



The Fisherman's Net

"Catch the Spirit"

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LENT

APRIL 2011

EASTER

Pastor's Pen *Fr. David Couper*

Born Again?

On the second Sunday of Lent we read the story of Nicodemus in John's gospel. Nicodemus was looking for some important information from Jesus (but at night when no one could see him?). Jesus was ready for Nicodemus, a learned man who most likely lived mostly in his head. Jesus wanted to give Nicodemus a new birthday, but Nicodemus couldn't or wouldn't take it. The gift was to be "born again."

I think we all need Jesus to give us a new birthday (maybe we should ask him to do it at least each year?). Jesus tells Nicodemus he is badly in need of a birthday: *"No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit... You must be born again."* (John 3:5).

But Nicodemus, just like most of us, finds himself unable to receive this wonderful gift. All he could think of was a physical birth. It didn't make sense. Matthew's gospel tells that there are three barriers which keep us from receiving the birth of the Spirit -- doubt, fear, and a feeling of inadequacy. They also are "bugaboos" many of us struggle with everyday. But if we want the full life of Jesus, we need to ask for and receive God's Holy Spirit into our lives, to be, in fact, born in the Spirit. This begins not with doubt or uncertainty but with BELIEF. The Apostle Peter showed us what belief can do. Yes, he didn't walk all the way to Jesus on the water but he did walk on water for a few steps. But then doubt crept in and he sank like a rock. Jesus questioned him afterward, "Why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31). Peter had second thoughts (doubt) and he sank like a rock. The same can happen to us. Why do we doubt?

Fear is the second Spirit-blocker. Every time Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection he always had to say, "Fear not!" He said this because he knew fear is what happens to us when we are confronted with something different or new -- like a Risen Lord! This often is a result of us "playing the old fear tapes" in our heads -- what we feared in the past should not automatically be the default emotion when we experience something new and different. Fear is the emotion that binds.

The third Spirit-blocker is our feeling of inadequacy. This troublesome trait is fertile ground for the work of the Thief (that's my new name for Satan -- he is the Thief which robs us of the abundant life Jesus wants to give us!). Inadequacy happens when we feel we are not worthy to receive God or his love. Yet we know the Bible tells us just the opposite -- God loves us as his children and heirs to his Kingdom! Wow! Not good enough? Then let us be reminded that God created us in God's very image (Genesis

1:27, 31). You and I look like God!

When we have doubt, fear, and the feeling of inadequacy in our lives we are not only unable to have a satisfactory relationship with God, but we are also unable to have satisfactory relationships with others. No relationship can survive if it is plagued by doubt, fear and inadequacy. It is these three perceptions that frequently block us from achieving full, complete, and satisfying lives.

In order to live a fulfilled life, we must first want to be Spirit-filled (born again), then we must ask God to help us through our unbelief, next we must be able to bridge our belief gap with faith, and a willingness to accept love without conditions.

How do we overcome doubt? We do it by turning doubt into belief; believing in God and ourselves. How do we overcome fear? We do it by turning our fear into courageous resolve to do the right things in our life. How do we overcome inadequacy? We do it by turning it into love for God, for ourselves, and finally being able to love others.

We must be open; that is, "barrier free," in order to become a conduit for the Spirit of God to work in us and through us. Once we have overcome doubt, fear, and the feeling of inadequacy, the Bible tells we will become more loving, joyful and peaceful. We will begin to show more kindness, faithfulness, and self-control, and, at the same time, we will show more patience, generosity, and gentleness in our daily lives. When we are filled with God's Spirit, those around us will begin to see us being increasingly transformed into the likeness of Christ -- that's what it means to be born in the Spirit!

Let's not be doubtful, fearful or feel ourselves inadequate to receive the full measure of God's grace and gifts to us. Let us open our hearts to God's Holy Spirit -- ask and we will receive! Let Christ fill us! And let us enjoy our new birthdays!

Let's Celebrate!

Happy Birthday

April 5 David Couper
April 5 Sabine Lobitz
April 7 Sheila Campbell
April 8 Dan Naze
April 12 Charlotte Lobitz
April 25 Mary Buerosse

Happy Anniversary

April 17 Pete & Mary Buerosse
April 30 Charlie & Kate Brumder

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: Mbread@att.net

Calendar & Times

		<u>Scheduled Reader</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
April 3, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Helen Ackley	
April 6, Wednesday	6:00 pm Supper & Bible Study		
April 10, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Charlie Brumder	
April 13, Wednesday	6:00 pm Supper & Bible Study		
April 17, Sunday	9:30 am PALM SUNDAY	Pete Buerosse	
April 21, Thursday	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday	Volunteer	
April 22, Friday	6:30 pm Stations of the Cross		
	7:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy	Volunteer	
April 24, Sunday	9:30 am EASTER	Andy Marks	Easter Lilies

Lessons for APRIL

<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Apr. 3 1 Samuel 16:1-13	23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
Apr. 10 Ezekiel 37:1-14	130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
Apr. 17 Isaiah 50:4-9	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mathew 26:14

Apr. 21 Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14	116:1,10-17	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31-35
Apr. 22 Isaiah 52:13—53:12	22	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1—19:42
Apr. 24 Acts 10:34-43	118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	John 20:1-18

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 people in Japan who were hit by a devastating earthquake. Pray for the areas along the coastlines hit by the massive tsunami. Pray for those exposed to radiation from the nuclear plant explosions. Pray for the world.
- *Pray for peace and justice in the world, especially in the Middle East and Africa where people are demonstrating for democracy.
- *Give THANKS for Yumi’s safe return from Afghanistan.
- *Pray for the hungry, the jobless, the homeless and those who see no hope in their lives.
- *Pray for our leaders, both national and local, to make good decisions.
- *Pray for the Millennium Goals, especially to eradicate hunger and poverty by 2015.
- *Pray for St. Peter’s and its families, for the present and the future, that we may grow in Christ and be his light to the world.

Elizabeth K ‘Beps’ Herbon

Elizabeth ‘Beps’ Herbon died on March 7 at age 85. ‘Beps’ was a frequent visitor to St. Peter’s along with her husband, Ellis. They enjoyed St. Peter’s for many years. A memorable occasion was when they had a wedding blessing as “newlyweds”, having been married in 2002. They enjoyed coming to St. Peter’s Annual Picnic at the Luedke’s in the fall. Later years kept them both close to home. Our sympathies to Ellis and family.

The Spirit at Work!

- ***Please bring an Easter Lily** plant to church to adorn our altar to the Glory of God and in celebration of “The Day of the Resurrection.” Plants may be brought anytime during the week leading up to Easter . Please put them downstairs. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation, please contact Mary Buerosse who will purchase an Easter Lily for you.
- *Please give Mary Buerosse any names “in remembrance of”, “thanksgiving for”, or “in celebration of” to be included in the Easter bulletin no later than April 17 (Palm Sunday).

New Updated Pictorial Directory in the Making

There’s still time to get your picture in the new, updated Pictorial Directory. Dave Abbott is working on the project now. If you would like an update picture in the new directory, you may send him a digital picture via email: sailmc1983@yahoo.com. Please check your “statistics” in the current directory and advise of any necessary corrections. Many thanks.

St. Peter’s 4th Annual Rummage Sale

St. Peter’s Annual Rummage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, **May 21!** Save your Treasures!! Now would be a good time to do your spring cleaning and sort your rummage. General categories include: Men’s clothing, Women’s clothing, children & infant’s clothing, purses, shoes, toys, books/tapes/DVD/movies, bedding/pillows, crafts, holiday, dishes/kitchen, sports and electronics. Great a head start! More news in the May newsletter!!!

St. Peter’s Outreach to North Lake Food Pantry

Our new approach to the outreach program for the North Lake Food Pantry has been very successful. In March we sent a check to the food pantry for **\$218.89**, a combination amount of cash in our

“Food Pantry Jug”, personal checks made out to the food pantry and our Sentry “Funds for Friends” contribution of \$15.89. While food items for the North Lake Food Pantry are still accepted, we are offering this opportunity for your monetary donations the last Sunday of every month. The “Food Pantry Jug” will be placed in the baptismal font for your donations. You may make out a check to the “North Lake Food .Pantry” if you wish to make a tax deductible donation. The Food Pantry can utilize the money at Second Harvest and therefore increase the amount of food available for their clients. Thank you for helping those in need.

Can you Answer the Questions from Sunday School Kids?

The kids discussed the questions that Nicodemus asked of Jesus during Sunday School on March 20. Then they were posed the question, “What would you ask Jesus?”

1. What is the secret of happiness?
2. How did you die and come back to life?
3. What would Oconomowoc look like in 200 years?.
4. How did you get here today?

ASAP—Always Say A Prayer

"God, our Father, walk through my house and take away all my worries and illnesses and please watch over and heal my family and friends and Country, in Jesus name, Amen."

For those of you with computers, here is a website that will help you start your day with prayer:

Website for daily prayer : Pray-as-you-go.org

ParkWalk for Cancer

The ProHealth Care Walk for Cancer is being held on Saturday morning, May 7th in three Waukesha County communities: Waukesha, Mukwonago and Oconomowoc. All monies raised stay right in the community to fight this devastating disease. Sheila Campbell will again be walking in the Mukwonago walk. Anyone interested in walking can find more information at:

prohealthcare.org/wellness/2011walks-for-cancer.aspx

If walking just isn't your thing, perhaps you might consider sponsoring a walker. All donations to the “Waukesha Memorial Hospital Foundation – ParkWalk” are 100% tax deductible, and much appreciated. Together – We Can Make A Difference! Please check with Sheila Campbell if you would like to sponsor her walk.

A Lenten Meditation

This Lenten Meditation came from the 2010 Episcopal Relief & Development Devotional, written by Sister Claire Joy of the Community of the Holy Spirit. It gives pause to the Good Friday and Easter celebrations:

*Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross...— from the Collect for **Good Friday**, BCP*

I don't care what we call it, there's nothing GOOD about it. Except in *God's* economy.... which rankles. I understand (sort of) that Jesus' humanity meant that he would suffer pain, our pain, *human* pain. But there's pain and then there's PAIN. Good Friday makes me physically ill. Thoughts of torture curdle my stomach and the vague possibility that I could or might ever be tortured... well, I can't think about it for long. So pondering this atrocity, which I must somehow transform into a gift *to* me and *for* me, is too much. Look at the ways we have chosen to torture each other, mentally and physically, and we haven't been at all horrified. Maybe that is part of what Good Friday is about. Why isn't it working?

....grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit... —from the Collect for **Easter Sunday**, BCP

Easter confuses me. Today is the day of celebration, the ultimate day of joy. Why then, do I sometimes feel so blah? Because the *Risen Christ* is not the same as the walking, talking, human Jesus. I have gained a *savior* but I have lost a *friend*. Mary Magdalene was the first to understand that mixed sense of joy and loss, which grows on each of us as we let it. Leonard Cohen was on to something when he wrote those profound words: 'love is not a victory march, it's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah...' And in the midst of this irony it is up to us to find (and extend) the peace of Christ, the peace that passes all understanding.

*Christ's resurrection is the "bud of promise"—our resurrection is the "flower of fulfillment."

*Every sunrise is God's Easter greeting.

Senior Warden's Reflection by Andy Marks

Centering for Lent

As we move into the second week of Lent, I find myself trying to begin each day centered in Christ. I believe there is a way of developing a deeper relationship with God and this is my Lenten commitment. The discipline and patience it takes to develop such a relationship for me is daunting. What I am seeking is "the peace that passes all understanding" or at least as much of it as I can get. I would like to be able to recognize when my ego is taking charge of my life and edging God out, and be able to put God back into my heart.

Having a morning routine seems to be the best approach for me in trying to get centered. Distractions easily play in my mind so the first thing I do, following Fr. David's suggestion, is to leave the radio off on my morning commute to St. Joseph's Middle School. I let my mind wander, but try to stay away from the *hot* topics. When I arrive at school, I head right for the church. I spend five to ten minutes in prayer following my usual routine of favorite prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings. When I've finished saying good morning to God, I head up the stairs to my classroom. I turn on the lights and boot up my computer. Before I check my emails, I log on to the pray-as-you-go.org website. I click on the day of the week and spend the next ten minutes or so in prayerful thought and meditation. Within the next twenty minutes or so students begin to wander in seeking extra help with their Algebra. As the day progresses, I get more and more involved with my work and that spiritual feeling seems to dissipate. In thinking about the way this all seems to happen, I am reminded of a story about our first dog, Mulligan.

Mulligan was a yellow Labrador who had a bad habit of begging for food at the dinner table. At first Kathy and I didn't really mind. But when we would have company over it would be somewhat embarrassing having him sit next to the table begging our guests for scraps. So in order to remedy the situation, we worked with Mulligan to try to correct his annoying habit. Prior to sitting down for dinner, we would make him lay down on a rug about twenty feet away from the table. We would command him to stay and after dinner we would praise and reward him. This, however, did not always work out the way we planned it. On some occasions when we were entertaining dinner guests, we would begin the ritual of having Mulligan lay down on the rug before we would eat. Prior to eating, a glance at Mulligan would indicate that he was sound asleep. As we would begin to eat, Mulligan would give into temptation. The smell of the food would get to him and he would begin to crawl on his belly toward the table. A quick glance up at him would cause him to freeze in his tracks and seemingly pretend he had not moved at all. As we would go back to our eating he would go back to his crawling. And each time we would stop and look up at him, he would freeze again. This would go on for some time before he would finally be at his favorite spot next to the table as if he was there all the time. We did have some fun with this, but we usually made him go back to the rug. This story reminded me of my daily centering struggle. Like Mulligan, I start my day where I'm supposed to be, "centered on my rug", so to speak. Then as the day progresses the distractions of the day slowly move me away from my starting spot and in the end I find myself back at my favorite spot centered on me.

So tomorrow I'll be back at my rug again and I'll see how long I can stay there this time. Wish me luck and throw me a biscuit or two if I'm doing well!

What We Sing: # 154 All Glory, Laud, and Honour

This popular Palm Sunday hymn is a translation of verses dating from the early Middle Ages. The original Latin, '*Gloria, laus et honor tibi sit, rex Christe redemptor*' was the work of St. Theodulph of Orleans (c. 750-821). St. Theodulph was born in Italy in 750. He became an abbot of a monastery in Florence and was then brought to France by Charlemagne and consecrated Bishop of Orleans around 785. He retained this position for more than thirty years until he was suspected by the Emperor Louis I of plotting against him and imprisoned in Angers in 818. It was during his imprisonment that St. Theodulph wrote this hymn, which celebrates Christ's entry into Jerusalem on a donkey as described in St. Matthew 21:1-17. It ran to thirty-nine verses and was designed to be sung in the long processions which many churches had on Palm Sunday. Legend says that Theodulph himself sang it from the window of his cell as Louis went past in the procession on Palm Sunday in 821. The king supposedly was so moved by the hymn that he released Theodulph. Theodulph only enjoyed a brief taste of liberty, dying later that year. The hymn was incorporated into Palm Sunday processions throughout Western Europe early in its history. The opening verses were often assigned to seven boys who were posted at a high spot on the processional route, perhaps to commemorate the imprisoned Theodulph. The English version, which we sing, is the work of John Mason Neale (1818-1866). It was first translated for his book *Medieval Hymns* in 1851. The compilers of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* altered the fifth verse of the hymn, with Neale's permission.

The original fifth verse:

In hastening to thy Passion,
They raised their hymns of praise;
In reigning 'midst thy glory,
Our melody we raise.

"*All glory, laud, and honour*" uses only a small part of St. Theodulph's original hymn. Neale noted that 'another verse was usually sung until the seventeenth century, at the quaintness of which we can scarcely avoid a smile':

Be thou, O Lord, the ride,
And we the little ass,
That to God's holy city
Together we may pass.

Do You Know These Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn - Crown Him with Many Crowns
Contractor's Hymn - The Church's One Foundation
The Tailor's Hymn - Holy, Holy, Holy
The Shopper's Hymn - Sweet Bye and Bye
Golfer's Hymn - There's a Green Hill Far Away
Electrician's Hymn - Send the Light
Optometrist's Hymn - Open My Eyes That I Might See
Weatherman's Hymn - There Shall be Showers of Blessings

For those who speed, how about:

55 mph - God will Take Care of You
75 mph - Nearer My God to Thee
85 mph - This World is Not My Home
95 mph - Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph - Precious Memories

Tidbits of Humor

*Mary Rose Betten, Catholic lay leader/playwright, was directing a children's Easter performance and overseeing the casting so that each child felt comfortable with his or her role. One boy insisted he wanted to be the rock in front of the garden tomb. "Wouldn't you like to have a speaking role?" she asked him. But he would have no other. The presentation went smoothly. Once again, she asked the boy why he wanted to play the rock. His smile beamed at her: "Oh, it felt so good to let Jesus out of the tomb."

*Pastor's Bloop: "This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Johnson to come forward and lay an egg on the altar."

*Sign spotted in a Washington, DC, church parking lot: "No Parking. Violators will be baptized."

*Scripture verse posted on the door of the infant changing room in the nursery at Church: "We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed."

*Message on a sign outside a Protestant church:

BEAT THE EASTER RUSH. COME TO CHURCH THIS SUNDAY.