



# Loaves & Fishes

SEPTEMBER 2023

## *'things that break the heart of God'*

*Gratitude is a virtue that really is its own reward. We all know that gratitude is owed for the miracle and blessings of life. But we may not have considered the fact that the more we consider all we have to be grateful for, the more we realize how much there is for which we are grateful. The more we experience gratitude, the more the quiet joy of our own lives. Inside you will find suggestions from Father John for ways to experience gratitude; below are reflections of Dan Clendenin, from his Thanksgiving 2001 essay.*

Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays. I think that's because it appears singularly difficult to commercialize gratitude. So we have a day set aside to glory in gratefulness, and as a friend of mine said in an email not long ago, when we cultivate a sense of gratitude "we learn something profound about God."

A few weeks before Thanksgiving I needed to buy some groceries and after an errand I found that I was right next to Andronicos, a specialty grocery store for people who do not need to watch their budgets. As I entered the store the salad bar blocked my way, which was fortunate because I love olives.

When I looked a little more carefully, I counted nineteen different types of fresh olives I could purchase. Clearly, thank God, I was one of the winners who lived in an upscale zip code and whose kids got a proper education, part of a culture and history that was, well, very rich.

That same afternoon I was reading the news on the internet



## the left-hand column

☛ September will be a busy month here at St. Andrew's, with luncheons for retired teachers and for Thrift Shop volunteers—a sale at the Thrift Shop too, by the way, during the second and third weeks.

☛ Don't miss our homecoming celebration September 9, a good time to catch up with old friends.

☛ Very important for marking the move into autumn, our fall plant sale is set for the 22nd and 23rd. Nothing says fall is here like the smell of mums in full bloom.

☛ Steve sold our collected scrap metal for \$86, and, of course saved it from the dump so it can be remade into something useful.

☛ Our holy mowers will be finishing the season's work soon; maybe the rest of us should be looking for ways to help get the campus squared away for the coming winter.

☛ Father John recommends Richard Rohr's daily meditations at [cac.org](http://cac.org) as a spiritual resource, and suggests we share other resources that have proved useful for us. You'll find a sample of Father Rohr's work inside.

☛ The big fall yard sale is now scheduled; Steve will be setting up October 4. The sale runs October 5, 6, and 7. Please consider how you can help.

☛ The new roof on the parish house is very handsome, don't you think?

when I saw that the United Nations had just released its *State of the World Population 2001* report. I spent about an hour going through the report and was reminded of some things I had known but had conveniently forgotten. Here are a few factoids from the report which, consequently, made me think a little further about Thanksgiving gratitude.

The richest 20% of the world accounts for 86% of all private consumption, while the world's poorest 20% accounts for 1.3% of all consumption. About half the world, 3 billion people, live in what the UN calls "food deficit countries." About the same number of people do not have safe, reliable water—half the world. . . . The disconnect that day between my own little world at Andronicos and the vast majority of the rest of the world was jarring, to say the least. It occurred to me that among the winners, the powerful and the well off, there is a sort of gratitude that is almost narcissistic, self-congratulatory and self-referential. . . .

True gratitude is not centered on the self. I find that far too often I link God's "blessings" with my personal welfare—in which case gratitude risks morphing into narcissism. Paul's gratitude was not linked to his personal fortune, good or bad: "I have learned to be content, whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation" (Philippians 4:11–13). True gratitude is oriented to the Creator, not toward my self-centered sense of entitlement. . . .

As Bob Pierce, the founder of World Vision, once remarked, "let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." . . .

These economic disparities are not a simple matter of a zero sum game. Nor does worried hand-wringing or a sense of false guilt help anything. Today it is easier than ever to do something, however simple, through the numerous Christian organizations that provide opportunities to make an impact. Some of my favorites include World Vision, World Relief, Habitat for Humanity, the International Justice Mission, the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto, the Village Enterprise Fund that provides small loans for micro-enterprise around the two-thirds world, and Bayshore Christian Ministries in East Palo Alto. [and, of course, Episcopal Relief and Development <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/> ]

When the Apostle Paul traveled to Jerusalem to gain the imprimatur of the Apostles, he writes something

telling about his experience. They did not question his theology or doubt his calling to minister to the Gentiles. No, he says, "all they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do" (Galatians 2:10). As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, may God move us to genuine gratitude, a spirit that moves us beyond our own myopic self-centeredness to embrace all the world, most of which lives in circumstances more degrading than we can even imagine.

*The Journey with Jesus: Notes to Myself* Copyright ©2001 by Dan Clendenin. All Rights Reserved.



### ***Let's Celebrate St. Andrew's Family and History***

This is going to be a busy month, and coming up first is Homecoming: 3:00 on the afternoon of Saturday September 9, yet another reminder that life is once again (mostly) normal. Is there a theme? You bet; think of a luau. Costumes welcome, but not required.

As usual, the main course will be provided, but consider bringing a side dish, beverage, dessert to share.

And—encourage old friends to come home and join us in remembering and looking forward.



### ***The Thrift Shop Luncheon Returns***

Next up is the Thrift Shop's luncheon. We haven't had one for what seems like a century. Traditionally, the luncheon has been at Christmastime. That's a really busy time for most of us, so this seemed a perfect time to try something new.

Volunteers will gather after the shop closes September 16 in our own dining room. Catering will be by our own outstanding chef and her crew, who also have luncheon for Retired Teachers of St. Mary's County scheduled for September 12.

## Mums, Mums, Mums

Who can resist fall flowers? And all those other autumn things—corn stalks, gourds, pumpkins—that go along with the season?

You can pick out your favorites Friday September 22 (9:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.) or Saturday September 23 (8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.) Remember, the early bird gets the worm, or in this case, the perfect mum.



## Looking Ahead

Our amazing yard-sale manager is planning our big fall sale for October 5 and 6 (8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.), and October 7 (8:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.).

This one will be inside and outside. The work of setting up begins October 4, and it will be a **lot** of work; if you can help, setting up, selling, clearing up, please do.

You can offer your help and ask questions by calling or texting Steve Carroll (240 925-2599).

The Silent Auction (with a bake sale) is planned for November 4. Bidding opens that morning at 9:30, closes four hours later at 1:30.

If you have suitable new items to offer for the auction, questions to ask, help to offer, contact Bobbi Brown ([brbrown62@md.metrocast.net](mailto:brbrown62@md.metrocast.net), 301 994-1144).



## Our Treasurer Reports

Since my last report we have paid for the three capital projects: re-leveling the parish hall to correct the sinking that has occurred over time, replacing the parish hall roof that was badly in need of repair, and putting a sound-and-Wi-Fi system in the church. Hopefully you have experienced the new sound system in the church, and although it might not be obvious, the parish hall has been leveled and we have a new roof! As a result, we had a deficit of about \$20,000 for the month of July.

We continue to consider additional capital projects so are getting proposals for painting the inside of the church and repairing and sealing the parking lot. I will have more to say about those projects in future reports.

In my reporting I have not mentioned the mortgage we took out several years ago when we took on the major renovation of our historic church. I think it was renegotiated in 2015 to a fifteen-year mortgage with a monthly mortgage payment of about \$3,000 per month. It is held by a local bank at an interest rate of 4.5%, has an outstanding balance of about \$335,000, and now has seven years left before it will be paid off. We have chosen to continue it in order to grow our cash reserves that protect us against any financial surprises and allow us to pay for major capital projects as they are needed. All of that is made possible through your generous support of St. Andrew's.

If you have any financial questions, please feel free to ask me, and I'll do my best to get you answers.

Chuck Stein ([cwstein1@verizon.net](mailto:cwstein1@verizon.net))

## Father John Recommends



*If the only prayer you said was thank you,  
that would be enough.*

~~Meister Eckhart

### September 3

#### Verger-led pre-consecrated Eucharist

Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c *or*

Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

#### 8:00 a.m.

Verger: Mary Maker

Lector: Iris Hall-Willey

Altar duty: Lynn Duff and Margaret Hallau

#### 10:30 a.m.

Verger: Don Schramm

Lector: Margaret Hallau

Coffee hour: Mary and Polly Hansen

### September 10

#### Holy Eucharist with the Rev. John Ball

Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 *or*

Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20

#### 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Jerry Gehrig

Altar duty: Susan Bennett and Hilary Gill

Coffee hour: Mary Larson

#### 10:30 a.m.

Verger: Nancy Edwards

Lector: Joie Samuelson

Coffee hour: Margaret Hallau and Hal Pease

### September 17

#### Verger-led pre-consecrated Eucharist

Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 *or*

Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13

Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

#### 8:00 a.m.

Verger: Susan Bennett

Lector: Ron Leonard

Altar duty: Mary Maker and Michael Dyson

#### 10:30 a.m.

Verger: Mary Maker

Lector: Beth Wagner

Coffee hour: Nancy and Bill Riddell

### September 24

#### Holy Eucharist with the Rev. John Ball

Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 *or*

Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

#### 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Iris Hall-Willey

Altar duty: Helen Rotzinger and Mary Maker

#### 10:30 a.m.

Verger: Dee McRae

Lector: Robert Abell

Coffee hour: Walls family

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#### *Please Hold in Your Prayers*

Jan Barnes, Robert Bennett, Eunice Benson, Allison Billingsley, Becky Boone, Carol Brimm, Judy Cavin, Judy Consoli, Lanette Cowles, McKenna Cox, Noel D. and family, Billy Doughty, Phyllis Doughty, Becky Frazer, Gretchen Frazer, the Fulz family, Brian Gardner, Susan Geary, Gloria Gehrig, the Girard family, Ronnie Guy, Mary Ellen Gwynn,, Susan Hogan, Ryker Hurst, Salty Joynor, Jack Lawrence, Elinor Mattingly, the Mattingly family, Dee McRae, Artie Miller, Bernice Nunes, Kenda Parker, Kyle Patrick, Chase Phifer, Lisa Powell, the Rev. Michael Pumphrey, David Elizabeth Reznik, Bob and Helen Rotzinger, Diane Rudish, Bob Sisson, Alice Snyder, Vera Standing, Jonathan Tanner, Tegan, Isabella Tenczar, Angelica Wilkinson, Stuart A. Wood, and all who serve in the military and their families.

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Lord, take me where you want me to go.  
Let me meet who you want me to meet.  
Tell me what you want me to say,  
and keep me out of your way.

~~The Rev. Mychal Judge

## September

- 1 **Friday**  
6:30 p.m.—AA
- 2 **Saturday**  
Noon—Retired Teachers' luncheon  
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop
- 3 **Sunday**  
Verger-led Eucharist  
8:00 a.m. H.E. I  
10:30 a.m. H.E. II
- 4 **Monday**
- 5 **Tuesday**
- 6 **Wednesday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 7 **Thursday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
7:00 p.m. AA
- 8 **Friday**  
6:30 p.m.—AA
- 9 **Saturday**  
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop  
3:00 p.m.—Homecoming (luau) picnic
- 10 **Sunday**  
Holy Eucharist with the Rev. John Ball  
8:00 a.m. H.E. I  
10:30 a.m. H.E. II
- 11 **Monday**
- 12 **Tuesday**
- 13 **Wednesday**  
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop
- 14 **Thursday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
7:00 p.m. AA
- 15 **Friday**  
6:30 p.m.—AA
- 16 **Saturday**  
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop  
1:00 p.m.—Thrift Shop luncheon
- 17 **Sunday**  
Verger-led Eucharist  
8:00 a.m. H.E. I  
10:30 a.m. H.E. II
- 18 **Monday**
- 19 **Tuesday**
- 20 **Wednesday**  
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop
- 21 **Thursday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
7:00 p.m. AA

- 22 **Friday**  
6:30 p.m.—AA  
9:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.—fall plant sale
- 23 **Saturday**  
8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.—fall plant sale  
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop
- 24 **Sunday**  
Holy Eucharist with the Rev. John Ball  
8:00 a.m. H.E. I  
10:30 a.m. H.E. II
- 25 **Monday**
- 26 **Tuesday**
- 27 **Wednesday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 28 **Thursday**  
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop  
7:00 p.m. AA
- 29 **Friday**
- 30 **Saturday**  
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop

*September's a Full Month*

- 4 Paul & Beth Wagner  
6 William and Shannon Hargreaves  
14 Donald & Jean Torgerson  
15 Chuck & Ginni Stein  
16 Peter and Amy Ulrich  
21 Sean and Laura Biggerstaff  
22 Mark and Charlene Mallory  
24 Rick & Lori Werrell  
29 Steve & Emily Labows

*. . . for Birthdays Too*

- 2 Matthew M. Brigham  
5 Laura Biggerstaff, Beth Wagner  
6 Erica Wible  
9 Trey Bergen, Tim Vallandingham  
10 Alan Easterling  
11 Andy Stickney, Bob Aldridge  
12 Henry Ulrich  
13 Dan Donnelly  
14 Jenna Carnes  
19 Christina Labows  
23 Jill Morris  
25 Elizabeth Labows  
26 John McKendrew  
28 Judy Ersek  
29 Sean Biggerstaff, Sam Walls

## Looking for Someone?

Parish Administrator: 301 862-2247 [parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org](mailto:parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org)

Senior Warden: Mary Maker

Junior Warden: John McKendrew

Secretary, Beth Wagner

Cindy Kilcoyne

Fundraising Steve Carroll

Robert Abell

Jessie Kilcoyne-Beaver

Bobbi Brown

Michael Dyson

Linda Himmelheber

Treasurer: Chuck Stein

Andy Walls

Minister of Music, Amy Foster

Newsletter, Dee McRae

To give flowers for the altar 301 862-2247 [parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org](mailto:parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org)

The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde 202 537-6550

The Diocese of Washington 202 537-6555 <http://www.edow.org/>



## Food for Thought

***The Rev. Richard Rohr, founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He has retired from active leadership, but continues to post his daily meditations. Here he considers human suffering.***

We have heard the word trauma a lot in the last thirty years or more. I am not sure if it is happening more, or if we finally have a word to describe what has probably always been happening. . . .

Reflecting on trauma has made me think that much of the human race must have suffered from what we now call Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It is heartbreaking to imagine, but it gives me much more sympathy for the human person caught in repeated cycles of historical violence.

Could this be what mythology means by “the sacred wound” and the church describes as “original sin,” which was not something we did, but the effects of something that was done to us? I believe it is.

If religion cannot find a meaning for human suffering, humanity is in major trouble. All healthy religion shows us what to do with our pain. Great religion shows us what to do with the absurd, the tragic, the traumatic, the nonsensical, the unjust. If we do not transform our pain, we will most assuredly transmit it.

It's no surprise that the Christian logo became a naked, bleeding, suffering man. What do we do with this pain, this sadness, this disappointment, this absurdity? At the end of life, and probably at the beginning of life, too, that is the question. . . . How do we keep from the need to blame, to punish, to accuse, to sit on Job's eternal dung heap and pick at our sores (Job 2:8)? It seems to me that too high a percentage of humanity ends up there.

It is no wonder that Jesus teaches so much about forgiveness, and shares so much healing touch and talk. He does not resort to the usual moral categories, punishment practices, the frequent blame, or the simplistic sin language of most early-stage religious people. That is why he is such a huge spiritual master. Christians almost avoided seeing this by too glibly calling him “God.” He offers everything to us for our own transformation—everything! Not to change others but to change ourselves. Jesus never “cancels” other people or groups.