

EVANGELIST

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WWW.STMARKSCATHEDRAL.NET

EfM for All

by Thomas Nsubuga thomas@stmarkscathedral.net

It is amazing how fast time passes when you are doing what you love to do. That is true with EfM (Education for Ministry). I want to congratulate the 10 students who have labored through the lengthy study of the Old Testament and it has been a privilege for me to be their mentor.



The conceptual difficulty in studying an ancient text like the bible is in applying it to our daily lives, which is one the core objectives of EfM. The theme for this year was "Living as Spiritually Mature Christians" and the challenge has been how to apply the cultural and life stories of our forefathers in ancient Israel to our 21st century way of life and still be spiritually mature. What we have discovered so far is that to say that since we are in a tradition and we claim continuity with our forebearers and therefore our thinking and their thinking are in full agreement, is wrong. It is true we believe in a God who encounters us through history but we remain historically conditional beings. And history has shown that we all change. In our study we have discovered that change is as much part of faith tradition as its continuity and most of the time our faith is a balancing of tradition and change. Where each of us puts the fulcrum is what makes us different from one another, though Episcopalians.



Our study this year has helped us to resolve this issue by addressing the questions of life with a different framework. What we have discovered is that the questions of life do not go away but if you reframe them, sometimes you can see them very differently. If we reframe the challenges and tribulations of life then we are inviting ourselves to consider that the

resolution to the problem is to expand our framework. We have done this through sharing our life spiritual biographies, by theologically reflecting on real life situations we have dealt with, by deconstructing and reconstructing a given text before us, by asking questions of clarification (not questioning) a particular course of action or response of a member in a particular situation, but worshiping together and very importantly by listening to one another.

One of the most frequently used word in the course of the year was "ambiguity."

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COVID-19 Protocols Remain in Place

As the July Evangelist goes to press, Louisiana and St. Mark's remain in Phase Two of the reopening protocol. We are having one Sunday service. Reservations are required by noon Saturday. All attendees must wear a mask and gloves, or use hand sanitizer. Six feet social distancing will continue to be practiced. Communion is taken one at a time and the Host only.

For the month of July, we will have Sunday services in the Parish Hall! We have weddings and an Ordination scheduled for Saturdays. Due to the need to completely sanitize the church between any services, something we can't effectively do because the chemicals we would need to use would seriously damage the wood surfaces in the church, the only alternative is to wait seventytwo hours between services. The same protocols used in the church will also be in effect in the Parish Hall.

We don't yet know when the state will go to Phase Three or exactly what that will look like. We will keep you updated on those changes through our weekly Messenger.

We miss seeing everyone and hope to all be back together soon!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm Sunday Holy Eucharist

5:30 pm Friday Holy Eucharist (uses the Sunday Propers)

JULY 5, 2020 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9 :9-12 Romans 7 :15-25a
Psalm 146 :8-15 Matthew 11 :16-19, 25-30

JULY 12, 2020 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55 :10-13 Psalm 65 :9-14 Romans 8 :1-11 Matthew 13 :1-9, 18-23

JULY 19, 2020 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am Holy Eucharist & Baptism

Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17 Romans 8 :12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

JULY 26, 2020 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Weekday Worship at the Cathedral



(continued from page 1)

I am proud of the 10 because they have not only been open to but have wrestled with the various interpretations of the bible that have somehow challenged their faith. But this ambiguity did not dissuade us from pursuing our objective of becoming spiritually mature Christians. In reminiscing the past year experience, the ten have lamented the shortness of time to cram everything they wanted to know. Although we have appreciated intentionality of the study, we still struggle with the emergent question of being whole and true to the mission God is calling us. We have experienced numerous "aha" moments as we let go the defensive posture to the bible and taking on an open posture of embracing it as it is written, and appreciating the religious environment into which Jesus stepped. By doing that we have developed an honest relationship with God as evidenced in the freedom that comes from letting God be God. Through our worship together, we have come to appreciate music and art even better. We have expressed a new self of striving to listen attentively and actively. The greatest benefit of the past year has been the building of a community. We have bonded, shared meals together, laughed together and believe it or not, cried together.

Please join me in congratulating the new Old Testament theologians in the church: Lynda and Jim Delo, Bob Ewing, Rob Gilchrist, Lisa and Gary Love, Jason Waltman, and Lynn and Steve Yancey. If you would like to experience the bible in a new way that will help you discern your mission in life, come and join us in September for your first year in their second year. We still have room for more. Registration begins this month. For more information get in touch with me at

thomas@stmarkscathedral.org

EfM is for all.



Oblationers Needed

Our Hospitality Committee invites parishioners (families, adult singles, siblings, friends) to serve as oblationers (gift bearers) at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. This is a meaningful way to serve the faith community. For more information please contact **Kathy Williams at 469-9211**.

Birthday Card Ministry

This year, we launched a birthday card ministry to celebrate all of our parishioners. If you find yourself wanting to serve but needing to do it on your own time, please consider this meaningful ministry. Materials are provided. For more information, please contact Lauren Ewing at 550-1743 or lauren.ewing@me.com.

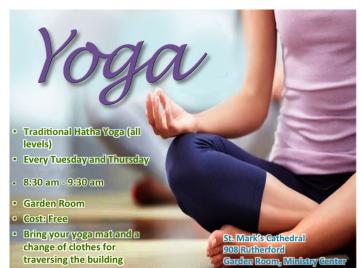


A full-color version of *The Evangelist* is on our website! Go to "About Us," then "News."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY July 1 Randolph Smith loe Ketner Michael Schimpf Eleanor Armstrong Austin Reed Marissa McGinty Kathy Lowe Sydney Smith Amy Lewis Don Weir Jennie Jamerson Susan Falbaum Amanda Clingan Gayle Labor Bill Teague Clay Stroud Brenda Giles **Beverly Reeves Dodie Billingsley** Marie Toles Daniel Clarke Morgan O'Brien 28 **Bob Williamson** Benny Popwell Kevin Payne Micah Strong Roger Naus Lloyd Comegys Susannah Poljak Emma Dailey Jack Berg 23 Christian Hall Penn Brightwell Pepper Lang John Peter Koellen Pam Comegys Stuart Dubin 16 Susan Snyder Oliver Jenkins Lynn Massad Paul Winder Bennett Herndon Gene Snell Lauren Ewing Katherine Eagles Ellis Prince 17 Connie Emmons Parker Byles Katharine Knicely Carol Peterson Sarah Elizabeth Larremore Chloe Thornton Ellen Erwin Tom Reed Sherry Ward Tom Thompson Danielle Hilario Kennon Comegys Joanne Russell 24 Diane Long Alex Hall Tom Needham Debbie Smith Kelly Deupree Ftank Harris, IV William Hardtner Chris Aymond Tina Strong Margaret Badgley Tammy Arnold Stratton Erwin Shana Jump Elise Kowalewski Teresa LeBleu Wes Arnold McKenzie Pugh Stephanie Young Mae Hargrove 18 Ann Nuckolls Rosalyn Fisher Roger Hammett Samuel Cooper Rachael Millen Judy Storer Ed Leatherman Lauren Florsheim J.J. Fortiz Thomas Poljak Elissa Larremore Kellie Kilcline 30 Marguerite Allen Nola Hargrove Sam Powell Laura Boyd Michele Q=Petersen Darrell Rebouche 6 12 Jan Glass Jane Shea John Atkins Frances Simpson Robin Jennings Matt Woodard Lisa Hargrove Bickham Dickson Clyde Hargrove 20 Patrick Caraway Leah Horn Laura Ameen 26 Campbell Jones Jaden Allen Dana Miller Barbara Dossett Clayton Simmons Thomas Siskron Elizabeth Peterson Robin Gore Caitlyn Hinkie Tuck Ingersoll Warren Graves Kathy Brodnax Rick Newell Beth Allen Natalie Cole Laura McLemore **Dicksey Sanders** Ashley Nader Kate Davis Rob Gilchrist

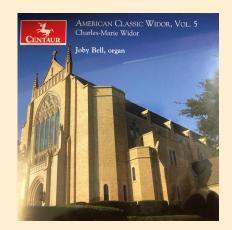


Chris Cottingham



Bob FitzGerald

Music & Worship



The St. Mark's Aeolian-Skinner organ

is featured on a just-released CD by North Carolina organist Joby Bell. The CD American Classic Widor, Vol 5, features the music of Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937) and was recorded at St. Mark's in 2015.

Bell has garnered Second Prize and the Audience Prize in the American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance. Since 2004, he has served on the faculty of the Hayes School of Music, Appalachian State University, where he teaches organ and church music studies. His music can be ordered through www.jobybell.org.

COVID-19 and singing

I am a member of a professional organization called the Association of Anglican Musicians. They have provided these easy to read and understand guides to their members in order to assist them in helping their congregations understand why singing has been absent from our church services and will continue to be restricted for the foreseeable future. These guides also include the sources used in the research involved which can also be utilized for further reading if you are interested

I am looking forward to the day that we can have our wonderful choirs return, as well as once again enjoy our rich tradition of singing hymns in worship. However, at this point as COVID continues to spread it simply is not safe to do so.

I will continue to play the organ for our online Morning Prayer services, but because for more than one reason I am considered to be in a high-risk population, it is not yet safe for me to be present for the 10:30am Eucharist. Please know that I am with you in spirit and will return as soon as it is safe.

Canon Bryan



Churches across the world are re-opening for public worship. Members of the clergy and church staff are looking for ways to keep people safe. By now, the public is well-educated on the importance of social distancing and good hygiene. Congregations may be less aware of the health risks associated with singing and speaking in groups.

Research on COVID-19 is on-going. To date, reliable data seems to suggest:

- Droplets produced by speaking and singing can carry high viral loads of COVID-19.
- Droplets carrying the virus may be produced by asymptomatic carriers of the virus.
- There have been numerous superspreading events associated with singing and church gatherings.
- Singing and loud speaking can fill a room with clouds of particles.



- Smaller speech droplets can *linger in the air* for extended periods of time.
- The number of droplets emitted by speech or singing increases with volume.
- A single minute of *loud speaking* by a carrier is likely to generate at least 1,000 virus-containing droplets.
- Recirculated air can increase disease transmission rates.
- There is no existing barrier method (mask, etc.) that is considered safe for singing.
- In essence, choral singing and congregational singing are unsafe during a respiratory pandemic.
- Respiratory pathogens carried by droplets may enter the body through the mouth, nose, and eyes.

Cathedral School News

by Dr. Chris Carter, Headmaster ccarter@smc.school

Spring of 2020 was an interesting time for St. Mark's Cathedral School, to say the least! On March 13, after an unusual special Chapel service in the Cathedral and with about two hours' notice, we sent the children home for the remainder of the school year. At the time, we hoped it would



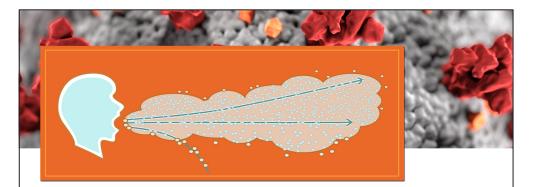
only be for a month, but at the end of May, the halls of Lower School were still decorated with St. Patrick's Day activities that had never been replaced with Lent, Easter, or Mother's Day art or writing. Graduations for Kindergarten and 8th grade were replaced with drive-by events, and the end-of-year award ceremonies were conducted via Zoom.

Despite the challenges posed by the Stay-at-Home Orders, classes and learning continued for all St. Mark's Students through the Lions Learning at Home program. After two days of professional development and planning, teachers who had never even taken an on-line course became online teachers who became proficient in self-recorded videos, Google Classroom, and Zoom meetings. Preschool, lower school middle school, and enrichment classes all continued through the end of the year. Coach Aaron's Trick-shot Tuesday PE activities and videos became many students' favorite event of the week; Mrs. Rangel's art lessons could be done with supplies at home and gave our art-loving students something fun to do during the isolation. Middle school students truly rose to the occasion and were very responsible about getting

their work done and staying on task to be prepared for this coming year. It was exhausting, and not nearly as much fun as coming to school, but our students and teachers showed their Lion spirit throughout to do all that was needed and more!

Of course spiritual development is an essential component of a St. Mark's education, and that didn't change. Fr. Drew recorded both Preschool and Big School Chapels every week to be sent out to all families, and he and Mrs. Amy Garsee continued their Christian Education classes throughout the quarantine period. Many 8th graders took his Intro to the Episcopal Church class as confirmation preparation and now wait for the Bishop to resume visitations so that Confirmation can be scheduled.

Now we are excited to prepare for a return to school next year, even though the pandemic continues, and we know we will have to make changes to long-established routines and traditions. We are working to improve our online learning plans in case we have to resume that method of learning again, and we are establishing protocols to protect personal and public health. Mostly, though, we are excited to get to see each other and pray, play, and learn together every day!



In addition to standard social distancing and maintenance protocols, churches would be wise to adopt the following safety measures:

- All worship participants should wear *face coverings* to reduce droplet emissions.
- In the vast majority of worship spaces, there should be no choral singing.
- In all worship spaces, there should be no congregational singing.
- Corporate prayers should be recited quietly behind masks.
- Readers and preachers should wear masks.
- Any singing should be done by a soloist and from a distance, with a mask, and with open doors
 or windows. Singing should be minimal.
- Woodwinds and brass instruments should be avoided until more is known about their potential to spread the virus.
- Readings and prayers should be shortened whenever possible.
- **Preaching** should be done from a distance; **sermons/homilies** should be brief.
- Eucharistic elements should remain covered during consecratory prayers.
- Overall *length of worship* should be shortened. 40-45 minutes would be preferable to an hour.
- Doors and windows should be left open throughout the liturgy. Facility managers and HVAC
 professionals should determine how best to direct aerosolized particles upward and out of the
 building.

Sources

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I waited patiently upon the LORD; *
he stooped to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the desolate pit,
out of the mire and clay; *
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made
my footing sure.

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; * many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

– Psalm 40



Dear Friends,

I hope that you are well in the midst of the unmaking of the world as we have known it.

A little phrase that I recall from a man whom I came to deeply respect and love in the Mississippi Delta came up

one day when we were visiting about all of the vicissitudes encountered as we live our lives, as we love our families, as we sometimes do work that is difficult and unrewarding, as we are visited with challenge, struggle and brokenness; it comes to mind on this lovely summer afternoon - "You know Alston. .. you know . . . I have never met the person who is living the life that they thought they would live." He looked at me smiling through his own tears; his face shrouded in a wisdom that is only born of hope that walks through suffering. His message was essentially, "Although we cannot often choose our struggles, God has chosen for us our hopefulness." If you are feeling displaced, anxious, confused, and fatigued - remember you are not alone - either on earth, or within the eyes of heaven. Remember that everyone you meet in these days is living through the deeper confirmation of my friend's wisdom - in some ways, during these days, we may all be feeling a bit like strangers in the world.

A few weeks ago many watched the death of George Floyd on the streets of an American city; a tragedy by any measure, and something that rightfully should cause us as Christians and citizens to look deeply into our lives for a way forward that might keep something like this from occurring again. The summary of my feelings about this tragedy, and the myriad circumstances that lead to it, leave me with the simple and profound sense that God would show us a better way; the Christian Gospel, its message, is that in God's eyes we are greater than our sinfulness, and the broken places that divide us; both individually and collectively.

In light of George Floyd's death, as well as the others which have preceded it, every Christian is invited to have a conversation with God about those places in our lives where we would judge another human being before considering how that person is cherished in God's own eyes. In the days ahead each of us might ask God to show us how we might both grieve what we have been in "thought, word, and deed" as participants in racial divisiveness; "those things done and left undone" that tell the truth of our own prejudices. We might admit that racial assumptions are sometimes a place of struggle in our lives, and we might ask God to help us and forgive us. There is a way forward, and there is Gospel medicine that will heal the damage - the damage such prejudice has done to others' lives, as well as the damage it has done within our own hearts. There are steps that each of us can take to move forward, learning from Jesus in Matthew Chapter 7, "So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets."

The virus and the quarantine have taken so much from so many, and there continues to be concern for the future we all share. During our evening Compline services we have been praying for the doctors, nurses, staff, and hospital administrators who have been thrown into a situation that previously only existed in the imaginations of a few. We pray that God might be with them, as they must make decisions and walk with the sick through great difficulty. Many have died without the presence of their friends and family, and we have prayed that they may not die without the presence of our loving friend and savior. We are the people who gather at the tomb on Easter morning and share a message, a truth, that when Jesus Christ is near, the tombs of this world actually become doorways into another place in time and space. God bestows the most complete healing upon our bodies and souls when they leave things temporal and are embraced by that which is eternal - namely, His love for us. We are asking that God would do unto them what we pray God will do unto us in our own death.

Although much of the world is being unmade before our very eyes, it has always been so though the ages of mankind. We turn to the Bible, to our prayers, to one another and our neighbors, with the assurance that we are not forsaken; rather, we might draw strength from the knowledge that those who call upon the Lord are not alone. Those who call upon the Lord are gathered with the cloud of witnesses who have called out in their own days and times of the world's unmaking. And like us, none of them, none of them barring the One, spent their days living the lives that they thought they would live; all of them were given days in which to call upon the Lord for help.

My hope and prayer for you and yours, and for our country, is that we might find the humility to call in such a way now so that our "footing may be sure, and He may put a new song in our mouths."

Many Blessings and Godspeed, Alston Johnson Dean – St Marks

July 5

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and loving memory of Donald L. Smith, and in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Petrosh, Jr. and Mr. & Mrs. Israel Soto, and in thanksgiving for the marriage of Lauren Petrosh and Israel Soto.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Paula Minor Coleman.

July 12

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. James Davis Boyd, Mr. & Mrs. James Curtis Stevens, Matthew Stevens Cameron, Mr. & Mrs. John Davis Boyd, William Michael Boyd, and Mary Taylor "Tal" Bourgeois Broyles.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Restarick and Dr. & Mrs. Jack Pou.

July 19

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Constance Long and John Jeremy Long III.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 63rd Wedding Anniversary of Lois and Roger Ennis.

July 26

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nancy Kate Hargrove and Nancy and Bob Green.

The flowers on the Chapel Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jacqueline Hooke Storer, H.E. "Bud" Storer, and E. Craig Kennedy.

BIRTHS

Margaret MacKay Gaiennie, on February 25, 2020. Parents are Sarah & Thomas Gaiennie. Grandparents are Kathryn & Cass Gaiennie.

William Miller Love, on March 1, 2020. Parents are Kate & Austin Love. Grandparents are Lisa & Gary Love, and great-grandparents are Rosemary & Bob Lafargue.

John Wiley Harmon, on April 30, 2020. Parents are Jon & Whitney Harmon.

Matthew Lewis Coady on May 26, 2020. Parents are Blain & Matt Coady.

Grandparents are Amy & Tandy Lewis.

DEATHS

Rest Eternal grant to them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Steven Schoonover, father of Brett Schoonover, grandfather of Alex, Caroline, Matthew & Catherine Schoonover, on February 27, 2020.

Larry Emmett Payne, brother of **Pam Nichols**, on February 29, 2020.

Robert Osuna, brother of Darrell Rebouche, on March 1, 2020.

Nita Renshaw, on March 10, 2020.

Dr. James Goodrich, husband of **Kay Goodrich**, on March 25, 2020.

James Patrick Beaird, husband of Kathryn Beaird, on April 22, 2020.

Dosité Hugh Perkins, Jr., on April 30, 2020.

Helen Montgomery, mother of Sarah Porter, on April 30, 2020.

Ann Lawton on May 16, 2020.

Robert Ray Jackson, father of Robert Jackson, grandfather of Abigail & Kathryn Jackson, on May 23, 2020.

James William Caskey, nephew of Daisy Kime, on May 24, 2020.

Virgil Barnette, father of Sheryl Ostendorff, on June 20, 2020.

Peggy Shemwell, wife of Robert Shemwell, mother of Lad Shemwell, grandmother of Brooke, Sarah Margaret and Merritt Shemwell, on June 20, 2020.

May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Expectant Moms of St. Mark's

If you are or know anyone who is expecting a child our committee is up and running and is looking for mommies to be. Please contact us at bess@stmarkscathedral.net or sign up on our website under family ministries. We hope to welcome mothers into our community. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



St. Mark's Physical Training Monday-Friday 5:30 am at the Cathedral

STMPT (St. Mark's Physical Training)

meets at 5:30 a.m. every weekday morning in the field across from the parking lot.

Members of the Vestry of St. Mark's Cathedral

Lad Shemwell, Senior Warden - Bill Kalmbach, Junior Warden - Murray Viser, Treasurer - John Reeks, Chancellor

2020	2021	2022	2023
Matt Coady	Marilyn Kirkland	Ellen Alley	Ellen Erwin
Carol Anne Caraway	Lisa Love	Mike Ameen	Joe Jayroe
Bob Ewing	Cody Mayo	Oliver Jenkins	Josh Knicely
Brandy Griffes	William Weaver	Brad Massad	Theresa Meldrum
Debbie Hall	Bud Westmoreland	Emily Merkle	Joy Ratcliff

The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby

(Bishop of Western Louisiana) bishopjake@epiwla.org

The Very Rev. Alston Johnson

(Dean)

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The Rev. Thomas Nsubuga

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The Rev. Dr. Rowena White

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Cynthia Anderson (Receptionist) cynthia@stmarkscathedral.net

Beth Reeks

(Minister for Pre-K Children's Programs) preschool.beth@gmail.com

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