with my father. Our relationship isn't perfect, and it's not as good as it could have been had all of this not happened, but we are working together to try and become friends.

Tripp Bond

### Birthdays

Audria Guess	12	Laura Lutrick	25
IJ Ifedili	17	Peter Lutrick	28
John Evans	18	Frederic Ndaruhutse	30
Edith Langlois	21		

### Anniversaries

John & Jane Scott	06
Fred & Carol Robertson	10
Bill & Nancy Douglas	14
Peter & Laura Lutrick	18
Lance & Mary Forsdick	20
Ken & Baiba Guess	30



### Prayer Corner

Nancy Ebbing	John White
Mansell Lancaster	Bill Walsh
Eli Ritchie	James Ferguson
Janie Beth Covington	Christina Zachary
Larry Wilkes	

## Ministry Moment

Have you ever wondered what happens behind the scenes at the altar? We on the Altar Guild team are responsible for that scene.

As our guide book says, serving on the Altar Guild is an act of devotion. Spiritually, prayerfully, and reverently we prepare the Altar Table for the Eucharist.

Our duties include, but are not limited to, setting the Lord's table, baptisms, weddings, and burials. We also place the seasonal hangings on the pulpit and carry the wine cruet, water cruet, and the communion bread to the priest at the appropriate time in the service. We also have the privilege of caring for the linens used during the service. Patty Kirby and I are currently taking care of laundering the linens. Each member is assigned a rotating Sunday or Special Service schedule to serve.

Our current roster of 8:10 members are: Patty Kirby, Jennifer Bostick, Beth Laquinta, Amy Trippel, and Janice Badgett. We set up for both the 8:10 and 10:30 services. Our 10:30 members are: Cathy Evans, Betty Ellard, Becky Conner, and Danne Parham. Their duties include taking down the altar after the service and cleaning the vessels. All the members are very supportive of each other and help each other when in need. It is a joy to work with them all.

So if you are interested in being a "behind the scenes" person like me, I invite you to speak to me or one of our Altar Guild members. We will happily explain the duties in detail. I will also set up a time to train you for service.

There is no greater calling for one's life than to serve the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ. Sharing these duties with other members of the Altar Guild makes this ministry a rewarding and fulfilling way to grow your faith as a member of Faith Anglican Church.

Janice Badgett



## A Message from the Treasurer

Thank You to all those folks who have financially supported Faith during this crazy time. Our bills keep coming in and it is wonderful to have y'all support your church.

## Youth News

Hey y'all! Blessings of Christ to you, my brothers and sisters in the Faith Family, as we near Pentecost Sunday (the Birthday of the Church)!

Here are some updates on the Youth and Families Ministry: We are still doing YouthCrew on Sunday nights at 4pm via Zoom; in addition, we are also doing Youth Hangouts on Sunday mornings to catch up and chat at 9am. If your teen would like to join, or if you know any teens who would like to join, ask them to email me at my NEW :) email address:

[trippbond@faithanglicanchurch.org](mailto:trippbond@faithanglicanchurch.org). My newsletter, the Comfort Corner, is being sent out to all who want it. It is weekly, and if you'd like to be mailed a copy please let the Church office know. On Sunday, May 31st (Pentecost Sunday) I will be preaching and will greatly appreciate your prayers for me. On Sunday, May 17th we are having our very first Quarterly Parents' Meeting.



If any of you ever need to talk or pray, do not hesitate to email me or get my personal number from the Church office. I love to pray with and help others and will keep all things confidential unless there is the possibility of you or someone else being harmed. Please note: My Sabbath days are Mondays; if you try to contact me on Mondays please leave a message and I will get back to you on Tuesday.

God Bless you all!

Tripp

## FAC Re-Missioning 2020

Re-Missioning efforts slowed in March as all eyes turned toward COVID 19. Before our focus had to shift, FAC Leadership met at their annual Parish Retreat (March 13th-14th) to work on one topic: Re-Missioning.

The attendees, representing the Parish Council and Ministry leaders from many parts of the church, focused on various aspects of our Re-Missioning effort: 1) What went well in 2019 in our chosen area of Inspired Worship Service, 2) what could have worked better and 3) prioritizing what do we want to accomplish in 2020. A summary of those responses are below. The next topic was to begin to break down and come up with ideas to tackle the lowest rated element from our 2019 survey: Evangelism.

### 1) What went well in 2019:

Greeting new people has a new emphasis, process, materials and volunteers

Fellowship has been reinvigorated and events are celebrated. (Two PC Members have taken on Fellowship as their primary area of responsibility)

Our partnership with Collierville Literacy has been good for us and for our community

People are feeling more energized

We are looking forward as a congregation to new initiatives



### 2) What could work even better

More work on follow up to our visitors

Work through recommendations for our Worship Service

More communication on spiritual gifts and how to fit into the new ministry opportunities

### 3) What do we want to do in 2020

Follow-up process for visitors

Training for Greeters

Try Third Sunday of the month prayers for birthdays and anniversaries during Worship

More opportunities for those who are not connected and those who can not attend the Sunday service

Appoint a sub committee of the Worship Re-Missioning Team to work through recommendations

Work on making the Narthex feel even more welcoming

### Evangelism- next Element of Focus

FAC leadership examined four components of Evangelism: Compassionate Church, Corporate Evangelistic Efforts, Personal Evangelism, and Seeker Sensitive Church. Tune in as we continue to break down these components even further to help us understand how we can reach the unchurched. We are still on course and focused to make great strides in 2020 and are looking for volunteers. Interesting to note is that some of the things we have had to do during the pandemic are actually things we need to do to accomplish our Re-Missioning journey. HmMMMM

## ***Called to the Quiet Prayer Retreat*** **Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 9-Noon**

This spring has been like nothing any of us has ever experienced! Come quiet your soul in the Lord's presence at our *Called to the Quiet*, a time of prayer, meditation, reflection, and hearing from God. From nine until noon at our Socially Distanced *Called to the Quiet* prayer retreat, we will begin with Morning Prayer, have a time of directed prayer, meditation, and reflection, and conclude with Noon Day Prayers. You may enjoy walking the grounds or sitting in a lawn chair for a portion of your personal time of prayer and meditation. Spiritual Direction and Reconciliation (Confession) will be available. You are welcome to come for the whole time or for a portion of the time allotted.

Father's Day is June 21.  
Do not just text him.  
Give him a call or skype.  
So much better than texting!



## **Virtual Daughters Training**

If you have interest in learning about the Daughters of the Holy Cross or want to begin a period of Discernment to think about joining, training will begin soon. It can be at your own pace, when it is convenient for you, and in the comfort of your own home. Contact Sherry Wilkes or Chris Shields for more details.



## **What is "Tithing"?**

Sometimes people call their offering their "tithing." This isn't always accurate. Tithing is acknowledging that God is your provider by returning 10% of your income to Him. Tithing levels the "giving field" for it is true proportional giving. When the one who makes \$500 a week gives the Lord \$50, in the Lord's eyes they are giving the same as the one who makes \$2,000 a week and gives the Lord \$200. Why give the Lord 10% of your income? God says, "Bring the full tithing into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need" (Malachi 3:10). Tithing is how God expects us to show our trust in Him to provide for us abundantly, and He welcomes us to test His faithfulness!



The Christian holiday of *Pentecost*, which is celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1–31).



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Service Times:

**Sunday:**

Holy Eucharist ..... 8:10/10:30am  
Sunday School ..... 9:30am

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



## Approved Workmen are Not Ashamed

Awana had their first zoom meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>.  
The kids had fun playing Simon says, reciting bible verses,  
singing songs, sharing prayers, and just chatting with each other.  
We plan to Zoom again real soon. Mary Hand

