



The Fisherman's Net

“Catch the Spirit”

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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SEPTEMBER 2011

Pastor's Pen *Fr. David Couper*

Reflections on a Family Weekend

A few weeks ago, the Couper family assembled for a reunion on the Mississippi River that we called a “restoration cruise.” This was our first “non-tragic” get together; that is, a time in which we all didn't have to show up for someone's funeral.

Its origins came into being last fall after my son, Matthew, committed suicide. Sadly, we all came together at our farm in Blue Mounds for a memorial service. Perhaps it was our realization that life is both precious and fleeting that we must connect. Three years earlier we had gotten together at the funeral of my granddaughter, Allison, who, at age 21, was killed in an auto accident. These were two seeds planted in our memories which were later to bear enormous fruit. One of my daughters, Jennifer, had a spiritual “word” last fall... and the word came from the prophecy of Joel (2:25). It was God's promise to us, a family that had suffered and felt lost to each other, that we can grow from these tragedies. God said, “I will restore to you the years that the locusts hath eaten.” We all had years that had been literally eaten. And this past year, God fulfilled the promise. The lost years were now being restored. The family began communicating with each other and being supportive. We needed each other to get through the grief we all were experiencing. We even had a hat design contest among us. The winners were – “Couper Restoration Cruise, Linking Hearts, 2011” with a picture of a houseboat.

On Sunday morning, as the weekend wound down, we assembled topside on one of the boats and shared our thoughts of the weekend journey -- the things for which we were thankful. I heard my children, their spouses, and their children rejoice in this “unity in diversity” and the tremendously fulfilling experience of being family to one another. Acknowledging we are all so much alike yet so different. We all are at different points in our life's journey (yet now feel so connected – “linked hearts!”) Ages ranged from me in my seventies to my little granddaughter, Taylor, who is four. My eight children ranged from 51 to 28 years of age. Many of them are at different stages of life, career, and spirituality. Before meals we did our “circle of love” which linked hands and hearts with thanksgiving and celebration. While about half the group are practicing Christians, there was an intentional practice of hospitality and love regardless if we all shared the same feelings about Jesus. This was very important and something that has been intentionally practiced since last fall. It was not always like that.

We shared meal preparation, stories, laughter. We fished, kayaked, and jumped again and again off the top deck and into the river... it was a joyful time, cleansing, and refreshing. The river became both

vehicle and metaphor. Five of my children experienced their early years as part of a family that owned a houseboat and spend many summers on the Mississippi River. So, it became a time to look back as well as a time to move forward – this time all together with new members. The original roster was 29 of us (two 52’ houseboats out of Lansing, Iowa, just north of Prairie du Chien). Daughter Yumi had Army business that could not be postponed, and two granddaughters had work and family conflicts that prevented them from attending -- but nineteen (including Sabine and me) made it!

I didn’t want to get maudlin when my turn came to speak on that Sunday morning, I was so thankful and yet I wanted to remember both Allison and Matthew, how I loved them and still feel their loss. The tears come less often now that almost a year has passed and I am approaching the completion of my journey -- yet I still feel I am slowly making some forward progress! I am glad to the patriarch – father and grandfather – my longevity has enabled me to remember the good things in life so that my tears of sadness are usually mixed with laughter and fond remembrances. I looked around me. There was my clan, my family, and the woman who made all this possible, Sabine, who never let me give up; assuring me over the years that what I was hoping, dreaming, and praying for would one day be possible. I thanked everyone for being there. I love them and they have blessed me with something I could never have imagined as being possible. It was a great weekend. God does what he promises – he shows up and, as they say, is *awesome* in his presence! Thanks to all of you for letting me take the weekend off!

Being A Christian

“Christians love one another. They never fail to help widows; they save orphans from those who would hurt them. If a man has something, he gives freely to the man who has nothing. If they see a stranger, Christians take him home and are happy, as though he were a real brother. They don’t consider themselves brothers in the usual sense, but brothers instead through the Spirit, in God. And if they hear that one of them is in jail, or persecuted for professing the name of their redeemer, they all give him what he needs — if it is possible, they bail him out. If one of them is poor and there isn’t enough food to go around, they fast several days to give him the food he needs... This is really a new kind of person. There is something divine in them.”

The Apology of Aristides the Philosopher, 2nd Century A.D.

-Via The Anglican Digest, Autumn 2011

Calendar & Times

		<u>Scheduled Reader</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
Sept. 4, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Helen Ackley	Deb Marks
Sept. 11, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist Dylan’s Run	Mary Buerosse	Buerosse
Sept. 17, Saturday	Noon—3 PM North Lake Harvest Festival		
Sept. 18, Sunday	9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Pete Buerosse	
Sept. 25, Sunday	8:00 AM Vestry Meeting 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist	Andy Marks	Buerosse

Lessons for SEPTEMBER

	<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Sept. 4	Ezekiel 33:7-11	119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Sept. 11	Genesis 50:15-21	103:1-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Sept. 18	Jonah 3:10—4:11	145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
Sept. 25	Isaiah 5:1-7	80:7-14	Philippians 3:4-14	Matthew 21:33-46

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 peace and justice in the world, especially in Libya.
- *Remember those who died in the World Trade Center disaster ten years ago.
- *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.

Let’s Celebrate!

Happy Birthday

Sept. 1 Kathy Marks
Sept. 3 Kate Marks
Sept. 4 Peter Buerosse
Sept. 11 Charlie Brumder
Sept. 14 Randy Medd
Sept. 14 Jan Blackburn

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: Mbread@att.net

The Spirit at Work!

- *A NEW FLOWER CHART will be posted on the Narthex Bulletin Board this month! Pick your special Sunday for celebrations, memorials, or general thanksgiving!
- *The list for Reader’s will be published in October. Are you interested in this ministry? If so, please speak to Mary Buerosse and she will put you on the schedule. Typically, you will read about 3 to 4 times a year.

St. Peter’s Annual Picnic

Thank you to Rick and Katy Luedke for once again hosting St. Peter’s Annual Picnic at their home. The weather was perfect for the pontoon ride around Beaver Lake with Katy as our guide. The kids enjoyed swimming and tubing while others just enjoyed the fellowship. As always, food was plentiful and delicious!

Dylan’s 2 mile Run/Walk is here again!

Dylan’s Run/Walk for Autism benefits the Autism Research in Southeastern Wisconsin. The Run/Walk is Sunday, September 11. The Naze family will again be participating as Tyler’s Striders. St. Peter’s always has a faithful group of people who support the Run. Its not too late to give her a donation for this worthy cause. Pray for good weather. GO TYLER’S STRIDERS!!

North Lake Harvest Fest

St. Peter’s will be participating in the North Lake Harvest Fest on Saturday, September 17. We will be opening the church for individuals to tour and also receive free cookies and lemonade from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. We are asking our great St. Peter’s bakers to donate a couple dozen cookies for this event. If you can help, please sign up for an hour shift or more. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

The Men's Beer & Bible Outing

The seven men from St. Peter's met at the Delafield Brewhaus for an evening of fellowship and food. They had good talk and decided to follow up in a couple of months and do it again.

Be On Your Toes!

There are a few changes coming to St. Peter's worship in the next couple of months. We will be using the New Zealand Creed in our worship service several times a month. Also we will be singing the Collect for Purity ("Almighty God, to you all hearts are open"). Look for a Praise worship service in October and new hymns of praise. These minor changes are all to enrich our Sunday worship.

Congratulations to St. Anskar's 170th Anniversary

One hundred seventy years ago when Hartland was just a simple town on the American frontier, The Rev. James Lloyd Breck and William Adams held services in Hartland's log school house for those able to attend. From their efforts grew Grace Church, Hartland and soon after Holy Innocents, Nashotah, the parent churches of St. Anskar's. St. Anskar's will celebrate their 170th anniversary on Saturday, September 10th their 170th anniversary.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 1:00—4:00 pm Games for Kids/families; Church tours; historic display
- 4:00 pm Organ Concert featuring Nancy Brzeinski
- 4:30 pm Evensong
- 5:00 pm Scandinavian Style Reception in Narthex
- 6:00—7:30 pm Casual dinner in parish hall featuring Guest Speakers

Cost: \$9 adults / \$5 children under 12

PLEASE RSVP online - see below

GUEST SPEAKERS

The Rt. Rev. Russell Jacobus - Bishop of Fond du Lac & former rector, St. Anskar's
The Rt. Rev. Roger J. White, Retired Bishop of Milwaukee
The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller, Bishop of Milwaukee

Learn more, watch the slideshow, and R.S.V.P. online at: www.stanskar.net/170 .

Pray For Me

by Ray Talbird, V.P., Evangelism, The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

When I hear people say that the Bible is out of date or irrelevant I know they are wrong, because I see myself in the Bible all of the time. For this reason I ask you to pray for me!

- I see myself in Paul when in Romans 7:15-19 he says, "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do." I want so much to be the person that Christ is calling me to be but I often fall so short.
- I see myself in Peter when I boldly profess my allegiance to Christ when I am in the safety of like-minded Christians, but sometimes fail to acknowledge him when alone in the world.
- I see myself in Thomas when so often I desire God to prove himself to me. I often would much rather have God give me a sign of his presence and power so I could believe in him intellectually and not by faith.
- I see myself in the men that brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus. Sometimes I can see so clearly the sins of others, and so desire their punishment, but fail to see my own sins.
- I see myself in the Pharisees when I feel good about my service to God. When I am so glad that I am not like others that do not follow God like I do. When I forget I am not called to look down on them but I am called to lift them up. As much as I think I am following God's commandments I must remember that his primary commandment for me is to love.
- I see myself in Pontius Pilate. When I see injustice in the world and I tell myself it is not my concern

and I should not get involved in it, then I try to wash my hands of all guilt.
Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me a sinner. Cleanse me of those things that separate me from you. Give me the heart of the Father, the compassion of the Son, and the fruits of the Spirit. Help me to know and so your will. Let my life and actions glorify you all the days of my life. *Amen*

-Via *The Anglican Digest*, Autumn, 2011 Edited

Senior Warden's Reflection by Andy Marks

Our unique paths ...

Where does wisdom come from? Does wisdom automatically come with age? Does one attain great knowledge and insight simply through experience? And with the attainment of wisdom can an individual find peace amidst all the suffering that surrounds us and in many cases engulfs us? We can try to ignore suffering because life may be going well at any particular time. But to ignore it means to also ignore the suffering of those around us. This would smother one of our greatest qualities, empathy. Empathy is what makes us human and, if you will, Christian. Empathy also helps to prepare us for our own trials. The cry "Why me?" takes on a completely different perspective when you realize that you are not, and never were, alone in your pain. When I look at the unspeakable suffering due to famine, war, and disaster in our world, or closer to home, the tragedies that some of my friends and family have had to endure in their lives, I am filled with sorrow and a desire for understanding. I am also keenly aware that my tough times may be right around the corner. Is all this part of some amazing plan that God has created or is it simply a result of the free will we've been given? Trying to reconcile all this leaves me confused and unsatisfied. I do believe there is a way to get a handle on it, at least to some degree, but each path is unique to the individual. The main question that Guatama (c.566 BC – c.480 BC), the traditional founder of Buddhism, sought to answer was: "Why do pain and suffering exist?" The first of the Four Noble Truths in Buddhism is the acknowledgment "All is suffering (dukkha)." The other truths describe the path to follow in order to eliminate this suffering and reach a state of complete inner peace referred to as Nirvana.

In Christianity, Jesus freely gives us "the peace that passes all understanding". Following His example leads to greater wisdom and ultimately salvation. I find great comfort in my Christian faith and believe whole-heartedly in Jesus, but many questions remain. Understanding the deepest of questions may be well beyond our capabilities, but finding a way to cope with the suffering in our world is within each of us. Solace can come to us in many forms such as, prayer, meditation, religious service, retreat, friendship, compassion for others, giving of your self, etc. Seeking wisdom can play a major role in how we view and cope with suffering and pain. Unfortunately wisdom doesn't automatically come with age or experience. Our experiences can open the door to wisdom, but we still have to be willing to search for it. Last year one of my students asked me a question. She wanted to know what was my favorite book and favorite movie. My answer was the same for both. It was, and still is, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom. Recently I watched the movie once again and realized why I like it so much. The life and death of Eddie, the main character in the story, seems to parallel my life as well as the lives of most of the people I know or have known. In the story Mitch Albom explores the unexpected mysteries of the afterlife by reminding us what really matters in life and he gives purpose for suffering and pain. He shows how all of our lives are inter-connected and have meaning and value. For reasons I can't totally explain, the story strikes a deep chord in me and invokes a kind of wisdom that makes sense.

What We Sing: # 493 "O for a thousand tongues to sing"

This hymn, possibly the most popular of the many hymns written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), has been notably the first entry in every edition of the Methodist hymn book. It is only part of a longer hymn which Wesley wrote in May 1739 to celebrate the first anniversary of his conversion to Evangelical Christianity. Published in his *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, it ran to eighteen stanzas. For the *Wesleyan Hymn Book* of 1780 John Wesley selected ten stanzas. The beginning of the hymn was actually the

seventh verse which is thought to have been inspired by a remark made by Peter Bohler, a Moravian preacher, that "Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise Him with them all." Our hymnal has six of the original stanzas, our sixth stanza being the one that actually began Wesley's hymn. Here are the remaining stanzas of Charles Wesley's hymn:

Verse 4 He breaks the power of cancell'd sin;
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me.

Verse 9 Awake from guilty nature's sleep
And Christ shall give you light,
Cast all your sins into the deep,
And wash the *Ethiop* white.

Verse 7 Look unto him, ye nations, own
Your God, ye fallen race!
Look, and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace!

Verse 10 With me, your Chief, you then shall know,
Shall feel your sins forgiven;
Anticipate your heaven below
And own, that love is heaven.

Verse 8 See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain,
His soul was once an offering made
For every *soul* of man.

Verse 11 On this glad day the glorious Sun
Of Righteousness arose,
On my benighted soul he shone,
And filled it with repose.

Verse 12 Sudden expired the legal strife,
'Twas then I ceased to grieve,
My second, real, living life
I then began to live.

The phrase 'cancelled sin' in the first line of the fourth verse has offended a number of hymnal editors and it has been variously changed to 'death and sin' and 'reigning sin', but most modern hymn books stick to the original.

DEATH

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he goes.'

God's Problem Now

His wife's graveside service was just barely finished, when there was a massive clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder rumbling in the distance. The little, old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, "Well, she's there."

Praise The Lord Who Provides

There was a little old lady, who every morning stepped onto her front porch, raised her arms to the sky, and shouted: 'PRAISE THE LORD!'

One day an atheist moved into the house next door. He became irritated at the little old lady. Every morning he'd step onto his front porch after her and yell: 'THERE IS NO LORD!'

Time passed with the two of them carrying on this way every day.

One morning, in the middle of winter, the little old lady stepped onto her front porch and shouted: 'PRAISE THE LORD! Please Lord, I have no food and I am starving, provide for me, oh Lord!'

The next morning she stepped out onto her porch and there were two huge bags of groceries sitting there. 'PRAISE THE LORD!' she cried out. 'HE HAS PROVIDED GROCERIES FOR ME!'

The atheist neighbor jumped out of the hedges AND shouted: 'THERE IS NO LORD; I BOUGHT THOSE GROCERIES!!'

The little old lady threw her arms into the air and shouted: 'PRAISE THE LORD! HE HAS PROVIDED

ME WITH GROCERIES AND MADE THE DEVIL PAY FOR THEM!

“Stewardship is more than setting up soup kitchens and overnight shelters. It is good and right that we reach into the river of despair and rescue people who are drowning. But it is time to move upstream and see who’s throwing them in.” - Bishop Edmond Browning

Episcopal Diocese of Montana