



Spring Issue 2011

The Reverend Father Calvin R. Griffin
Rector

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ST. LUKE'S TIMES

FROM THE RECTOR



“He is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to Him all of them are alive.” *(Luke 20:38)*

Some years ago someone collected “Dear God” letters which children had actually written to God. And as that ageless and beloved television show reminds us, “kids say the most darned things.”

One of the letters addressed to God, said, “Dear God, what is it like when you die? Nobody will tell me. I just want to know. I don’t want to do it.”

Well, I suspect that most of us are right where the child was – we want to know about the penultimate experience we call death, but we are not eager to face it, not just yet.

So, what about death? Certainly death is real. Although, at times we do behave as though death were not going to touch us or those whom we love. But, in reality, we do know better. For death is inevitable. Not one of us will be able to escape it.

So, really there’s a kind of irony in the words of Jesus, hearing that we are alive and at the same time knowing that we will die. You see, the key to understanding Jesus’ words is centered in resurrection – Easter!

The true foundation of our Christian faith is the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Himself. “Because I live,” said Jesus, “you will also live.”

A rector, a priest, tells of her very first experience with a dying person, with a parishioner who believed in the promise of Easter, in the reality of the resurrection and the life of the world to come.

The priest was young, right out of seminary, newly ordained, inexperienced, nervous, afraid; afraid she would say the wrong thing or do something really, really stupid.

The parishioner was old and wise, a dear aged grandmother. In fact, she was called “Granny” by all who knew and loved her.

Now she was in the hospital and the “Visitor” who comes to us all in due time was by her side, beckoning her.

“I guess I’m going to leave,” she said to her priest. “I know,” answered the young priest. “I’m very tired.” “I know,” said the priest. “I never died before,” said the parishioner with a faint smile. “I’ve never been with someone who died before,” confessed the priest. “Mother (referring to the priest), I think we’ll make it.” The dying woman was almost whispering. She squeezed the young priest’s hand. Then she asked,

(continued on page



Vestry Notes



Information from past Vestry Meetings:

- **Senior Warden** appointed: Tannie Smith
- **Treasurer** elected: Herbert Bynoe
- **Clerk of Vestry** elected: Michelle Smith
- Persons assigned as facilitators to commissions:

Communications & Technology:

Cynthia Goines, William Smith

Community and Human Resources:

Rudy Canzater,



Keep up with church activities and events.

Corine Kimpson

Finance: Herbert Bynoe, Patricia Cokley

Parish Fellowship: Herman Hickman, Cynthia Goines

Spiritual Life: Tannie Smith, Corliss Wise

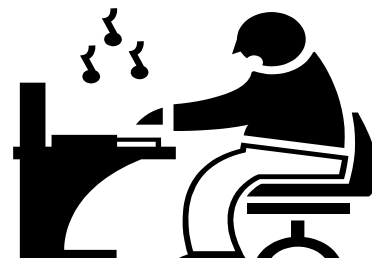
William F. O'Neal Center:

Charles E. Blakely, James Johnson, Herbert Bynoe

Buildings & Grounds: Herman Hickman, Charles E. Blakeley

Great News!!!

The Organ Committee is so excited to announce, that from the three (3) years of the committee's inception, our organ fund to date is: \$70, 193.00.



The Organ Committee thanks everyone who generously pledged and donated to the fund that made the goal of a New Allen Organ a reality!

The Church Finance Commission has signed a contract and have placed the order with its first payment of \$27, 000.00 to Fox Music House!

Thanks,
The Organ Committee

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are on target for income and expenses through February 2011. It is imperative that we continue to support our Parish as we have done in the past. Refer to the upcoming April bulletin for first quarter financial information.

Submitted by Herbert Bynoe, Treasurer



(Continued from page 1)



From the Rector

"Mother, will you listen while I pray?" She closed hereyes and prayed, "My Father, take me home because of my Jesus. And Father, take care of this good girl here. She has given love, and she has been a friend. Amen."

The young priest was crying. "Thank you, Granny," she said.

"It's all right," answered Granny. "I'm just going to be with a friend. Tell them out there that I'm all right. All is well."

"I'll tell them, Granny," promised the young priest. *Borrowing from and paraphrasing the words of James Weldon Johnson*, "Granny smiled and closed her eyes. And Death took her up."

"He is God not of the dead," says Jesus, "but of the living," for to him all of them are alive."

My friends, the implications for us are tremendous. For, if Jesus was right, and we believe he was, death cannot be a terror for us at all. Therefore, with the Apostle Paul, we can boldly say, "I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!"

Because of the power of the living God, that same power which raised Jesus from the dead, we, too, can be confident that we shall be alive forever; for to God all are alive!

Thanks be to God who has given us the victory!

Have a Happy and Blessed Easter Day and Season!

Faithfully,

Fr. Calvin R. Griffin+

Your Priest and Rector

Our Prayers are asked:

For Healing: Ed Bynum, Dorothy Hayes, Emerson Hazzard, Mildred Murray, Major Roberts, Fred Thompson, Talmadge Moore, Jackie Coles, Adell Adams, John Rumph, Helen Grogan, Carole Cooper, Barbarel Blakely Ronald Turner, and Valerie Riley

For Our Young People Away From Home: Ebony Saxon, Ann Bingham Johnson, Patrick and Rebecca Cokley, Natalie Moore Fulton, Rudy Wise, Jr., Erika Johnson, Victoria Julian, Michael Turner, Justin Battiste, Russell Griffin, Cedric Johnson, Skye Robinson-Dunbar, Jai Marshall, Jade Battiste, Jioni and Ashlei Palmer

For Our Loved Ones in Nursing Homes: Vivian Hampton, Lorraine Marshall, Ella Lenoir, and Charlotte Osbia

For Members of the Armed Forces: Chad Williams and Peter Utley

For Our Loved Ones at Home: Eddy Brown, Bernice Johnson, and Abram Coles

For Our Ministry: With many stars in their heavenly crowns this is our prayer for the parish of St. Luke's.



MISSION STATEMENT: *"The mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church is to spread the Word and share the love of God with all people."*

JOB SHADOWING

BY TALIA FERRO ROBINSON-HEYWARD

In life, we have many options from which we can choose to take and do for the rest of our lives. Like most people, you won't know what you will actually do, but everybody can choose what they want to do. Not trying to brag, but I am a very fortunate young man; I have many great careers from which I can choose. I wasn't too excited, or enthused about this job shadowing project, but I made the best of it. I job shadowed my pastor, The Reverend Calvin Griffin. I really don't know what hit me, but when my teacher first told us about the project, my pastor almost immediately popped into my head, like a lamp being plugged into the socket!

Job shadowing a pastor instead of any other job is kind of different in many ways. I really didn't know what we would do for a whole day. So I arrived at my church around 9:30. When my pastor arrived, we went straight into his office and began to talk. I never, in any world, thought that I could sit down and talk with someone for three hours. It's not like I have "A.D.D." or anything, but I'm the type of person that will have to be active and doesn't like to sit for a long time. But we started to talk and everything flowed real smoothly. Basically, all the questions I have been holding in, I got them all out. So we sat and talked about any and everything.

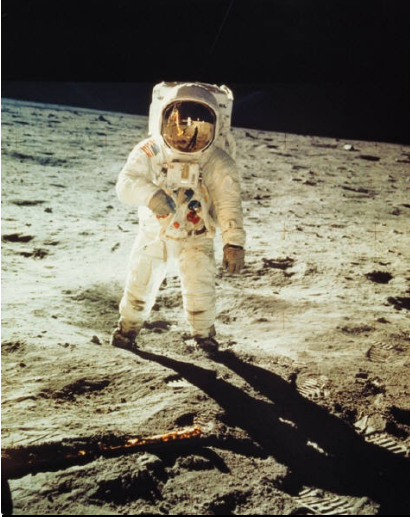
Being a pastor isn't easy as most people think. They think it's just preaching on Sundays and sitting around in the office. It's really a nonstop job. You have church on Sunday, and we all know how that is. Monday for my pastor is the only day off. On a normal Tuesday, he is in the office from 10 till 2. On a Wednesday, he is also in the office from 10 till 2, and he starts preparing for Sunday's sermon. Thursday and Friday are basically the same thing; Saturday is more of working on the sermon all day and maybe meetings.

But you can't forget visiting the sick and shut-in, church meetings, diocesan meetings, and being there whenever people call and need you. People can call you any-time of the day or night, and you have to go. My pastor stated that one night after 12 o'clock someone called and he had to get out of bed and go to them.

This job shadowing experience had a little bit of irony to it. The ironic part is at the



same time I picked my pastor to shadow, he also wanted me to do a dialogue sermon with him in church. Just for my pastor to ask me to do this was kind of an honor in a way. I humbly agreed to do it, and had no doubts about it. So the same day I went to shadow him, we discussed it and went into the church and practiced. In church that Sunday, I wasn't scared at all, but I was kind of nervous. I thought I did okay; and most people liked it so I was relieved.



FOOTSTEPS ON THE MOON

I have a sort of dream, or vision you can say, that I can preach my own sermon one Sunday in church. It's just one thing stopping me, in the Episcopal Church, you have to be an ordained deacon, pastor, or bishop to give a sermon or read the gospel. Also to be a pastor, you have to go to a seminary and go through classes, just to become ordained. In most denominations, you can become a licensed and ordained pastor without going to a seminary. So technically, I can never give my own sermon at my church without going to a seminary.

To be a pastor is not something you just say you want to do, its way more than that! You can't just say: because my pastor makes a lot of money, I want to do what he does. It is not like a career choice like engineering, being a doctor, or a lawyer. You have to be "called" as people say. To me it's more like a feeling; or God actually telling you that this is what you need to be doing! To me, sometimes I feel that this is what I need to be doing, and sometimes I feel like I won't be a good enough pastor, but it's not for me to determine. Always remember you can do anything you put your mind too! And why say the sky is the limit when there are footsteps on the moon!!!

The H2O Ministry

A new ministry has started in our church with two yearly opportunities to give to the local community. The ministry is called The H2O or The Help to Others Ministry. Each giving opportunity will last for a month.

Recently, eyeglasses were collected and donated to the local Lions Club. The recycled eyeglasses are used by the Lions to assist persons in our community, who can not afford the purchase of eyeglasses.

The October drive will be for the collection of items to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House of Columbia. The Ronald McDonald House hosts families of children who are hospitalized for extended stays at local hospitals.



Submitted by Fred Stover

JUST TO LET YOU KNOW:

Church Sunday School: The Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. All children are invited to participate in learning about and from the Bible. You can contact Judy Battiste, Tannie Smith, or Corliss Wise for further information or to volunteer as a teacher.

Congratulations to Gwen Meadows who was elected as the secretary of the ECW Diocesan Board for 2011.

The Parish Picnic: The parish picnic is scheduled for May 29, 2011 at Sesquicentennial State Park.

Kudos to the Black History Month Committee for a great month of speakers and events in February.

The St. Luke's Men's Club Fish Fry will be held on Friday May 6, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Dinners include fish, hush puppies, bread, coleslaw, french fries and a snack cake. The costs are: dinner - \$7.00; fish sandwich - \$3.50 and sodas - \$ 0.50.

The St. Luke's Men's Club will sponsor a **Men's Breakfast** on Saturday May 14, 2011, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Warren Bolton. Please join us.

The Episcopal Church Women of St. Luke's presents its Annual Spring Tea & Hat Show on Saturday, June 4, 2011, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 and may be purchased from any ECW woman of the church. Come one!! Come all!!
Submitted by Venetia Hammonds, Chairperson, Hat Show

Congratulations to Brigadier General Peter Utley: Father and Mrs. Utley wish to announce the promotion of their son, Peter, to the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S. Army. The ceremony was held at the Pentagon in Washington, DC with the Vice-Chief of Staff, General Cirelli, presiding and assisted by Peter's wife, Cathy, as she pinned on her husband's Star. We journeyed to the Chaplain School at Fort Jackson where we were joined by the Commandant and members of the Staff and Faculty to view the ceremony in its entirety via a Streaming Video hookup. At the conclusion of this gala event, Mom and Dad chatted with the new General, rendering our congratulations and blessing on this new responsibility. It was an awesome moment! This day would not be complete without conveying our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Griffin and the Parish Family for all your prayers and expressions of congratulation for Peter's achievement. We love you and want you to know how immensely significant you were in making this day eternally treasurable. Thank you, one and all. God bless. *Pro Deo et Patria* (For God and Country).

United Thank Offering

How many times do we give thanks to God for the gifts that have been given to us? For the rain, for a child's smile, for our families, and for God's presence in our lives? How long is your list?

Become a part of the UTO by offering thanks and prayers as part of your life in Christ by dropping your coins in the Blue Box or the UTO envelope. Turn it in on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at our Annual Spring UTO Breakfast, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist. The blue boxes/envelopes will be located in the narthex.

Submitted by Gwendolyn Meadows, Chairperson

Calendar of Events

April

- 3 - Mothering Sunday
- 3 - ECW Meeting, 12:00 noon
- 4 - Lenten Tea, 5:30 P.M.
- 5 - Men's Club Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
- 6 - Holy Eucharist, 5:30 P.M.
Lenten Study & Discussion, 6:00 P.M.
- 11 - Lenten Tea, 5:30 P.M.
- 12 - Vestry Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
- 13 - Holy Eucharist, 5:30 P.M.
Lenten Study & Discussion, 6:00 P.M.
- 16 - Daughters of the King Quiet Day, 9:00 A.M.- 12 Noon
- 17 - Palm Liturgy, Procession & Holy Eucharist, 9:50 A.M.
- 19 - 21 Stations of the Cross, 12:00 noon
- 21 - Maundy Thursday Liturgy, 6:00 P.M.
- 22 - Good Friday Liturgy: Mass of the Pre-Sanctified, 12:00 noon
- 23 - Holy Saturday
- 24 - The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day
Festival Holy Eucharist 10:00 A.M.
Egg Hunt & Coffee Hour, 11:15 A.M.
- 30 - Feeding Ministry, 12:00 noon

May

- 1 - UTO Sunday
- 1 - ECW Meeting, 12:00 noon
- 4 - Wednesday Bible Study
- 6 - Flea Market **"Blow Out Sale"**, 8:00 A.M -1:00 P.M.
- 6 - Fish Fry, 11:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
- 7 - Flea Market **"Blow Out Sale"**, 8:00A.M.-1:00 P.M.
- 8 - Mother's Day
- 12 - St Luke's Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 A.M.
- 14 - Men's Breakfast, St. Luke's Men's Club, 10:00 A.M. - 12 Noon
- 17 - Vestry Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
- 18 - Men's Club Meeting, 7:00 P.M.
- 21- Ordination of Dianna Deaderick, 11:00 A.M.,
Trinity Cathedral.

- 26- St. Luke's Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 A.M.
- 28 - Feeding Ministry, 12:00 noon
- 29 - Annual Picnic, Sesquicentennial Park, 10:00 A.M.

June

- 1 - Wednesday Bible Study, 10:00 A.M.
- 2 - Ascension Day
- 4 - ECW Hat Show, 11:00 A.M - 1:00 P.M.
- 5 - The Sunday After The Ascension of Our Lord, 10:00 A.M.
- 9 - St. Luke's Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 A.M.
- 12 - The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday, 10:00 A.M.
- 15 - Men's Club Meeting, 7:00 P.M
- 19 - Father's Day
- 21 - Vestry Meeting, 6:00 P.M..
- 23 - St. Luke's Quilters/Craters, 11:00 A.M.
- 25 - Feeding Ministry, 12:00 noon

APRIL 2011

Sun	Mon	Tu	W	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



2011 COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP HOUR

APRIL

- 3rd Mothering Sunday
- 10th Cassandra Sims
- 17th Roberts Family
- 24th Available

MAY

- 1st UTO Sunday
- 8th Men's Club-Mother's Day
- 15th Denell Hickman
- 22nd Mary McLemore & Valerie Riley
- 29th Parish Picnic

June

- 5th James, Ann Kelley & Rudy Canzater
- 12th Father & Mrs. Utley
- 19th ECW--Father's Day
- 26th Levi & Loretta Johnson & Family

JULY

- 3rd Joseph and Beverly Ray
- 10th William & Michelle Smith
- 17th Available
- 24th Emerson Hazzard
- 31st Milton & Gwendolyn Parker



Hi Everyone,

The Fellowship calendar has more dates available in 2011 for sign up. Please sign the calendar to host a fellowship Sunday for your birthday, anniversary or In Thanksgiving for many Blessings. Thank you.

Submitted by Cynthia Goines

CURRENT RESIDENT

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