



Saint Francis Journal

August, 2023



A Loving Community, Serving God's Kingdom



"I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2 BCP p.779

Times of stress can be difficult to manage for some. One may even find themselves wondering about what is to come, why things happen the way they do, and one might even find themselves questioning the whole idea that God is there to help, and that God will help. Trust in God's provision, giving the things we need when we need them, might even come into question. This is when reading the psalms would be helpful.

When we read the psalms, we find the writer of some questioning God's perceived absence from their lives. They ask questions like, "How long, O LORD? Will you forget me for ever? How long will you hide your face from me?" *Psalm 13:1 BCP p.597*. And questions like, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? And are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?" *Psalm 22:1 BCP p.610*. And like, "For you are the God of my strength; why have you put me from you? And why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?" *Psalm 43:2 BCP p.644*. In these, and other psalms, we can find commiserate voices when we feel as if God is far away. Not just commiserate but also uplifting words... in those same psalms.

Psalm 13 turns around in the end at *verse 6* when we read, "I will sing to the

LORD, for he has dealt with me richly; I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High." And in *Psalm 22, verse 11*, there is the idea that in the end God is never far away when we read, "Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help." And in *Psalm 43* with faith and complete trust in God in *verse 6* we read, "Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God." The psalms reflect trust and prayer as we find in *Psalm 121*.

Some believe that the hills mentioned in the first verse of *Psalm 121* represent an upcoming difficulty or challenge and the psalm is a prayer for help in facing that time of trial. Others believe that the psalm is speaking about a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the hills are the hills around Jerusalem spotted from a distance. *Psalm 121* could be a prayer and a statement of faith like a creed. In fact, we find the phrase "creator of heaven and earth" in the *Apostle's Creed*. A call for guidance and safe passage from the One that made everything! Reminiscent of *Psalm 23 verse 4* when even in danger, faith and trust are professed, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." A call even for patience as one travels through the darkest times. Note that God does not take us out of the valley but walks with us in it. God makes us feel safe.

The important part is to remind ourselves that God is with us, always,

as Jesus tells the disciples at the end of the Gospel of Matthew, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." *Matthew 28:20b NRSV*. How does one remind themselves? In prayer. Always in prayer. And if you don't know what to pray, or can't, just read the psalms and you will be reminded of God's faith to be with us. Always.

God's Peace,
Mitch+



VESTRY

- Lisa Kraus, Senior Warden (2024)
- Jeremy Cole, Junior Warden (2025)
- Todd Lestage (2023)
- Paul Streufert (2023)
- Doug Clark (2024)
- Nancy Earls (2024)
- Claire Hodges (2025)
- Gipsy Schneider (2025)
- Kathy Dunn, Clerk

CHURCH STAFF

- The Rev. Mitch Tollett, Rector
- Dr. Cameron Rose, Director of Music
- Hailey Matthews, Children/Youth Director
- Carol Lanthrum, Parish Administrator
- Susan Kohler, Treasurer
- Alberto Cruz, Sexton

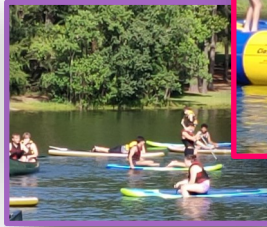
Camp Allen Fun



Flags are up



Happy Campers



Fun at the Lake



Archery Tag



Ropes Course



Horseback Riding



Walking the Labyrinth



'Bedlam' with shaving cream



Wed. Eucharist



Fun with Games



Gay & Carol smiling in the heat



Friday Eucharist

Sat. August 5th

Breakfast for All * 8:30a

Parish Hall * Sign up in Hallway

DOK Meeting * 9a * Adult Ed Room

CUB Lunch Prep * 10a * Ed Building

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

August 15th * 11:30 am

F.D.s

Village at Cumberland

Serendipity Dinner

Friday, August 11th * 6p-8p

St. Clare's Episcopal Church

3320 Troup Hwy #260

Across from the Potpourri House

Main Dish: Italian Beef Sandwiches

Sign up for apps/sides/desserts

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Evan Barat (8/4)

Melissa Dickey (8/5)

Charlotte Weller (8/7)

Roy Barron (8/10)

Royal Daniel (8/20)

David Armstrong (8/23)

Gloria Coughenour (8/27)

Lisa Kraus (8/29)

Sybil Fisher (8/30)

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Will Armstrong & Kiley Munger (8/1)

James & Nell Barr (8/6)

Fr. Mitch & Camille Tollett (8/7)

Frank & Lisa Kraus (8/31)

Rosie Elaine Barat
Born July 25th 7lbs, 5ozs*



Alec & Rosie



Evan & Rosie



Frank & Rosie



Lawrence & Rosie

St. Clare DOK Chapter Partners with the Diocese of Malawi

The St. Clare Chapter of the Daughters of the King recently requested that the National DOK office help them establish a relationship with an international DOK chapter. We were partnered with the Diocese of Malawi. Our chapter president, Jay DeOrnellas, has contacted representatives in the Diocese of Malawi so that we can better work together to further our mutual interest to "spread Christ's Kingdom, especially among women and girls". St. Clare Daughters have added the Diocese of Malawi to our daily prayers.

If you look at the DOK section of the Bulletin board, you will see that Malawi is a land-locked country on the Eastern section of Africa surrounded by Mozambique, Zambia, and Tanzania. Esther Miller was a Daughter when she went to Malawi as a missionary in the 1990s. In the late 1990s, she introduced The Order of the Daughters of the King, with the consent of the clergy. She took 140 crosses to Malawi in 1999 for the institution of new chapters there. The first chapter was instituted in August 2000. The Malawi chapters have grown rapidly across the four Anglican dioceses in the country, and in 2003 created their own national assembly and chose national officers. Hundreds of Daughters, four bishops and many priests attended Malawi's Triennial Assembly, which was held September 16-18, 2022.

We look forward to learning more about our new partner!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

JULIAN TABRI'S EAGLE PROJECT

We will be constructing a new guardrail and bench at St. Francis Church's Outdoor Pavilion.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH
9:00AM - 5:00PM (STAY AS LONG AS YOU CAN!)
ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
3232 JAN AVE.

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.
PLEASE WEAR LONG SLEEVES.
BRING WORK GLOVES AND SAFETY GOGGLES IF YOU HAVE THEM!

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www.facebook.com/StFrancisTyler



WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS FOR AUGUST

Sunday

Nursery available from 8:00 am—1:00 pm

- 8:30 am: Rite I—No music
- 9:30 am: Adult Gospel Lectionary Discussion
- 10:45 am: Rite II—Traditional Music
Live-Stream on FaceBook & YouTube
- 6:00 pm: Yoga—Children's Ed Room

Wednesday

- Noon: Rite II Eucharist Service
- 12:30pm: Bible Study—Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm: Grief Support Group—Parish Hall
- 2:00 pm: God's Grace—St. Clare's

Thursday

- 5:00 pm: Handbell Practice—Music Room

No Choir Rehearsal on Wednesdays
until September 6th



August Special Events

Sat. August 5, 8:30am
Breakfast for All by Men's Group

Sat. August 5, 9:00am
DOK Meeting

Sat. August 5, 10:00am
Church Under a Bridge Lunch Prep

Sat. August 5, 9:00am-5:00pm
Julian Tabri's Eagle Scout Project

Sunday, August 6, 8:30am & 10:45am
Liturgy of the Word

Wed. August 9, 6:30pm
DOK New Member Training

Fri. August 11, 6:00pm-8:00pm
Serendipity Dinner at St. Clare's

Sun. August 13, 10:45am
School Backpack Blessing

Sun. August 13, 12:00p
Conversation on Race

Sun. August 13, 1:00pm-3:00pm
**Back-to-School Bowling &
Pizza Party**

Tues. August 15, 6:00pm
Vestry Meeting

Sun. August 20, 12:00p
Parent Time Out

Wed. August 23, 6:30p
DOK New Member Training

