

Ministering God's Love



Cultivating Faith

THE KING'S VOICE

NOVEMBER 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 3

IS IT GOD WHO IS SPEAKING TO ME? 4

WHAT WOULD YOU DO? 5

TRUNK OR TREAT 6

MINISTRY SCHEDULE 7

CALENDAR 8

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Notes from the Office
- Blessing of the Animals
- Financials

THE BLESSING

By Dorene Royal

He was very old when he called his children and grandchildren together. He was seated in his chair as they gathered around him, his staff by his side. He began to tell them about his history. It was a custom in old times to make marks on one's staff to represent various points in life, perhaps he pointed to them as he said, "here's where I met your mother. And here's where I married her. And here's where my first son was born, and here's where my twelfth son was born, and here's where I buried my wife" and so on. I can imagine that as he got to the top of his staff with his historical account of a lifetime of God's blessings that he began to get out of his chair – he stood taller and spoke louder. He spoke a blessing over all his sons and his grandsons; Hebrews 11:21 says that "Jacob, by faith, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons (his grandsons) and worshipped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

This biblical tradition of the children bowing for the elderly parent's blessing was carried on for many years, even in the 1500's in England, however (unfortunately!) it did not seem to transition to the American culture.

This article is a challenge to our older saints to seriously and prayerfully consider taking up this biblical culture and blessing your family! There were 5 elements of the blessing that the elderly parent gave to their children and grandchildren; a definition of the family blessing (containing these five major elements) is this:

A family blessing begins with a meaningful touch. It continues with a spoken message of high value, a message that pictures a special future for the individual being blessed, and one that is based on active commitment to see the blessing come to pass.

MEANINGFUL TOUCH.

When Isaac blessed Jacob, he said, "Come near now, my son." The Hebrew word for 'come close' is very descriptive – it was the same word used of armies drawn together in battle formation. Each time the blessing was given in the Scriptures, the parent put his or her hand on the head of the child. The act of touching is a key to communicating warmth, personal acceptance and affirmation. It was also the symbolic transferring of power. The Gospel of Mark tells us that Jesus did this with the little children – he took them up in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them. When my daughter and son were going to Peru as missionaries, my 88 year old father, not knowing if he would see them again, asked them to stop by. He blessed his granddaughter, grandson and great grandchildren, it was a very, very special occasion – they will long remember his hands resting on their heads and the encouraging words that were spoken.

SPOKEN MESSAGE.

In many homes today, spoken words of love and acceptance are scarce. Parents sometimes think that gifts or spending time with their family is all that is needed, and they are actually shy about speaking words of love, but this is a tragic misconception. Can you remember some of the words your parents spoke to you years ago? Your thoughts may be words of praise, but they also may be negative words that you heard. We should not be surprised that the family blessing hinges on the spoken message. Your children long for your spoken words of blessing and should not have to fill in the blanks about what you think about them.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Abraham blessed Isaac. Isaac spoke a blessing to Jacob. Jacob gave a verbal blessing to each of his twelve sons and two of his grandchildren. When God blessed us with His Son, He was the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us!

The Gospel of James tells us that the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts great things. Why is it so hard to speak words of blessing? Some think: If I praise them, they'll take advantage of me. Others think: I don't know what to say. Or: Oh, they know I love them without my having to say it. One parent said: If I start now, I'll have to make a habit of it. The truth is this – many parents hesitate to bless their children because their parents never blessed them and they don't know how.

ATTACHES HIGH VALUE.

Meaningful touch and a spoken message shows our children that we recognize that they are valuable and has redeeming qualities. In the biblical blessing, it was based on who they are, not simply on their performance. You may be thinking, 'my son or my daughter is a success in life, they don't need my blessing,' but the blessing is based on their character, not their career. Here is a tip: Use Word pictures based on everyday objects. Joseph was blessed as 'a fruitful bough by a spring'. Naphtalie was blessed as a doe, full of grace and of a gentle nature. Think of the quality that your adult child has and put a word picture to it when blessing the child. Is your child determined, are they creative, are they kind, are they protective, are they wise, are they considerate? Use those qualities in their blessing to point out their potential.

In the blessing of Peter, Jesus called him a rock, someone that was firm and upon this rock His church would be built. There were times Peter didn't act like a rock – he denied Christ 3 times, but in the end, he was the one on the day of Pentecost that preached and thousands came to Christ.

PICTURES A SPECIAL FUTURE.

The blessing gives your child something to look forward to. It is still a tradition in Jewish households for the Grandfather to gather his children and grandchildren together and bless them. The women are on one side and the men are on the other. The grandfather says things each person as a blessing, providing each with a warm wish for a fulfilling life in the years to come.

This is a chance to bring out the best in the one you are blessing. Now, some parents may not be able to do this right now because they have not lived a consistent Christian life in the past and may have said and done things that would cause a lack of credibility with their child. If that is the case, then this is the time to mend that bridge. It is the time to say "I'm sorry, I was wrong, forgive me" and then you can go forward with the blessing. Your credibility with your child will affect how your words of blessing are received.

How you picture your child's future and express that to them in a blessing will make an impact on them in the years to come, and they in turn will lay their hands on their children and remember how you blessed them and pass that blessing on to the next generation.

AN ACTIVE COMMITMENT

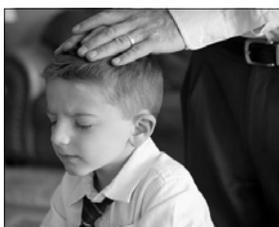
There is a responsibility that goes along with the blessing. Words alone cannot communicate the blessing, they need to be backed up with doing everything possible to help the one who is blessed be successful.

The first step is to commit the child you have blessed to the Lord. Isaac did this in the blessing to Jacob, he said "May God give you the dew of heaven and the fatness of the earth." Jacob committed his grandchildren to God in the words, "May the God who has been my shepherd bless these lads."

It may mean praying for them more.

Become a student of those you wish to bless. Do you know the following things about your children: What do they dream about? What do they enjoy doing most? Of all the people they have learned about in the Bible, who is the person they would most like to be and why? What do they believe God wants them to do for others? What is the best part of their day and what is the worst? What challenges do they face, what victories have they achieved?

Finally, there is a very special element in blessing your children. It is found in Proverbs 31. There is a wise woman in this chapter who takes an active commitment in blessing her family. In the end, in later years there is this promise: Your children will rise up and call YOU blessed!





As I considered my task of writing a short article for our newsletter I became painfully aware of how little I knew about the Altar Guild. Mother Carolyn started my education by having me do an inventory of the linens, vestments and holy hardware, what an array of items there are. I was raised in the Episcopal Church, my family was active in many areas of church life but the Altar Guild was not one of them. We appreciated what went into the 'big' days of the Church year but the weekly work that occurred was not really understood.

My experience here at Christ the King began when the former Rector casually asked if I would like to help on the altar, I said yes. Diane Holdrum was in charge at that time and she trained me on how to set up the sanctuary. Claire Pechout took over from Diane a few years ago and earlier this year Claire asked if I would take over for her, I agreed. The amazing thing is God had put on my heart several weeks earlier a desire to do more with the Altar Guild. I had mentioned this to no one until a few days before Claire asked me. Claire continues to take the vase inserts to the flower shop each week and keeps up with the linen washing. I am so grateful for her help.

Please give thought to joining this vital behind the scenes ministry. Training is being considered for mid to late November. My desire at this time, so people don't wear out, is to have another team of 2 and someone to serve as an alternate.

What I do know today is the Guild is essential to our worship and partaking in the Eucharist.

Receiving Communion

People generally come forward and stand or kneel at the altar to receive communion. The official policy of the Episcopal Church is that all baptized people may receive communion. If you don't want to receive communion that is totally fine. You can remain in your seat, or you can also come forward and cross your arms over your chest. The priest will offer you a blessing instead of communion.



If you do want to receive, hold out your hands and the priest will put a piece of bread in your hand. Then another liturgical minister will come with the cup of wine (and it is wine!). There are few choices here. You can eat the bread when it is put in your hand and then take a sip of wine from the cup. It is okay and actually helpful for you to touch the cup and help guide it to your mouth. If you don't want to drink from the cup you can also leave the bread in your hand and the person with the cup will dip the bread in the wine and then place it in your mouth. It is also totally fine to receive only the bread or only the wine; either is considered a full receiving of communion. There are many reasons people might want to receive only one so don't feel self-conscious about that. Once you have received, simply return to your seat.

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7

Stewardship is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God. The tradition of giving back to God and to the church with generous hearts comes from the Biblical practice of "tithing," which means to give back a tenth of our earnings to God (Numbers 18:26). The Episcopal Church sees stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it's also about contributing time and talents, and volunteering for ministry and mission. It's about reaching out to build relationships from a perspective of abundance instead of scarcity.

The Heart of a Stewardship Pledge is:

Good News: God has given us creative power and we are entrusted to manage this power to re-create the world in the image and likeness of God.

Thanksgiving: We give thanks to God for all that we have been given and respond by sharing what we have with others.

Commitment: Are our beliefs reflected in our commitments? How we actually spend our time, talent and treasure is a telling sign of our spiritual life and our stewardship.

Joy: Through stewardship and sharing we discover what our time is worth. It brings us closer to God. We feel more grounded and experience deep joy.

Your stewardship, how you give of your time, talent and treasure, is a personal decision.
As you consider your stewardship of God's creation:

Pray - Ask God to give you a clear vision of the prudent management of the resources you control.

Listen - Communication with God in prayer goes both ways if we let it.

Observe - Evaluate what you have compared to the majority of people in the world.

Decide - Determine what portion of your resources should be returned to God for the benefit of others, in Christ's name.

Remember - Your commitment is based on your situation now. If your situation changes, it is appropriate that your pledge changes also.

Offer - Present your pledge of money to God at the Altar and offer your pledge of time and talent through participating all year long.

Trust - That God will provide for all your needs.

A Stewardship Prayer:

Loving God, we thank you for the rich abundance in our lives. Open our eyes to see that in being so blessed we can in turn abundantly bless others. Open our hearts to feel the powerful generosity of your Spirit and let go of our fear and judgment. Open our ears to hear the needs of this church and community. Open our minds that, whenever called, we offer the world our measureless love, our generous time, our unique talents and treasure. Quicken our hands to your service, breathe your Spirit into us and touch us with the life of Christ. Amen.

Deacon's Corner

In Matthew's Gospel (25:32-46) Jesus tells us, among other things, that we should visit the sick and those in prison. He realized that the sick, like the poor, are always with us. Now this 'Godly Invitation' provides for us almost unlimited opportunities to put our Christian religion into practice. How do we respond to it? Do we ever offer prayer? Do we ever go see them? If we don't, we really must begin in order to follow what Jesus tells us to do.

In next month's Newsletter, I'll talk about being a Lay Eucharistic Visitor. But this month I want to let you know about another opportunity for members of Christ the King to visit the sick. On October 12th, we visited with Bobbie Robinson, Director of Activities at the Consulate Health Care of Lakeland Nursing Home. It is located just a few blocks from Christ the King Church, at 5245 North Socrum Loop Road. We were invited to come and visit and participate in sharing Christ's love with those in the facility. Some who live there are visited by family but others have been left there, never having a visitor. Some are not only ill, but lonely. So, what can we do about them? I'm so glad you asked. The following are just a few ideas of how we can share ourselves and Christ with them. We could go and sing songs to them and with them, provide "Pumpkin Caroling" around Halloween and/or Thanksgiving; we could go "a 'caroling", singing Christmas songs as we walk through the facility; the CTK Handbell group could go and play some songs or hymns for them; the children could go and visit in their Halloween costumes; our Praise Team could visit and sing some hymns, including some old time gospel songs; our children's church could make Christmas Cards for them; we could sponsor a "movie night" at the facility; we can place them on our CTK and personal prayer lists; we could have volunteers set aside one day or evening a week/month to go read and talk with one of the lonely residents; we could conduct an "Evening Prayer" service once or twice a month with our folks helping to bring the residents to a central location and take them back after the service; and I'm certain that you can think of even more things we could do for our brothers and sisters who are sick.

We are going to adopt this facility and concentrate on serving Christ there by serving the residents. So, how about it? Would you like to participate in at least one of these activities that would respond to Christ's call to visit the sick? If yes, please put your name on the designated sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway. Also, please feel free to talk with Ed or me if you have some other ideas. We need to move quickly though, as Halloween and Thanksgiving are not that far in the future.

Deacon Bob

WHY SHOULD WE HAVE A STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN?

"But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner." 1 Cor. 14:40

The reason for a stewardship campaign is to determine as much as possible what the projected income will be for the coming year.

The following is taken from Dave Ramsey's web site regarding what a budget should be.

A budget's priorities should reflect the church's [mission statement](#).

- It's based on projected income, not just the past.
- It includes a spending plan.
- Leadership agrees on the plan.

The plan is communicated clearly to all involved.

He also said this:

"Work like it all depends on you, but pray like it all depends on God."

*"When making and living by your budget, prayer is the key that unlocks your ability to join God in what He is doing. **That's not an excuse to sit back and do nothing.** It's simply the admission that no matter how hard we work, it's God's power that fuels every good work, and it's God who crowns our efforts with success.*

Money is a tool to accomplish what God has called us to do. We only need to budget for the fulfillment of God's vision for your church."

We are doing a blind pledge this year to encourage everyone to pledge what they believe they can give based on their personal budgets. If everyone gives something, and some give abundantly, then we should be able to meet all the needs of the parish, and carryout the mission of sharing Christ with the world around us.

I would like everyone to consider giving based on the matrix below. I know it's a big number for us, but in order for Christ the King to convert our priest-in-charge into a full time rector we need to be able to support a budget of this size. I've broken it down into bite size pieces. Which piece will you consider?

# pledges (family)	Annual Budget Total	Weeks in the Year	Amount needed each week	amount need from each Family
20	170,000.00	52	\$ 3,269.23	163.46
25	170,000.00	52	\$ 3,269.23	130.77
30	170,000.00	52	\$ 3,269.23	108.97
35	170,000.00	52	\$ 3,269.23	93.41
40	170,000.00	52	\$ 3,269.23	81.73
45	170,000.00	52	\$ 3,269.23	72.65
50	170,000.00	52	\$ 3,269.23	65.38
55	170,000.00	52	\$ 3,269.23	59.44
60	170,000.00	52	\$ 3,269.23	54.49
65	170,000.00	52	\$ 3,269.23	50.30

I pray that God may richly bless each family and that you will prayerfully consider giving from your heart.

Martha Griggs,
Senior Warden

INCOME		EXPENSES	
09/06/15	3280.00	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Financials Sep- tember2015 </div>	
09/13/15	3477.50		
09/20/15	1968.50		
09/27/15	1640.50		
Total	10541.50		
		TOTAL	\$9,219.67

M I N I S T R Y S C H E D U L E

Ministry area	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Celebrant	Father Phillips	Mother Carolyn	Mother Carolyn	Mother Carolyn	Mother Carolyn
Deacon	Bob Dinnerville Ed Tatlian	Bob Dinnerville Ed Tatlian	Bob Dinnerville Ed Tatlian	Bob Dinnerville Ed Tatlian	Bob Dinnerville Ed Tatlian
LEM2	Jim Royal	Paige Sharrow	Bob Springthorpe	Sharon Rogers	Martha Griggs
Acolyte - Server	Elizabeth Hospedales	Elvon Hospedales	Mitchell Parrish	All Acolytes	Sydney Sharrow
Acolyte - Cross/bells	Sydney Sharrow	Clive Borden	Jacob Heist	All	Liam Borden
Acolyte-Collection	Grace Fernburg	Joey Beck	Alexander Parrish	All	Joey Beck
Acolyte -Gospel	John Beck	John Beck	John Beck	John Beck	John Beck
Old Testament	Don Williams	Wade Griggs	Mike Green	Jim Royal	Andrea Borden
New Testament	Veda Dwyer	Sharon Rogers	Jan Dinnerville	Stacey May	David Biggs
Prayers of the people	Jan Dinnerville	Ed Tatlian	Wade Griggs	Bob Dinnerville	Sharon Rogers
Greeters./ushers	Betty & Claire	Jack & Wade	Terry & Cheryl	Susan & Darren	Jack Dale & David Biggs
Pre k (paid)	Colleen	Debbie	Colleen	Debbie	Colleen
Children's Chapel	Andrea Borden Ed Tatlian	Pam Sharrow Bob Dinnerville	Andrea Borden Mthr Carolyn	No Children's Chapel	Pam Sharrow Dorene Royal
Prayer Team	Wade & Lisa	Marilyn & Cathy	Ed & Joy	Stacey & Jim	Lisa & Cathy
Altar Guild	Diane & Carolyn	Lisa & Christina	Lisa & Christina	Claire & Cathy	Claire & Cathy
Vestry Counters	Josh & Wade	Josh & Wade	Josh & Wade	Josh & Wade	Josh & Wade

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Children's Chapel 10am All Saints Day Fr. Phillips will be here Mtr. Carolyn's B-day		10am Woman's Bible Study	Women of the Bible~ Bible study With service to follow. 7pm		A – Cheryl & Terry Wise	Cursillo Picnic St. Matthew's Orlando @ 12pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Children's Chapel 10am		10am Woman's Bible Study B – Diane Holdrum	Women of the Bible~ Bible study With service to follow. 7pm B – Dewey Johnson			A – Martha & Wade Griggs B – Cason Benton
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Children's Chapel 10am		10am Woman's Bible Study	Women of the Bible~ Bible study With service to follow. 7pm		A – Jane & Don Williams B – Alexander Parrish	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Children's Chapel 10am Hanging of the Greens CTK Day Pot Luck Lunch Ingathering for the Stewardship Campaign	B – Roger Miller B – Martha Griggs	10am Woman's Bible Study B – Isabel DeTringo	Community Service for Thanksgiving			
29	30					
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Children's Chapel 10am B – Karissa Heist						