



# *Cares, Prayers and Current Affairs*

**July 2021**

Greetings to all Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
It is a great feeling to begin getting back to normal since the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic. It is our hope that the vaccination will keep us all safe from the variants as well. Since there is no way of telling whether all the unmasked people we encounter have been vaccinated, it may be in our best interest to wear mask in public settings. It's great, however, to be with close family and friends in gatherings once again.

The Diocese of East Carolina is planning a Post Pandemic gathering on the 17 of July at 5:00 pm . It will be held on the grounds of La Sagrada Familia in Newton Grove. The location is off Hwy 13 on Easy Street. St. Joseph's will carpool from our campus. The program will include a memorial to loved ones that did not survive the virus. Congregants will find an insert in the weekly bulletin to include the name of your loved ones for the program.

## **What's Happening at St. Joseph's**

St. Joseph's has set yet another mile marker in our Celebration of Juneteenth. Rev. Ralph Clark has composed yet another Liturgy for this occasion. We are so blessed to have such talent. This happened on the 20th of June, on the heels of the legislation pronouncing June 19 as a federal holiday, St. Joseph's had a grand celebration. Our congregation honored the day in an array of colorful African attire. Remembering the biblical history of the Exodus of the

Israelites out of bondage, the opening song was "Go Down Moses". We processed in on the celebratory African Hymn, " Siyhamba". In lieu of the Psalm reading the congregation responded to our Celebrants reading on celebrations in the highest regard with the words of the National Negro Hymn" Lift every Voice and Sing". The sound of our unified voices rose to the rafters. It was quite moving. The reading referenced those who fought to relieve the suffering in bondage from Harriet Tubman to the works of Eva Chochran and Charlotte McNeil to whom we hold high regard for the establishment of St. Joseph's as it stands today. The sermon was most engaging and thought provoking. Though we have come a long way .... the fight has just recently been re-sparked with the murder of George Floyd when it played out on National TV as the world looked on. So many eyes were opened that day to the cries of dehumanizing injustice that had too long fallen on deaf ears. An analogy was made to racial hatred as being like that of Goliath the giant. We seem so small when fighting something so widespread and colossal and legislation is controlled by racist people. Change is coming. We are moving in the right direction but total change takes a long time. Even the Israelites were in the desert for 40 years until the older sinful generation had died out before progress could be made. Thank God, the conversation is on the table.

The Prayers of the People spared no feelings and were powerful and heartfelt.

The atmosphere of the day spilled over into the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. On this day I reflected on how often change comes at the suffering and loss of life of the innocent and others. What a glorious day it had been! We were 40 strong in attendance. At the end of the service we enjoyed our first dinner served from the new

kitchen in Butler Parrish Hall. The fellowship had been a long time coming since the completion of the renovations.

Our Bible Book Study continues to move forward. The fourth chapter in the book, "Questions God Asks Us", by Trevor Hudson, is what is your name? As we recall from our bible study, God changed Jacob's name to Israel after he wrestled through the night with a being vowing not to let him go until he received a blessing. When Jacob said his name, God said his name will no longer be Jacob but, ISRAEL. Back in the days of the bible, babies were named after a family or his name was to reflect the expectation of what they would become in life. Jacob as we recall was holding the heel of his twin brother. He also was a con and a man of deceit. He stole his brother's birthright in the most conniving way. Jacob was not proud of who he had become and avoided telling people his name. God's blessing released him of this burden. In the chapter we learned that God's name for us is "BELOVED". The name is endearing, compassionate and personal.

Chapter five asked the question, "What Are You Doing Here". The bible reference comes from the first book of Kings where we find the Prophet Elijah running for his life in order to avoid slaughter by the zealots who were massacring all the people of the one true God. Elijah is found by God hiding in a cave. God asks Elijah what he is doing there in the cave. We often ask each other, why God asks questions of which the answer is already known. I think it opens a personal dialogue with one in a relationship with God. Jacob was feeling like he was all alone in his mission to promote God's teachings and that he had failed. On the contrary God was pleased with the Prophet Elijah and gave him further instructions. The chapter brought to mind that when God came to Elijah, no mountains trembled at His presence, no flashing of

lightning bolts and no thunder rolled. God spoke in a soft whisper. Our group spoke of how we today are so bombarded with audible distractions in which case we would have not heard the whisper of God. When asked what we are doing here, it invokes the next question,... why are we here? Are we on a mission? Are we living God's purpose for our lives? It is important to perform a self-analysis. So stop, be quiet, reevaluate our lives and regroup. Are we spinning our wheels but going nowhere? Are we being our most productive selves? So many questions to go into our prayer closet and have a discerning conversation with God.

This past week the question was, what are we looking for? So often we Americans living in the land of milk and honey, go through our lives just filling a void with stuff because we **do not know** what we are looking for. Most women would call this 'retail therapy'. We have so many superficial desires but often do not think of desires of the heart that cannot be bought on Amazon or in a store. Some may have a desire of the heart in the form of a lifelong achievement. Is that desire self-serving or does that desire allow one to be of service to others. Where is God on our wish list? We should desire the riches that can be stored in Heaven, not riches on earth that will fade away.

These are questions that truly make you go....HmMMMM?

The next questions that are fuel for thought are: "Who Do You Say I Am?"

"Do You Want To Get Well?"

"Why Are You Crying?", and

Do You Understand What I Have Done For You?"

All are welcome to come and join in the discussion!



### **New Doctor**

Congratulations to Dr. Bo Nebolisa for completing and graduating from Tulane University Medical Center Internal Medicine Residency Program June 19, 2021. He is moving back to North Carolina to start his cardiology fellowship at UNC Hospitals Medical Center June 28, 2021. We are all so proud of you Bo!



### **New Babies.**

Congratulations to Tony Ferguson and family. Tony's daughter Kathleen Ferguson Tisdale gave birth to a 7 lb. baby boy on July 1. Baby, and family are all doing well. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Donald and Jean LaHuffman on the birth of their second great-grandchild, a boy, Malachi Bishop.



### **BEREAVEMENT**

Saint John's Episcopal Church, and Saint Joseph's Cursillo family are deeply saddened at the tragic death of Mrs. Judy Klinck this past week. Her loss is great to so many. She is survived by her dear husband Mr. Fred Klinck, two children and a grandson. When life is cut short so abruptly, it is not ours to question. We shall keep the family in our prayers. May Judy rest in Peace and rise in Glory.



## **Episcopal Church Women**

The ECW has met under the guidance of Mrs. Sharon McNair. They will soon be planning fundraisers, the first of which is likely to be in the form of an Autumn Tea.

Our organization continues to hope for someone to volunteer to be a secretary. Stay tuned to the weekly bulletin for announcements.



## **Church Women United**

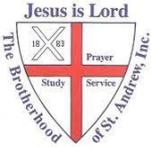
The CWU had a successful intake of items to be donated to the Farmworkers of Newton

Grove. The farm workers of Latino descent. Many come to do farm work essential to our lives. Work that many Americans will not perform. It is grueling work. I often see them in the fields near my home. They come by bus loads and they work in the field from the early morning through the heat of the day. Many do not speak English. The Church Women consist of women from local churches in the Cumberland County area. They collect hygiene kits, snacks and non-perishable foods and school supplies for their children. The event was successful. St. Joseph's donated 36 hygiene packets. I'd like to thank Mrs. Eleanor Alexander for helping with the shopping and making of these kits. Our men, Mr. Carlos Flores, Mr. Tyrone Francis and Mr. Olu Mumford, aided in gathering the goods that came by the carload and transferring them into a 16 passenger van. We are carrying on the work of which Mrs. Enid Ferguson was so passionate. I encourage all our parishioners to become involved. This fall we will collect blankets.



## Daughters of the King

DOK are anxiously awaiting to be able to meet person to person. In the mean-time we are urged to continue to turn in our dues and keep abreast of news through our emails.



## The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew

BOSA are on summer break and will resume meetings in August.



## Stitchers and Crafters

We are still making masks and donating them to Cape Fear Valley Hospital. All are invited to join our group. If you cannot operate a sewing machine ... no problem, we also need turners, ironers and packagers!

Anyone interested in learning the art of crocheting are invited to join our group who meet on Tuesdays at 2:30 in the Butler Parrish Hall. We will provide the yarn and needles! We make hats, booties, blankets and sweaters for the NIC Unit at Cape Fear Hospital. All are welcome!



### July Birthdays

- 5<sup>th</sup> Rickey Stewart
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Beulah Quick
- 9<sup>th</sup> Keith Walcott, Jr.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Rev. Ralph Clark



## BIBLE TRIVIA

What is the last book of the Old Testament ?

- A) Malachi
- B) Haggai
- C) Numbers
- D) Matthew

Answer:( a. Malachi)

## Bible Humor

Why was Simon Peter such a good farmer?  
( He fed sheep)



## Chuckle Corner

Long, long ago when I was a child, I loved to spend time with my grandmother. She was a great story teller. So when I was not helping her with her daily work, I always asked to hear a story. So Mama Pearl told me a story about when my Dad was a little boy. So I sat at her feet on the old screen porch.

The story goes like this...

When your Daddy was a little boy, your Poppa and I had a restaurant. and a shoe shop. We were very busy one day and your daddy was told to watch his baby sister, Thelma and to keep her out of trouble. Baby Thelma was a toddler and that makes your Daddy about four years old. It was not long till little Thelma got cranky. Your Daddy being the big brother and trying to be of great help, figured his little sister must be hungry. So he was not allowed to cook so

he climbed onto a chair and found food on the on different plates. So he got a plate for his sister, wiped it clean and proceeded to fill the plate with a variety of foods in his reach. When Mama Pearl returned, my Daddy was beaming with pride. He announced that his Mama didn't have to cook for the baby because he had prepared her meal.

Yeah, he was feeling pretty good about himself for being such good help! With much trepidation, she asked what little Thelma had for dinner. Big brother pointed to the plates in the sink, still filled with scraps of this and that meant for the garbage pail to feed the hogs. Well, what's done is done and baby Thelma seemed quite satisfied. So she gave him a big hug and never left food garbage in his reach ever again!

Aunt Thelma, my Daddy's baby sister lived to be 97 years old!



**Thoughts from our Senior Warden, Mr. Tyrone Francis**

May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.

**Peter Marshall**

Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Absolutely, I think every day is a new day, every day is a new opportunity, and every day is a new chance.

**Jennifer Winget**



## **Chicken and Rice (Arroz con pollo) by Xenia Phillips**

Ingredients:

4-6 whole chicken legs (thighs included)  
2 Tbsp olive oil

4 cloves garlic

1 onion, chopped

1 green bell pepper, chopped

1 tsp ground annato/achiote (may substitute saffron, if desired)

4 cups chicken broth

1 15 oz can chopped tomatoes

2 Tbsp vinegar

1/3 cup green olives

1 Tbsp capers

1/2 tsp oregano

red pepper flakes, to taste

salt & pepper

3 cups long-grain rice

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 350F.

Soften garlic, onion, green pepper, and garlic in olive oil. Add ground annato (this will give the rice the softest blush).

Push the onions and peppers to the sides and brown the chicken (in batches, if needed, to ensure proper browning).

Splash on the broth, tomato, vinegar, rice, olives, capers, oregano, vinegar, red pepper flakes, salt and pepper.

Bring to a simmer, then stir in rice.

Cover and cook about 30 minutes.



## **Chandra's Prayer Closet by Chandra Francis**

Lord, thank You for encouraging not just us, as women, wives and mothers, but also the men we love as they care for and lead their families. We ask that You give them wisdom, strength and hope for the days ahead. You are the source of everything they need. Remind us to lift them up to You often and give us opportunities to show them Your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Romans 8:24-25 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.



## **Rev. Ralph's Corner**

I am writing this column on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June. This happens to be the feast day of Irenaeus, the Bishop of Lyons

who lived during the first century. Popular lore says that Irenaeus learned the Christian faith by studying from Polycarp while in Ephesus. Polycarp learned about Christianity from John the Evangelist who was the writer of the Gospel story which bears his name. So, Irenaeus was one step removed from learning about the good news of God in the Christ firsthand. But this is not what Irenaeus is known for. He is known for being the first systematic theologian.

A systematic theologian is one who takes theological thought and arranges those thoughts in some

form or system. Systematic theologies are often broad, covering a wide range of topics about how theology permeates all aspects of our lives. But this begs the question, “What is theology?” A working definition of theology is thinking about faith.

So, if we are thinking about our faith then, by definition, we are theologians. I am hopeful we are all thinking about faith and how our faith informs our lives. If we are thinking about faith and how it impacts our daily lives, and we are organizing these thoughts in some useful way then we are being systematic theologians! Let us all be systematic theologians as we contemplate how God moves in our daily life and work.



### **Why is it important to get vaccinated amid a new variant of the virus, Delta?**

Vaccines are a critical tool in the battle against COVID-19, and there are clear public health and lifesaving benefits to using the tools we already have. We must not put off getting vaccinated because of our concerns about vaccine safety. we must proceed with vaccination even if the vaccines may be somewhat less effective against some of the COVID-19 virus variants. We are all safe only if at least 70% of the US population are fully vaccinated according to Dr. Fauci and other leading scientists. Yes, researchers did not start from scratch when they learned about SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

SARS-CoV-2 is a member of the coronavirus family that has been in existence for many years. The (NIAID) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases states there are hundreds of coronaviruses —

including four that can cause the common cold, as well as the coronaviruses that sparked the SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, epidemic in 2002 and the emergence of MERS, or Middle East respiratory syndrome, in 2012.

According to Dr. Eric J. Yager, an associate professor of microbiology at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Albany, NY, scientists and researchers have been studying coronaviruses for over 50 years and as such had existing data on the structure, genome, and life cycle of this type of virus. Dr. Yager states, "Research on these viruses established the importance of the viral spike (S) protein in viral attachment, fusion, and entry, and identified the S proteins as a target for the development of antibody therapies and vaccines." Under normal circumstances, making a vaccine can take up several years because of the complexity of vaccine development. However, amid a global pandemic, researchers quickly mobilized and shared their coronavirus data and as such were able to fast-track research and clinical trials that led to successful development of effective vaccines within few months or a record time. The Researchers quickly and successfully used their knowledge in genomic sequencing to uncover the viral sequence of SARS-CoV-2 in January 2020, roughly 10 days after the first reported pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China. According to CDC data, most of the recent deaths caused by the Covid-19 are among the unvaccinated population, especially people of color. I strongly encourage the unvaccinated to get a shot in their arm. A stitch in time saves nine.

Written and submitted by  
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