



# *Cares, Prayers and Current Affairs*

**May 2021**

A Humble and Heart felt Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

It seems I am in a constant state of awe when I think of all these eyes of mine have witnessed in the sixty plus years I have been blessed to be on this earth. From segregation to integration, no rights to civil rights, tokens of appreciation to being the token. From humiliation to humility. Moving forward while stepping backwards. Living the dream and dreams deferred. Being equal in the midst of inequality. Knowing superior while feeling inferior. Accolades for the wicked and no justice for the down-trodden. Fairness in an unfair world. Truth over shadowed by lies. Being “as good as” while being treated as “less than”. Loving the skin I’m in while living the consequences there of.

Is the glass half empty or is the glass half full?

We have come a very long way.....or have we? For those who have walked in the

shoes of the oppressed, the glass may be half empty. For all who have never been oppressed, the glass may be half full.

Last week the world waited with baited breath to hear the verdict of guilty or not guilty to the man charged with killing George Floyd. For those who diligently watched the trial and for those who could not bear to watch humanity at it's worse, (all over again) it was a tense ordeal. How does one teach love thy neighbor when we see, on a daily basis lawlessness from those paid to serve and protect. Lives snuffed out as though their life did not matter. All life matters regardless of the color of the skin, ethnicity, culture, station in life or economic standing.

Jesus came and died for all mankind...so why can we not all embrace one another? What causes a man to hate his brother. Is it about self hate and blame as in the case of Cain and Able. What is the driving force that causes one nation to want to dominate over another. Is it power and greed for wealth?

How do we as Christians process all that goes on in this world while remaining on the pathway of righteousness. Christianity is an internal attribute and if I had to paint it

a color, I would paint it the color of water. Crystal clear water! Thank God we are the same in His eyes. Righteousness has no boundaries. We are at a crossroad in life. We have to make a stand. Do we want justice for all or justice for some. Life is too short to sit on the fence of indecisiveness. Follow the ways of the Lord our God. Love as He has loved us. Follow the path of righteousness especially if we are wronged. The enemy may kill the body but not the soul.

I am grateful for social media for it has opened the eyes of many who had no idea just how many George Floyds, Brianna Taylors, Daunte Wrights, Paul Childs, Frank Labors there are.... just to name a few.

It is not that the number of blacks being murdered by white cops has escalated. Due to social media the deaths are made known as soon as it occurs. The incidents that have existed since blacks landed in this country. The question should be why does it continue to happen? The answer is, the police are not held accountable. The actions of all the Derek Chauvins of the world demonstrate that black lives do not matter to them.

I am also thankful to my white brothers and sisters who are boldly speaking out for change and justice.

Prayer is needed to change the hearts of those who turn a blind eye to the injustice in this world.

## **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

We wish to extend to all mothers a warm and tender Mother's Day on May, 9. I trust all children will honor their mothers for all the love and sacrifice and nurturing they received! Whether your children are still under foot or grown with little ones of their own, there is nothing that can compare to the love of a mother. Yours is the first heart beat they hear. The bonds between mother and child are unbreakable. When I think of my mother, I remember all the neighbors whose feet landed beneath our kitchen table for she fed everyone who came through the front door. She was an exemplary cook. All the neighborhood kids played in our yard. She canned vegetables from the garden, kept the freezer filled with meats. The smoked hams were always given away because of her hypertension. She always had cakes or pies for Daddy's lunch bucket. She organized the yearly Easter programs for all the neighborhood

kids. She dyed hundreds of eggs for the Easter egg hunt at church. She made candied apples and taffy for the wiener roast fund raisers at church. She headed the 4H program for the colored girls. When the grandchildren came along she took great care in purchasing all their clothes and toys for christmas. I was pretty blessed to have an awesome Mom. I had pretty big shoes to fill. She left this earth too soon but the memories will always be in my heart. HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

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

On April 18<sup>th</sup> St. Joseph's Church family presented to Mr. Donald LaHuffman the honor of Senior Warden Emeritus for his 13 years of service as Senior Warden. Mr. LaHuffman held the church together through the rough times such as rebuilding the church after the 2015 fire. We are elated to have our membership increase since the vaccinations have been made available to all ages now. We are yet to be able to use our brand new kitchen in the Butler Parish Hall. Hopefully by the summer we can gather in community and share a meal. That is the key thing that is missing. Im certain it shall be shouted from the

rooftop when we are allowed to have a feast!

We are thankful to say to God be the Glory for the healing in progress for Tony Ferguson who has returned to church. We are still in wait to see Karl Vaughn and Wanda return after his prolonged illness and surgery. Though we have been in touch with McAllister Collins and his mom....we await their return from Florida.

We continue to practice safety against the virus by maintaining 3-6 feet in distance, seating every other pew, taking temperatures and using sanitizer. The church is thoroughly cleaned following each service. We continue to Zoom our service for those who still remain homebound. On the third Sunday of each month we have a “No touch” healing and we receive the bread but not the wine for Eucharist.

ZOOM has allowed us to stay together in community but I really do miss gathering in body and soul. We will get there.... we will just need to be patient and prayerful. Now is not the time to become slack in our practices!



**(UTO) The United Thank Offering** is an organization that is supported by the diocese to aid in

missionary work around the world. Boxes were given out to collect spare change. The money will be collected today, May 2. If you did not get a chance to participate this time, boxes will be distributed in the fall for the second gathering.



**Crocheting Lessons** for all who wish to learn the craft is offered on Tuesdays from 1:00- 2:30



**The Prayer List:** The prayer list will be monitored by Deacon Mary Shields. Please let her know if your loved one needs to be added for prayer. It is equally important to let her know when it's time to give God the Glory for the healing and remove names from the list. Thank you for your cooperation.



**Bible Study.** Bible Study has stepped up a new level! The study will be led by the Education for Ministry (EFM) graduates. Our New Bible Study will be a review of books that are important and interesting to the study of the Bible. Book study- Questions God Asks Us- Trevor Howard  
Meeting time- Wednesdays 11-12

Starting date: May 26 (Wednesday after Pentecost)

Ending date: June 28<sup>th</sup> (summer recess)

All are welcome!



### **Daughters of the King (DOK)**

Sisters in Prayer, the daughters are still keeping in community through Zoom. Please refer to your email for information.

Please remember to pay your monthly dues.



### **ECW**

The Episcopal Church Women welcome our newly elected president, Sharon McNair. ECW are involved with the Church Women United and participate in preparing hygiene kits for the Farm Workers in Newton Grove. The list was included in the bulletin of items we need to make up the packet. A donation of \$100 was given to aid in this project.



### **BOSA**

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew meets every Wednesday at 4:00 in the Butler Parish Hall. Their mission is to support the children of the



former school TC Berrien. They collect non-perishable foods for children who suffer from food insecurities. Items may be left in the parish hall.



## **Altar Guild**

The invitation to join the Altar Guild is always open. It is a humbling task to set the altar each Sunday. If you feel God is calling you to be of assistance, consider the Altar Guild. See Ann Marie Smith or Jan Mumford for information.



## **CWU**

Friendship Day, a tradition for the Church Women United will be held virtually via Zoom at noon, May 7  
Meeting ID: 277249 8768  
Passcode: CWU2021

Hygiene Kits for the Farmworkers at Newton Grove will be turned in in the parking lot of First Christian Church on Fort Bragg Road on May 22, at noon.

All Are Welcome!



## Recipes from St. Joseph's

### Mamma's Corn Puddin'

- 1 can cream-style corn
- 1 can niblets corn
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp flour
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 tbsp vanilla flavoring
- ½ stick butter
- ½ cup carnation/pet milk

Drain water off niblets corn and mix with cream-style corn. In separate bowl melt the butter. Mix in the flour and sugar. Blend with butter and add vanilla. Pour in pet milk and stir. Add this mixture to your corn in baking dish. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes.



### Bible Trivia

### Bible Trivia

Who did Daniel chase around the wilderness to try to kill?

- A) Jonathon
- B) David
- C) King of Judah
- D) Jesse

Answer B. David (1 Samuel 23)

## **Bible Humor**

How can you stay in good standing?

Answer (With a lot of kneeling).



## **May Birthdays**

13<sup>th</sup> Donald LaHuffman  
14<sup>th</sup> Jan Mumford  
19<sup>th</sup> Karl Vaughn  
23<sup>rd</sup> Chima Nwosu  
25<sup>th</sup> Sharon McNair



## **Chuckle Corner**

This story is one that all mothers can relate in that mothers tend to go the extra mile to satisfy their children. I was living in Lexington Kentucky at the time. My children were six and three when my sister came for a visit. We each had a girl and a boy. Her children were six and nine. There wasn't a lot of options near me for an outing so we traveled to a nearby city to take the children to a park that had a waterslide. My son was always small for his age and did not

meet the criteria in height to go on the slide. Though he was small he always had the illusion that he could do anything the other children could do. The drive back home was two hours long and I knew those two hours would seem like six hours if he did not get to get on the slide. Mama had to conjure up a plan. I spoke to the life guard stationed at the pool. I explained the situation and ask if my son could go down the slide if he was in my lap. The water would have been too deep for him at the end of the slide. Unbeknownst to the child ... the lifeguard would stand approximately 3-4 feet from the end of the slide and I would quickly pass my son off to him. This way, my boy would be able to have the thrill of going down the giant slide like his big sister and cousins just without splashing into the water at the end.

If you have ever had the pleasure of seeing one of these waterslides, you know the stairway to the top seems never-ending. Every few steps, I would call to the lifeguard, "hey there, don't forget the plan!" As we grew closer to the top, my own heart began to race with dread. The kids however were ecstatic with anticipation just seeing how high up they were. My nephew being the older one, bragged to the others that he was going to go down the slide with

his arms high into the air. Upon reaching each landing of the stairs, I would yell down to the life guard, "We are almost there!" He would raise his arm to acknowledge that he was ready. Great! As I looked down to see my sister ready with the camera, it nearly took my breath away to see just how high off the ground we were. At this point, I really wanted to turn around and go back down that ladder. Alas, this would create a safety issue for there were too many children behind us. I was willing to chicken out, but I had come too far.

We were at the top.... the place of no return. My very brave daughter, niece and nephew did not seem the least bit afraid. I watched each of them fly down that slide as though it was no big deal. Oh no! It was my turn and the children behind me were anxious for me to, as old folk would say....poop or get off the pot! I looked down for the lifeguard. He was in place and waiting! I mustered up all my courage, sat on the mat with my child on my lap. I'm certain I was praying for this all to go well. My son began to squeal with excitement as I pushed off. If only there had been a slow down button to push, I would be happy. The ride was lightening fast. I could see my family splash down into the water below... they were safe! I was nearing the lifeguard..

I was yelling at this point .... Catch him, catch him I cried. I grabbed my son by the arm and flung him into the arms of the lifeguard. There was a brief sigh of relief. It was at that point, it dawned on me, **OH NO! I CAN'T SWIM!**

**SPLASH ! Into the water I went. The water was over my head! I was bouncing up and down uncontrollably! Would my children and family witness my death by waterslide? No, No, the lifeguard would save me...that is after he finished laughing!**

It was then that it came to me that all I needed to do was to stand up! **DUH!** The lifeguard happily returned my child and together we bounced to the edge and rejoined my family. The kids all wanted to do it again... my sister and I both yelled in unison, **NO!**

**We all went home.... happy and wet!**

**THE THINGS A MOTHER WILL DO FOR  
HER CHILD!  
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**



## **Chandra's Prayer Closet**

Lord, help me remember to count what You have provided in my life. I want to “take stock” of what You have given me rather than focus on what seems lacking. Show me the people You have placed in my life. Thank You for allowing me to support and serve others around me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Change is inevitable and necessary. Certain things will no longer meet your needs or expectations. This is an important time to let go of that which has outlived its useful purpose. Pay attention to the unction of My Spirit and proceed with assurance that I will show you the way forward. Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

By Chandra Francis



## **From our Senior Warden**

Today I choose life. Every morning when I wake up I can choose joy, happiness, negativity, pain... To feel the freedom that comes from being able to continue to make mistakes and choices - today I choose to feel life, not to deny my humanity but embrace it.

### **Kevyn Aucoin**

Outside of the cross of Jesus Christ, there is no hope in this world. That cross and resurrection at the core of the Gospel is the only hope for humanity. Wherever you go, ask God for wisdom on how to get that Gospel in, even in the toughest situations of life.

### **Ravi Zacharias**

What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity. These are but trifles, to be sure; but scattered along life's pathway, the good they do is inconceivable.

### **Joseph Addison**





## Rev. Ralph's Corner

Saturday, May  
the first, is the  
feast day on

the church calendar of Saint Philip and Saint James. The first line of the citation for this feast is, "The two apostles commemorated on this day are among those about whom little is known" (Episcopal Church, 2010). During the biblical accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus Philip figures into many of these in some capacity. The same can be said of James but to a lesser degree. However, outside the tales told by the gospel writers Philip and James are not again named in any canonical biblical writing.

What do we make of this? The common thought suggests Philip and James continued to live a life of faith and teaching others the grace and mercy they learned from Jesus. We continue to hear about Peter in writings outside of the canonical gospels and some of the other apostles are named from time to time. But just because the faith and works of Philip and James were not recorded does not mean they did not have faith and they did not do any works. This is a condition that continues even today.

When we consider the achievements of great names, we often forget the people who were in the endeavor with them. We remember George Washington Carver but we forget Austin Curtis, his lab colleague. We remember Martin Luther King, Jr. but we often forget Ralph Abernathy who assist King in the efforts of civil rights. There are always going to be workers whose efforts move the cause forward whose names will be lost to history. This does not mean their efforts were not important. It just means their efforts were not documented.

We find ourselves about 2,000 years removed from the efforts of Philip and James and about 50 years removed from the efforts of Martin, but we are not removed from the struggle of these men as the world still needs to hear about the grace and mercy of Jesus. Maybe some of us will be remembered in the annals or history as we fight this fight. Maybe some of us will be remembered locally as heroes of the faith. Maybe our efforts for justice and peace will be lost to history. That is okay because God remembers. God remembers when we spoke up on behave of the voiceless. God remembers when we stood for those who needed justice. God remembers our actions as we continue the work of Philip and James, and Martin, and all of the others throughout history who

have put their shoulder to the wheel to help  
the kingdom of God break into this world.



*Happy  
Mother's Day!*

Priest-in-Charge..The Rev. Ralph Clark  
The Rev. Deacon Mary Mac Shields  
Senior Warden...Mr. Tyrone Francis  
Junior Warden...Mr. Carlos Flores  
Director of Music.. Mrs. Sharon McNair  
Newsletter Author....Ms. Jan Mumford  
Newsletter Editor.....Mr. Sam Lloyd