

FROM THE DEAR PEOPLE OF GOD,



One of the things that has really been made clear to me during our Lenten Study is that we are called to consistently *worship* God. By consistently I mean not only something regular, but also something constant. We often consider worship to be that time set aside each for week for a corporate “worship service” on the Sabbath (Sunday for Christians). But, the clearer picture I’m speaking of is worship that is closer to the Pauline idea of praying without

ceasing. That brings me to the point of this writing.

Prayer is, without a doubt, one way in which we can and should worship the Lord our God. Prayer without ceasing, as Paul endorsed, is that kind of prayer. Obviously no one in today’s world (or in Paul’s) has the luxury of doing nothing with their life but to pray; and, that is not what Paul meant. It is not what is meant by worshipping God consistently either.

Worshipping God without ceasing, just as praying without ceasing, includes a discipline - being a disciple. It does not come to us easily. Instead it is more like training for some test or some athletic event. One day away from the regimen of what it takes is twice as tough to “make up.” What is required is a “radical repentance,” a radical turning away from the barrenness of life’s trials to the blessing of God’s promise.

I encourage you to visit page 856 of the Book of Common Prayer and rediscover what the Anglican view of “Prayer and Worship” is. Prayer is something intrinsic to worship in the view of the Catechism. From the Lord’s Prayer we can glean seven kinds of prayer. The human thing to do, and we all fall prey to it, is to get stuck in prayers of intercession and petition (particularly petition). When things are the most dire and we petition God for our needs and those of others it is usually because we feel oppressed in some way, fashion or form. Acknowledging God as the Almighty, the Compassionate, the lover of souls, will bring his presence and joy closer to the needs that he knows we have even before we recognize them. It is essential that we “pray for own needs and those of others;” however, prayers of adoration, thanksgiving, and praise come closer to *worship*. In fact, worship brings us even closer to the very real presence of God in our lives.

Such a concept, such a discipline is not something we need to confine to Lent either. As we approach Easter, what better way to experience the Resurrection that brings us the promise of God for the future as well as today?

Look for ways to include *worship* of God in your daily life. Prayer is one effective means of doing that; so, try the discipline of offering adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God daily. He is worthy!

God bless you and keep you,
and hold you always
in the palm of his hand,
Fr. Tommy+

GOD ANSWERS PRAYER!



**HERE'S TO ALL
THE SAINTS
CELEBRATING IN
MARCH**

Mike Swofford	03/04	Marjorie Pratt	03/22
Ashley Lever	03/13	Jim Milling	03/26
Sarah Arndt	03/16	Ann Whitmire	03/31
Matt Langdale	03/20		

YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE

Sr. Warden:	Doug Bryant	2009
Jr. Warden:	Tom Willingham	2009
Member:	Mike Floyd	2008
Member:	Patti Palmer	2008
Member:	Mike Autry	2010
Member:	Bob Moore	2010
Secretary:	Carter Siegling	2008
Treasurer:	Tom Harwood	2008

THE POWER OF PRAYER

The Vicar's message this month speaks to us about the power of prayer, as a Lenten discipline, as a resurrection event to be celebrated in the Easter season, and all through the year. Those persons needing prayer can be found on the Parish webpage: www.ststephenssc.org. You are requested to pray the following prayer daily for a month in support of the Parish Prayer list. Faithful prayer will indeed bring dramatic response from our Lord.

FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

BCP p. 836, prayer 1. *A General Thanksgiving*

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

The Knitting Group

What grand fun we are having as we both learn to knit and take up the ministry of providing warmth for those who need it. As a learning tool we have been knitting simple squares for Warm-Up America.

Projects of your own though are just as acceptable. Our next meeting is Sunday, March 2nd, in the Parish Hall from 2-4PM. Please, come and share a cup of tea with us and enjoy the fun and fellowship!

Continuing Ed. Training

St. Simon & St. Jude, Irmo, will offer Safe Church training on February 17th and Eucharistic Visitor training on February 23rd. All are welcome, as space permits. Safe Church runs from 1 p.m. till 4 p.m.; Eucharistic Visitor training begins with registration at 9 and concludes by noon. To register, please contact the church at 803 732-0153.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



Maundy Thursday	6:30pm, Holy Eucharist concluding with stripping of the Altar
Good Friday	Noon & 3:30pm, meditations and prayer. 6:30pm our customary Eucharistic service from reserve sacrament.
Holy Saturday	10:00am, the Annual Egg Hunt for Children, followed by lunch.
Easter Sunday	10:30am Holy Eucharist.

The Annual Great Egg Hunt is scheduled for Holy Saturday, March 22nd at 10AM in the Church Yard. Erin and Joe Trimmier are coordinating the event this year. Volunteers are needed at 9AM to hide the eggs. Remember, no chocolate in the eggs, it gets just a tad bit messy. Lunch will follow the hunt and the telling of "the story" in the Parish Hall. MOSS will be serving hot dogs and the trimmings.

DIOCESAN NEWS

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Every year on Good Friday, pilgrims from all over the world gather to walk along the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. Some carry a cross, to understand better the nature of the burden that Jesus bore. Others accompany them, as witnesses, as penitents, as believers. By dying on the cross at Calvary, Jesus delivered us from sin and despair.

For 150 years the Anglican Church in Jerusalem has borne the responsibility of sharing the cross of Jesus in a special way. By helping to maintain the Christian witness in the Holy Land, by serving all of God's people there in a variety of ministries, by proclaiming the gospel and promoting justice, peace and love throughout the four dioceses in that region, the church serves us all.

Each year the Episcopal Church asks that every parish congregation across the nation set aside the collection taken up at the Good Friday service. These funds are used to directly support the continuing ministry of the Church in Jerusalem. It is also the expectation of the diocese that churches of Upper SC participate. Please, be generous.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The 86th Diocesan Convention is now set for October 17-18, 2008 (Friday and Saturday). Diocesan business will be conducted, PLUS workshops (18th) AND some good old-fashioned Great Gathering spirit!

Following a recommendation from the Commission on the Diocese and endorsement by the Diocesan Executive Council, the Leadership Conference for 2008 will be held in conjunction with the business portion of the 86th Convention in October. The leadership training / convention program, which will take place at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, will offer an inspirational speaker, workshops on a variety of topics, and many surprises—AND EVERYONE'S INVITED!!

Of course, delegates and the Vicar are expected to attend; however, alternates and the membership of St. Stephen's may also attend. Only the Vicar and delegates would be afforded seat, voice, and vote, but if you have never attended a diocesan convention you might well find it interesting.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

PARISH INVOLVEMENT

To date we have collected \$29.50 from the sale of the ERD water bottles. We have a few more bottles to sell and then the money will be sent to ERD headquarters in New York. It will be added to all other monies collected across the country on ERD Sunday and will be dispersed to those areas of the world most in need. Thank you for supporting our outreach projects.

It is also possible to support Episcopal Relief and Development programs with an annual or monthly donation. Your checks can be sent directly to;

Episcopal Relief and Development
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017

This is a worthy cause with over 90% of the donations going directly into communities around the world. Communities in need here at home are included in what ERD does. Stories of some recent projects here in the USA are included on this page. Please contact me if you have any questions about the programs.

Carolyn Babb 337-8913.

ERD AND THE GULF STATES

Episcopal Relief and Development was one of the first groups to fully support the aftermath of Katrina along the Gulf States. Work continues to be done there in concert with the American Red Cross and the local Dioceses. ERD's reputation among the many who were left homeless following the hurricanes is one of trust and compassion. People know that foremost, we just want to help.

ERD IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Episcopal Relief and Development is providing support to those affected by the February 14 shooting rampage at Northern Illinois University that killed six people and wounded over thirty.

Episcopal Relief and Development has been in contact with the Diocese of Chicago, as well as The Reverend Mark Geisler, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, located three blocks from the university campus in DeKalb, IL.

The Rev. Geisler was on the scene immediately after the shootings were reported. Geisler, who is also president of the Board of Directors of United Campus Ministries, an ecumenical ministry partnership serving the Northern Illinois University student body, has been providing counseling and support over the past several days along with fellow clergy from United Campus Ministries and professional counselors.

ERD IN TORNADO AFTERMATH

(Update)

Episcopal Relief and Development continues to reach out to areas affected by last week's deadly tornadoes that killed over 50 people and leveled entire communities across five southern states—Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

"We have contacted the dioceses where these tornadoes hit," said Rich Ohlsen, Episcopal Relief and Development's Director of Domestic Disaster Response. "We stand ready to assist in whatever way we can."



YOUNG PEOPLE'S NEWS

DIOCESAN 2008 CALENDAR OF YOUTH EVENTS

March

Mar 7-9: Happening #59 Bishop Gravatt Center
(10th-12th grades)

April

Apr 25-27: Junior High New Beginnings Bishop Gravatt Center
(6th-8th grades)

July

July 8-13: Episcopal Youth Event 2008 Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas
(9th-12th grades)

TBD: Senior High Summer Mission Project
(9th-12th grades)

Information about the structure, mission, and organization of youth ministry in the diocese is available on the Parish Hall bulletin board.

HOME WORKS OF AMERICA, INC. 2008 WORK SESSIONS

"REPAIRING HOMES, RESTORING HOPE"

June 8-15	Columbia, SC & Valle Crucis, NC
June 9-13	Columbia, SC (Middle School youth)
June 15-21	Aiken, SC
June 20-24	Augusta, GA (Middle School youth)
June 22-28	Charleston, SC
June 22-29	Fayetteville, NC
July 13-19	Greenville, SC
July 13-20	Covington, LA
July 27-Aug 3	Zorritos, Peru

Session space is limited and is filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Adults are especially needed, both skilled and unskilled. Register at www.homeworks-sc.org or call 803/781-4536 and please let the Vicar know.

If you want your children to know what it is like to give to the needy from their hearts, then this is the perfect opportunity for you to join with them and experience real ministry together.

CAMP GRAVATT SCHEDULE 2008

May 31-Jun 1	Family Camp 1 parent & 1 child each add. member max per family	\$100 \$40 \$200
Jun 11-17	Jr. High Session (rising 7-9th graders)	\$450
Jun 19-25	Elementary Session (rising 1-6th graders)	\$425
Jun 27-Jul 3	Elementary Session (rising 1-6th graders)	\$425
Jun 19-Jul 3	CIT Session 2/3 (rising 10th graders)	\$700
Jul 7-17	Jr. High Session (rising 7-9th graders)	\$625
Jul 19-25	Elementary Session (rising 1-6 graders)	\$425
Jul 19-31	CIT Session 5/6 (rising 10th graders)	\$675
Aug 2-8	All Ages (rising 1-6 graders) (rising 7-9th graders)	\$425 \$450

Canteen fee, t-shirt and photo are included in prices.
CIT = Counselor In Training Program

ACOLYTE / CRUCIFER TRAINING

A less intimidating, yet fulfilling way to "break into" ministry as a server on Sundays is to become an Acolyte/Crucifer. Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to be a teen or pre-teen; adults are just as welcome. The next training session is scheduled for Saturday, March 1st at 10AM. Come out and join us!