

The Fisherman's Net

"Catch the Spirit"

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Highway 83
North Lake, WI 53064

May 2010

Pastor's Pen Fr. David Couper

I have been thinking a lot about what Jesus taught about leadership, because if there is one thing that we could do in this world, that would be obvious that we were Christians, would be to lead like Jesus did. I can see the bumper sticker now, "How Would Jesus Lead?" Jesus says some strong things about how he wants his followers to lead – which is, of course, exercise their power. He said, "*You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around, and when people get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads. It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great among you must become a servant* (Mark 10:42-45).

For those of us in management and supervisory positions (or raising a child), how does this primary teaching of Jesus inform our behavior? Have we been able to avoid our power from going to our heads? Jesus led by washing the feet of his followers. And he tells us to do the same thing. So why doesn't every Eucharist begin with foot-washing? (John 13:7-9).

It is one thing to "pass the peace" and bless one another on Sunday, but it is another thing to wash each other's feet! Maybe if foot-washing became our eighth Sacrament, it would help keep those of us in leadership positions from having our power go to our heads, "throwing our weight around." Jesus washed the feet of his disciples before he celebrated the first Eucharist. Did we forget the foot-washing? Did you ever think what an effect washing each other's feet would have upon us if we did it each Sunday rather than yearly on Maundy Thursday? It certainly would remind me about how Jesus wanted me to serve and lead!

This brings me to think about our liturgies. In the *Book of Common Prayer*, none of the suggested readings for ordinations or celebrations of new ministries come from Mark or John's story of servant leadership or foot-washing. They should.

Perhaps church members should ask those who wish to be their leaders not only to be faithful in prayer and Bible study, but also that they acknowledge their role as a servant and wash the feet of those who were about to become their "followers."

Wouldn't it be a strong message that when you came to church you found me (and, of course, the bishop during his visitations) kneeling at the church entrance, water basin and towel in hand, ready to wash your feet?

What's this?

“GodSpirit—periodic musings and reflections by a man who was a cop for over thirty years and then went on to be ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church. He is now somewhat retired and continues to think and write about life, God, and the Spirit. . . .”

This is from Fr. Couper’s blog on the internet: www.christinyouchristinme.blogspot.com

He writes on the blog how he missed working with a congregation since Sabine’s cancer came into their lives. But that didn’t mean he’d lost “my zeal for ministry and for spreading God’s Word.” “But God seemed to be calling for more. ‘God, I have enough to do,’ I whined, ‘and I can’t lead a parish and take care of Sabine!’ Then, a thought, a nudge, of God’s Spirit came and reminded me that I had been given a gift—I could write.” “So,” God said, “Thy not write about your journey with ME?” And that is exactly what the blog is all about, Fr. Couper’s journey with God. Take a look!

Trinity Sunday—May 30

Trinity Sunday was originally kept only as the Octave of Whitsun. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Sunday was at all widely observed as a separate feast in honor of the Holy Trinity. Its observance, introduced to mark the conclusion of the liturgical commemorations of the life of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit by a celebration embracing God in all three Persons, was universally enjoined by Pope John XXII in 1334.

Theologians through the centuries have offered a number of analogies to help us understand what the doctrine of the Trinity is trying to say. Trinity is the human attempt to say something about who God is, based on our experience of God. Christians experience God as *relationship*. Relationship implies movement, energy, giving and receiving, and the possibility of love. We also experience God as self-sufficient, dependent on nothing outside himself. That means God does not depend on us to be in relationship; it is the very nature of God to be in relationship. The Trinity is an effort to put this understanding of God into words. God the Father creates and initiates—is Lover. God the Son receives the Father’s love—is Beloved. God the Holy Spirit is the energy that flows between Father and Son—is Love itself.

Questions You Really Asked — Answered by the Editors of Forward Day by Day

Calendar & Times

		Scheduled Reader
May 2, Sunday	8:30 am Vestry Meeting	
	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Rick Luedke
May 9, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist, <i>Mother’s Day</i>	Steve Marks
May 16, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Mary Buerosse
May 20, Thursday	6:00 pm Rummage Sale Work Night & Pre-Sale	
May 22, Saturday	9:00 am—2:00 pm Rummage Sale to benefit Children’s Hospital	
May 23, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Pentecost Kathy Marks
May 30, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Trinity Helen Ackley

Lessons for April

	<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
May 2	Acts 11:1-18	148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
May 9	Acts 16:9-15	67	Revelation 21:10,22—22:5	John 14:23-29
May 16	Acts 16:16-34	97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
May 23	Acts 2:1-21	104:25-35, 37	Romans 8:14-17	John 14:8-17
May 30	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15

Remember in Your Prayers

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him” (1John 5:14-15)

- *Pray for the 29 men who lost their lives in the mine explosions in West Virginia and the families that they left behind. Pray for God’s comfort.
- *Remember those who have been affected by the volcano eruption in Iceland.
- *Pray for the people of Haiti, the caregivers and the doctors and those who continue to help rebuild the structures damaged by the earthquake. Pray for the people of Chile also.
- *Pray for the hungry, the jobless, the homeless and those who see no hope in their lives.
- *Pray that our leaders, both national and local, make good decisions for our country and cities.
- *Pray for peace in the world, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran. Pray for our soldiers.
- *Pray for the Millennium Goals, especially to eradicate hunger and poverty.
- *Pray for St. Peter’s and its family, for the present and the future, that we may grow in Christ and be his light to the world.

Let’s Celebrate!

Happy Birthday

May 3 Bill Buerosse
Shirley Citerony
May 4 Henry Hayes
May 24 Susan Medd

Happy Anniversary

May 9 Bill & Diana Buerosse

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary or listed it incorrectly, **please let us know so we may celebrate with you!** Submissions or corrections to the editor please.

The Spirit at Work!

- *Just a reminder about the Pick ‘n Save WE CARE program to benefit St. Peter’s outreach. Our account number is **808260**. When you sign up, 1% of your receipt total is given to St. Peter’s, which we donate to the North Lake Food Pantry. Also remember if you shop at Sentry Foods, Delafield, to have your receipt stamped with *Funds for Friends* and place the receipts in the labeled basket on the windowsill in the Narthex.
- *Don’t forget to put your food items in the basket in the Narthex for the North Lake Food Pantry, housed next door at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.
- *Mark your calendar now for **St. Peter’s Annual Picnic, Sunday, August 22!**
- *This is your newsletter! Your contributions to its contents are always welcome. Read the story about cycling saving lives on the back page!

The Greatest Occupation—in honor of Mother’s Day

A few months ago, when I was picking up the children at school, another mother I knew well rushed up to me. Emily was fuming with indignation. "Do you know what you and I are?" she demanded. Before I could answer, she blurted out the reason for her question.

She had just returned from renewing her driver’s license at The County Clerk’s office. Asked by the woman recorder to state her occupation, Emily had hesitated, uncertain how to classify herself. "What I mean is," explained the recorder, "do you have a job, or are you just a..."

"Of course I have a job," snapped Emily. "I’m a mother." "We don’t list ‘mother’ as an occupation... ‘housewife’ covers it," said the recorder emphatically.

I forgot all about her story until one day I found myself in the same situation, this time at our own Town

Hall. The Clerk was obviously a career woman, poised, efficient, and possessed of a high-sounding title like "Official Interrogator" or "Town Registrar." "And what is your occupation?" she probed. What made me say it, I do not know. The words simply popped out. "I'm a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations." The clerk paused, ball-point pen frozen in midair, and looked up as though she had not heard right. I repeated the title slowly, emphasizing the most significant words. Then I stared with wonder as my pompous pronouncement was written in bold, black ink on the official questionnaire. "Might I ask," said the clerk with new interest, "just what you do in your field?" Coolly, without any trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply, "I have a continuing program of research (what mother doesn't) in the laboratory and in the field (normally I would have said indoors and out). I'm working for my Masters (the whole darned family) and already have four credits (all daughters). "Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities (any mother care to disagree?) and I often work 14 hours a day (24 is more like it). But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the rewards are in satisfaction rather than just money."

There was an increasing note of respect in the clerk's voice as she completed the form, stood up, and personally ushered me to the door. As I drove into our driveway, buoyed up by my glamorous new career, I was greeted by my lab assistants - ages 13, 7, and 3. Upstairs I could hear our new experimental model (6 months) in the child-development program, testing out a new vocal pattern. I felt triumphant! I had scored a beat on bureaucracy! And I had gone on the official records as someone more distinguished and indispensable to mankind than "just another mother." Motherhood, what a glorious career. Especially when there's a title on the door.

Rummage Sale to Benefit Children's Hospital

The Rummage Sale to benefit Children's Hospital is Saturday, May 22 from 9 am to 2 pm. Please begin to bring your items on Sunday, May 16 and any time during the week. We will have a short work morning that Sunday to rearrange tables and set up the clothes rack so items may be "bulk" sorted into specific categories: Men's, Women's, Children's, and Infants clothing; boxed or bagged house wares, seasonal (Christmas, Easter, Halloween, etc.), toys, electronics, books and linens. Please be sure that all donated items are in good condition, i.e. not torn, soiled, broken, and in working condition if that applies. We will need paper bags and plastic bags for the last "Two Hour Sale". We have scheduled our work evening for Thursday, May 20 at 6:00 pm. to complete the sorting and enjoy a Pre-Sale of items to parishioners. Sandwiches will be served. There will be a sign-up sheet for the work evening (so we can plan for the sandwiches) and for working the day of the Rummage Sale. Please feel free to come in during the week to sort and straighten the rummage. If you have any questions, please direct them to Helen Ackley (262-691-9489) or Mary Buerosse (262-691-3549)

Playroom of Hope at Children's Hospital

The Stoughton family whose daughter, Nevaeh, (heaven spelled backward) was born with essentially half a heart—a condition that's fatal, often within the first hours or days of life—was 14-months old when she died just before her third corrective surgery could be performed. Wallace, who with his wife, Jamie, and their three other children, Weston, 10, Brielle, 6, and Nolan 4, want to create a memorial to mark Nevaeh's short time on Earth. The Stoughton family began the ambitious effort in August, 2009, to raise \$300,000 to build the Playroom of Hope at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Currently there is not a space where other siblings can go while brothers or sisters are receiving treatment. The playroom will offer toddlers through school-age siblings a staffed space for entertainment and solace, where they not only will have games and toys, but arts and crafts and special events. (The full Journal/Sentinel Article, Sunday, April 11, is available on the bulletin board in the Narthex.) ALL the proceeds from St. Peter's Rummage Sale will go to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Playroom of Hope. Charlie Brumder is Development Director at Children's Hospital, focusing on the hospital's critical needs.

On Judging, First Impressions and Unintended Consequences

—Church of England Newspaper via *The Anglican Digest, Spring, 2010*

The Church Mouse blog reads: “David Stevenson is the new vicar of St. Mary’s Church in Eastwood, Nottingham. By way of introduction, his wife, Diane, wrote an article in the church newsletter, in which she said that she had been a stripper. The piece was written ambiguously, and a follow-up piece in the next newsletter announced that the kind of stripping she had done was stripping chicken at a factory in Nottingham. Whilst providing some light relief, this was also intended to make a point about judging people. “Unfortunately for Mrs. Stevenson, however, the first piece was picked up far more quickly than she imagined. It was featured in a number of news outlets, from local to national, including the *Telegraph* and the *Daily Mail*... Perhaps there is a moral in this tale not just for the *Mail* and the *Telegraph*, but for the Stevensons as well.” One contributor writes: “Didn’t she just prove her point really?”

Senior Warden’s Reflection by Andy Marks

I shall not be in want

This past Sunday, April 18th, we received a phone call just before leaving for church. Kathy took the call and talked to our sister-in-law, Mary. Mary called to let us know that her mother, Pat, had suffered a massive stroke and was in serious condition. At church I asked our fellow parishioners to pray for her and her family. Just two weeks earlier we attended an Easter family gathering and Pat was present, and was as entertaining as always. Blessed with a great sense of humor and quick wit, she was always fun to be around. Pat’s husband, Skip or Skippy as she called him, passed away a couple of years ago. While Pat bravely continued on, she seldom if ever complained about her situation. Pat and Skip made a great pair. They complemented each other in many ways. One aspect that I admired most about them was their selflessness. They were never pretentious. They lived in a small house in Racine and drove an unimpressive older car. They never got caught up in the ‘fast lane’. It seemed that they never wanted more than they needed. Most impressive was their willingness to support any charity without hesitation. If someone was selling raffle tickets, Skip was the first to buy. And if he happened to win, he would ask that a new name be drawn. Pat is presently in hospice care and will most likely be gone when this reflection is sent out. I’ve known Skip and Pat for many years, mostly through family gatherings and occasional golf outings. What will remain with me is their example of living a simple and complete life.

Ironically that Sunday evening, I happened to catch part of the 60 Minutes television program. Near the end of the show, Andy Rooney gave a lecture on our human nature to desire. He stated “it seems as though one serious and constant defect in the human character is desire”. He continued, “We have more desire for almost everything than we need”. We desire to eat more food than we need, we desire for more money than we need, we have the desire for... When you stand back and take an honest look at the lives most of us are living, it certainly seems to be true. Andy Rooney went on to give an example how, after finishing his lunch, he decided to buy a cookie for dessert. But instead of buying one cookie, he bought two. Why? It was simply because he wanted more than he needed. In conclusion, Andy Rooney said it would be nice if the medical community could come up with an anti-desire pill. In looking at the world we live in, perhaps that’s the only way most of us could escape this desire for more than we need.

As I thought of Andy Rooney’s essay, I was brought back to thinking about the lives of Skip and Pat Hansen. For them, the anti-desire pill wasn’t needed!

So much about living has so little to do with having.

***“You aren’t wealthy until you have something money can’t buy.” — Garth Brooks

***“In order for you to succeed,

your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure. —Bill Crosby

***“Life just doesn’t hand you things.

You have to get out there and make things happen. — Emeril Lagasse

What We Sing: # 405 “All things bright and beautiful”

This much-loved children’s hymn has the unique distinction of having been the object of recent censorship in Britain on political grounds. The third verse was banned from use in all schools run by the Inner London Education Authority in 1982 because of its inegalitarian sentiments. The intention of the authoress, was less to reinforce the class distinctions of Victorian Britain than to point to the equality of all men and women before God. Understandably, the verse jars on modern ears. The hymn is heard much less often now at school assemblies and children’s services than it used to be and seems to be dismissed today as a piece of Victorian sentimentality. Written by Cecil Frances Alexander, née Humphreys (1818-1895), it first appeared in her *Hymns for Little Children*, published in 1848. It was designed to explain to children the meaning of the opening word of the Creed: “I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.” Mrs. Alexander was born in Dublin, the daughter of a former army officer who managed the estates of the Earl of Wicklow. She loved poetry and was strongly influenced by the religious teachings of the leading figures in the Oxford Movement. In 1850 she married the Rev’d William Alexander who went on to become, first, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe and, later, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland. Many of Mrs. Alexander’s hymns were written before her marriage and nearly all of them designed for children in Sunday Schools in which she taught. She also wrote “Once in Royal David’s City” to illuminate the phrase “born of the virgin Mary” in the Apostles’ Creed. We sing verses 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 of the original hymn. The banned verse 3 and verse 6 are as follows:

The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate,
God made them, high or lowly,
And ordered their estate.

The tall trees in the greenwood,
the meadows for our play,
The rushes by the water,
To gather every day;

Diocesan Episcopal Church Women’s Spring Luncheon

The Diocesan ECW’s program “We Saw Him First” will be held Saturday, May 1 at St. Alban’s Church, Sussex. The program will compare the four Gospels’ accounts of the women who met Jesus Easter morning. The morning will feature the United Thank Offering Spring Ingathering, celebration of the Holy Eucharist by the Rt. Rev. Steven Miller, sermon by the Rev. Deborah Woolsey, the Bible study “Women in the Gospels on Easter Day” led by Bishop Miller, and the “Haiti Project—Living the Gospel Good News Today” presented by the Rev. Evelyn Payson. Registration begins at 8:30 am. Lunch is served at 12:15. Cost is \$12.00 per person/covers the cost of the luncheon. Reservations are due April 28 to St. Alban’s Episcopal Church/Attn: Kathy Sonier, P. O. Box 202, Sussex, WI 53089. (262-246-4430). If you need further information, you may call Connie Ott 608-798-3688. See bulletin board for Registration.

Prayer for Good Cheer

“O Father, save me from the depression that comes from accepting every gloomy prediction and every bad news story as though they were the whole truth. May your grace help me not to be anxious about tomorrow, but to live with the trust that enables me to cope with today.”

—Reginald Hollis, *The Anglican Digest*

How Cycling Saved My Dad’s Life...

By John Ackley, Jr.

“My father hadn’t ridden a bike in more than 20 years but when he came to visit Paradigm Cycles for the first time in August of 2008 he saw the line of Breezer bicycles and his interest was piqued.” He ordered a blue Breezer Villager “U” frame and his rides began. In no time he was riding 3 and 5 short jaunts per day, a total of 10 to 15 miles. “He explored the area and found a 2.5 mile loop that

covers the perimeter of his condo neighborhood which is easily accessible from his back door and comfortable for him. His day now revolves around his rides. It begins with a healthy breakfast, then it's out for the first trip around the condo complex. After each trip, he comes home to work around the house or rest for half an hour or so then it's out again for another roll around the 'hood. He'll do that up to 10 times a day and averages about 8 trips, totaling 15-25 miles per day!" John reports that he has more energy, feels better and is more alert than ever. He's lost 45 pounds and the pains in his hips and knees have been completely eliminated. He's off blood pressure and cholesterol medications and is in better shape than he's been in 35 years. "Now you might think that the story title refers to the obvious physical health improvements that my dad has achieved through riding. But that's not what I'm talking about. If he hadn't found something to keep him busy in his retirement years, my mom would have **KILLED** him! She has long been frustrated by dad's lack of activity since he retired and had he not found something to get him out of the house on a regular basis, mom almost certainly would have done him in before too long. Cycling does indeed save lives...in more ways than one!

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