



# The Fisherman's Net

## "Catch the Spirit"

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## SEPTEMBER 2010

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**Pastor's Pen** *Fr. David Couper*

### Three Tough Questions

It was not by accident that Jesus was driven by the Spirit of God into the solitary wilderness before he began his earthly ministry. In fact, the Spirit of God continued to lead Jesus to spend time alone during difficult times in his life. We see that happening when Jesus was told of the death of his cousin, John the Baptist, after intense times of ministry, and the night before he died.

Most of you know that I am a big fan of retreats – time away from our daily routines that can either be silent or interactive, by yourself or in a group. Retreats can play an important role in our spiritual growth especially in the fast-paced world in which we live and spend too little time in rest (researchers continue to tell us we don't get enough sleep each night) and, after all, isn't that what *sabbath* is all about? Was this meant to be? I don't think so. God didn't create us in order to watch us wither away because of exhaustion and sleeplessness. Yet the choices we often make in life result in overwork, lack of sleep, and a frenetic activity at work, home and play. We know these behaviors destroy our health, our relationships, and bring anger, anxiety, and even illness into our lives. It is during a retreat that we get ourselves back into balance as we deeply ask ourselves three tough questions: "Who am I?" "Where am I going?" and "What's my plan to get there?"

We ask ourselves who we are because without knowing our inner selves, we will

never be able to deeply know anyone else. We must further ask ourselves, what kind of person are we becoming? Where is loving kindness and compassion in our life? What are we doing to help others -- our community and the world -- become a better place?

Next, we must ask ourselves where we are going in life. What are our goals, our direction? We must name the primary direction of our life and ask ourselves if we are "on course," or have we wandered, even become lost? And then, what adjustments are we willing to do in order to get back on track?

The third tough question is to craft a logical plan to get to where you want to go and to decide who is going with us on our journey. Life without relationships is a sad life. Good and nurturing relationships are necessary for both our physical, mental, and spiritual growth. When we decide to marry, then we must begin to think as a “we.” Two major failures of marriage is that two “I’s” never were able to become a “we.” The second is that couples never talk about their expectations from the other in a marriage. More than money, sex, and children, unmet expectations are the major cause of relationship failure.

The simple fact of life is that if we don't take time to know ourselves, to know where we are going, and craft a plan to get there, we will tend to drift and wander and end up with the wrong people going in the wrong direction.

Brothers and sisters, we need to stop and check on the drift that so often can happen in our life. Between now and Advent, slow down and take stock of your life. You may consider attending a formal retreat. If you are not able to do that, take a day off: sleep late, get up and plan on doing nothing except being with yourself. Turn off your telephones and computer. Begin and end the day in prayer – ask God to lead you, then follow. Read a good spiritual book, take a walk. And sometime during the day, answer the three tough questions: Who are you? Where are you going? What is my plan to get there? Pause and deeply reflect on your thoughts. Then share what you have learned with a close friend. Do the things now that you know you have to do. Good luck and go with God’s blessing!

## **Let’s Celebrate!** **Happy Birthday**

Sept. 1 Kathy Marks  
 Sept. 3 Kate Marks  
 Sept. 4 Pete Buerosse  
 Sept. 11 Charlie Brumder  
 Sept. 14 Randy Medd  
 Sept. 22 Willy Hayes

## **Happy Anniversary**

Sept. 17 David & Gail Abbott

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 may be sent to the editor

## **Calendar & Times**

		<b><u>Scheduled Reader</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Flowers</u></b>
Sept. 5 Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Andy Marks	Buerosse
Sept. 12 Sunday	8:00 AM Dylan’s Run—Morning Prayer on site		
	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Debbie Marks	Mikulak
Sept. 18, Saturday	North Lake 150th celebration		
Sept. 19 Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Katie Luedke	Abbott
Sept. 24 Friday	Trip to Schauer Theatre		
Sept. 26 Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Susan Medd	Abbott

## Lessons for September

<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sept. 5 Jeremiah 18:1-11	139:1-5, 12-17	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
Sept. 12 Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	14	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
Sept. 19 Jeremiah 8:18—9:1	79:1-9	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
Sept. 26 Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15	91:1-6, 14-16	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

## 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)*

- \*Give thanks for the safe return of Costin, Dorina Dyrud’s son, who spent the last seven months in Afghanistan with the Marines!
- \*Continue to pray for Sabine who has had a recent setback.
- \*Pray for the 33 miners in Chile who survived a mine collapse and may not be rescued for several months.
- \*Pray for students and teachers as they return to schools of higher learning. Pray for administrators, cooks, maintenance workers and all associated with schools and colleges.
- \*Pray for those who will participate in Dylan’s Run for Autism, especially the Naze family.
- \*Remember when honoring the working people on Labor Day to pray for those who have lost jobs in our parish, community, state and nation.
- \*Pray for the people in Pakistan who have lost their homes and many who have died in the recent floods. Pray for health aid as Cholera has now been confirmed present in the region.
- \*Pray for the people in the Gulf Coast regions, especially Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida, who are suffering from the massive oil spill.
- \*Pray for peace in the world, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran. Pray for our soldiers. Remember especially Umi.
- \*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. Remember to vote in the upcoming primaries. It is your Christian duty.
- \*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.

## The Spirit at Work!

- \*St. Peter’s made a donation of \$15.76 to the North Lake Food Pantry in August from the 1% rebate we receive from Sentry Delafield sales receipts. Sentry has made it even easier for us to help our neighbors with monetary donations. Sentry no longer requires the “Funds for Friends” stamp. Just place your Sentry receipts (and those of friends who do not donate their receipts to other worthy causes) in the basket on the north window ledge in the Narthex. Help us to help our neighbors!
- \***St. Peter’s History Book is missing!** Do you know where it might be? It is a freshly bound book with all births and deaths and history of St. Peter’s. It is approximately 8½ x 11. If you have an information about the missing book, please contact Andy Marks 538-1472.
- \*Sunday School will be starting this month. Watch for news in the Sunday bulletin.
- \*Are you interested in reading the lessons on Sunday mornings at St. Peter’s? If so, please speak with Andy Marks, Fr. David or Mary Buerosse. You would read approximately 5 times a year! A new list will be published in October.
- \*Look for the new flower chart in the Narthex this month and sign up “to the Glory of God”.

\*The North Lake Food Pantry, housed next door at Blessed Theresa of Calcutta, is in great need of our donations of non-perishable food items. Please be generous in your giving. Place your items in the baskets in the Narthex. They will be greatly appreciated.

## St. Peter's Annual Picnic

A good time was had by all who attended St. Peter's Annual Picnic held at the Luedke's home on Beaver Lake. Steve Marks was seen skiing on ONE ski! Swimming was wonderful and the kids really enjoyed the tube raft. And as always, food was plentiful and delicious! Our thanks to the hosts Rick & Katie Luedke!

## North Lake 150th Anniversary & Harvest Fest

St. Peter's will be participating the North Lake 150th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, September 18. We will be opening the church for individuals to tour and also receive a free ice cream cone from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. If you can help, please sign up for an hour shift or more. Sign-up sheet will be posted soon and Thanks!

## Opportunities for Outreach

\*Our Next Generation is accepting donations of school supplies to help children returning to school be well equipped and ready to learn. The core after-school and summer programs help beat the odds and help students develop skills to stay in school. School supplies may be put in the box in the Narthex. Rick Luedke will deliver them to Milwaukee.

\***Sundries From The Avenue** is a program run by St. James' Episcopal Church in Milwaukee. Working in concert with the outreach Ministry of the Central City Churches of Milwaukee, it gathers and provides sundries at no cost to single adults and families living on low-incomes, on fixed-incomes or with no incomes. St. Peter's would like to help this cause. Please collect items such as tooth brushes, toothpaste, shampoo, lotion, facial tissues, deodorant, soap, disposable razors, mouthwash, combs and hair brushes, shaving cream, lip balm, dental floss and bandages and place them in the box labeled for *Sundries From The Avenue*. The items will be delivered to the Diocesan Convention in October by our delegates

## Dylan's Run—Sunday, September 12, 2010

Dylan's Run/Walk for Autism benefits the Autism Research in Southeastern Wisconsin. The Naze family again will be participating as Tyler's Striders!. There will be morning prayer for the St. Peter's participants before the walk/run. We pray for good weather and participation.

**Go Tyler's Striders!!**

## Haiti's Rooster Coffee

Hallelujah! The Diocese of Milwaukee and Diocese of Eau Claire have raised over \$15,000 from October 2008 – July 2010 just by drinking coffee. That's 15% of the Haiti Project operating budget. Something so simple and effective. The funding goes towards many things in Jeannette, including building a coffee infrastructure there [the trees in Jeannette aren't yet ready to produce coffee for the Rooster] as well as other economic development projects.

These things are New about the Rooster beginning immediately: Coffee is here [it took much effort after the quake]. Place new orders now: [molly@singingrooster.org](mailto:molly@singingrooster.org); fax: 608-223-9728 or by mail: 2400 Waunona Way, Madison, WI 53713. New Coffee Hour PRICE: we're REDUCING the price for Parish coffee hour coffee from \$8 to \$6.50. Why? Our smaller parishes can't afford the current price and our goal is to use as much Haitian coffee as possible; less proceeds go to the Haiti Project, but we're helping Haitian coffee farmers by consuming LARGE volumes of coffee. New Consumer price: we raised the price by a buck after the quake and we're dropping it back down to \$9 a bag. THANKS to each of you

for your dedication of spreading the word, organizing coffee sales and drinking delicious Haitian coffee!  
Smooch, Molly      \*All questions about the Rooster should go to Molly

## Bishop Miller to visit St. Peter's

Please mark your calendars now for Bishop Steven Miller's visit St. Peter's on Sunday, October 31. Bishop Miller is now on a two-year visitation cycle so that no congregation has to receive a visit in July, August, or on a holiday weekend. It also allows him to have make-up days in the event of weather or pastoral emergencies and makes it possible for him to participate fully in the House of Bishops.

## Church can be Scary

Sunday morning the pastor noticed little Alex was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. It was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it. The seven year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "What is this?" Alex asked.

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was trembling and barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9:45 or 11:15?"

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\*Don't let worry kill you, let the Church help!

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## Senior Warden's Reflection by Andy Marks

### *Nine O'clock in the Morning*

A few weeks ago I attended a second follow-up session with Fr. David and a few other participants from the One Year To Live retreat. We met at Fr. David and Sabine's New Journey Farm. The purpose of the get-together was simply to keep the positive effects of the experience fresh in our hearts and minds. As the morning progressed, one of the topics that came up centered on inspirational and spiritual literature. Tom, who is roughly my age (59-60), indicated that his favorite book regarding spirituality is entitled *Nine O'clock in the Morning* written by Fr. Dennis J. Bennett an Episcopal priest. Fr. David was familiar with the book and had read it some time ago. He seemed to agree that the book was very inspirational so I ordered a copy.

The book was written in 1970 and the story explains of how many churches across the country in the 1960's were swept up in what has been referred to as the Charismatic Movement. According to the 1973 Yearbook of the Encyclopedia Britannica, "When, in 1960, Father Dennis Bennett announced to his congregation that he had experienced a new outpouring of God's Spirit... the renewal movement can be said to have begun." This renewal centered on what Fr. Dennis Bennett refers to as the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Through prayer one is filled with the Holy Spirit in such a profound way as to be noticeably overcome with joy and the presence of God's love. Most people in the book were so overpowered that they began to speak in tongues. Prior to his experiencing this Baptism, Fr. Dennis was introduced to a young couple that were Baptized in the Holy Spirit. They seemed to be full of joy and spoke in tongues at will. Fr. Dennis was so curious about what was going on that he met and prayed with them on a weekly basis for several months. After realizing that they were for real, he decided whatever they had, he wanted. He asked them to show him how he too could be Baptized in the Holy Spirit. They prayed with him and soon he was overcome with this indescribable joy and began to speak in tongues. Later, after he announced to his congregation of this outpouring of God's spirit, the renewal began to grow

exponentially. People in congregations across the country were being Baptized in the Spirit. While many churches of the day were decreasing in membership, St. Luke's, which Fr. Dennis presided over, grew substantially and became a model for other churches. During this period of time, Fr. Dennis was asked to speak throughout the country and abroad helping literally thousands of people become Baptized in the Spirit.

As I read *Nine O'clock in the Morning* a lot of thoughts went through my mind. I was skeptical with the "speaking in tongues" stuff. I've heard of that before and even recall a seminarian, who once helped out at St. Peter's, professed to be able to speak in tongues. I honestly never quite understood what that meant. Putting aside my skepticism and taking the book at face value, I realized why Tom found this book to be inspirational. We all have a need to feel God's love and presence. To be constantly filled with that joy would truly be amazing. And to have a congregation going in that direction would be awesome.

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*\*\*A Sunday School teacher challenged her children to take sometime on Sunday afternoon and write a letter to God. They were to bring back the letter the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, "Dear God, we had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there."*

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## What We Sing: # 410 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

This song of praise is one of Her Majesty the Queen's favorite hymns and she chose it for her wedding in 1947. It is the sixth most popular hymn chosen by her subjects. Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) wrote it for his congregation at Lower Brixham in Devon. It was published in 1834 in a collection called *Spirit of the Psalms*. "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven" is based on Psalm 103: "Bless the Lord, O my soul: And all that is within me, bless his holy name." Lyte created vivid new images from phrases in the original psalm. For example, the eighth verse of the psalm, "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide", is written "Slow to chide, and swift to bless" in the second verse of the hymn. In the same way the 13th and 14th verses, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame", became "Father-like, he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows." The fourth verse of this hymn is now often omitted. The refrain "Praise him! Praise him!" has been replaced with Alleluia! Alleluia! The omitted fourth verse goes like this:

Frail as summer's flower we flourish:  
Blows the wind, and it is gone.  
But, while mortals rise and perish,  
God endures unchanging on.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the high eternal One!

## Murder in the Cathedral

Summer Stage will present *Murder in the Cathedral*, A Play by T. S. Eliot, on Friday and Saturday nights, October 1-2, 8-9, 15-16 at 7:30 pm or Sundays, October 3, 10, 17 at 2 PM. Cost is \$15/person, \$13/seniors. The play portrays the assassination of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170. The play deals with an individual's opposition to authority, and can be taken as a protest to the Nazi regime's subversion of the ideals of the Christian Church. Summer Stage usually performs at Lapham Peak State Park in Delafield. ***These performances will be held in St. John's Chrysostom Episcopal Church in Delafield, WI.*** If you would like more information on Summer Stage's performance calendar, check their website:

[www.Summer-Stage.org](http://www.Summer-Stage.org) This may make another Parish Outing! Let's talk about it!

## **Embracing an Adult Faith: What it Means to Be Christian**

Fr. David will facilitate a discussion of a video presentation by contemporary theologian Marcus Borg (author of “Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time,” “The Heart of Christianity” and “The God We Never Knew”) on five subjects: “God, Jesus, Salvation, Practice and Community.” The study is called “Embracing an Adult Faith: What it Means to Be Christian.” Each night we will begin at 6pm with a simple meal and then listen to a 20 minute video by Borg. Fr. David will facilitate a discussion for no longer than an hour. Each participant will receive a handbook for note-taking and reflection. We will meet on the following Wednesday evenings: November 17, 24 and December 1, 8, and 15. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

## **A Student’s Prayer**

Dear Lord,

Help me to be the best student I can be.

Help me to study well and to study often, especially when I don’t feel like studying at all.

Help me to be honest when I’m tempted to cheat.

Help me to listen to my teachers and my coaches.

Help me to play fair and to play safely.

Help me to be kind to everyone at school and especially to those whom others treat unkindly.

Help me to treat others as I would like them to treat me.

Help me to be a good friend to others.

Help me to help others who need my help.

Help me to do the best work I can do.

Help me to use all the gifts you have given me.

Help me to love and respect my parents.

Help me to trust in you, Lord, and in your love for me.

Help me, Lord, I need you! Amen

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\*Don’t let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

\*Most people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

\*The good Lord didn’t create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close!