



The Fisherman's Net

“Catch the Spirit”

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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Pastor's Pen *Fr. David Couper*

About Theology

I think there comes a time in our spiritual lives when we simply don't want to talk about theology. After all, it's really never kept us out of trouble, has it? I mean, aren't all our disputes more about theology than how we live? We argue over who's in and who's out of the Kingdom. When people don't agree with us about our theology, there often are mean-spirited words exchanged. I mean it's supposed to be about God, isn't it? And who and what is God? God is love and love is better practiced than discussed. So, don't talk to me about theology!

What I'd like to talk about is what we are doing with our faith. You know, our practice of being more like Jesus every day. Think of it like this: when Christmas comes and goes, let's talk about how Jesus was born in our hearts. And when Easter comes, let's share how our life has been resurrected by Jesus' Resurrection. And yes, when Pentecost comes, let's shout out the gifts that God has given us to help others and heal the world.

A lot of folks talking about being Evangelicals—even Evangelical Anglicans. But I want to hear you, my brothers and sisters, talk more about how we are Pentecostal—Spirit-filled Anglicans who use the spiritual gifts that God has abundantly poured out upon us and now are growing in us.

Folks, we have now begun a new calendar year as we enter a new church season—Epiphany. And for Epiphany, let us ask one another how the Light that has come into the world is now blazing in us. That's the kind of stuff I want to talk about. As for theology—I guess I just don't have the time or the stomach for it anymore. So, let's let this blessed family of St. Peter's be born, resurrected, filled with God's Spirit, and SHINE this coming year!

Genuflection

There are quite a lot of things that we do in church — often without much thought — that we rarely understand or know from whence they come, namely genuflecting. Simply put the word “genuflect” means “to bend the knee.” In the most ancient rites of the church (the services surrounding Holy Week and the services of ordination), at the point in the service when the faithful would be called to pray as the Church, the deacon of the Mass would turn and face the congregation and call out “flectamus genua!” Literally, “let us bend the knee!”

You can see in the Latin the root words of our word genuflect. But this simple word, genuflect, has a much richer association for Christians than simple kneeling. To “bend the knee” was, and is, an act of obedience worthy of, and owed to, a king — fitting enough, in fact, to be done for our King and God, Jesus Christ.

In the course of history, this simple gesture, the simple act of placing one’s right knee on the floor in the presence of the majesty of the king, came to be a kind of universal standard for subjects of kings. It was fitting, then, that Christians, who viewed the church building as the throne room of the King of Kings, would take up this act of reverence and obedience when they entered the church, or stood before the altar on which Jesus Christ abides, enthroned in the tabernacle in the Blessed Sacrament.

So, how do we do this properly? How do we do worthy reverence and worship of Christ the King, enthroned in the Tabernacle? It is quite simple, really: left foot forward, right foot back and lower your right knee to the floor. Keep your back straight, put your hands on your left knee for balance (or hold onto the pew beside you; that is fine too). Simple as that. But, for the love of God and his kingdom, remember that if you cannot physically genuflect, God knows this and joyfully accepts the bending of the knee of your heart, too.

-The Rev. Dcn. Christopher J. Guptill, Church of the Good Shepherd, Granbury, TX
via *The Anglican Digest*, Winter 2009 (edited)

A New Year’s Resolution?

A wise, elderly Cherokee man was teaching his grandchildren about life. He said to them, “A fight is going on inside of me; it is a terrible fight, and it is between two wolves. One wolf is fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego. The other is joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith. This same fight is going on inside you and inside every other person too.” They thought about it for a minute and the one child asked his grandfather, “What wolf will win?” The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.”

Praise Worship At St. Peter’s

St. Peter’s had its first “Praise” Worship in October, 2011. Bob Didderrich leads us on the guitar with the modern worship hymns such as “Come, now is the time to worship,” introduced in early summer. The words of the hymns are printed in the service bulletin, but we learn the hymns from Bob. Are you interested in learning the music prior to Sunday worship? Praise Worship is the first Sunday of the month. Practice takes place the Saturday before (time to be determined) and Sunday morning (8:30 am). Speak with Julie Falk about Saturday practice time or come early Sunday morning! You’re all welcome!

Calendar & Times

		<u>Scheduled Reader</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>
Jan. 8, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Susan Medd	Susan Medd
Jan. 15, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Rick Luedke	Sabine Lobitz
	2:00 pm Elm Grove Theatre—Nonsense		
Jan. 22, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Steve Marks	Debbie Marks
Jan. 29, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Mary Buerosse	Buerosse

Lessons for JANUARY

	<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Jan. 8	Isaiah 60:1-6, 9	72:1-2, 10-17	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 15	1 Samuel 3:1-10	139:1-5, 12-17	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Jan. 22	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	62:6-14	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
Jan. 29	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

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)

- *Keep Peg Leitgabel in your prayers as she receives treatments.
- *Pray for Sabine who is undergoing chemotherapy again. Numbers are getting better!
- *Pray for peace and justice in **all the world**.
- *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.
- *Remember the members of the Prayer Circle in your prayers.

Let’s Celebrate!

Happy Birthday

Jan. 1 Denise Mikulak
Jan. 2 Lexi Brumder
Jan. 10 Dorina Dyrud
Jan. 30 Rick Luedke

Happy Anniversary

Jan. 26 Andy & Kathy Marks

The Spirit at Work!

- *Darcy Chester has notified us of her new address: 2430 Lisle Road, Owego, New York 13827.
- *Thanks to Fr. David for a wonderful Advent Series. We look forward to the Lenten series by Mary Gordon. Watch for more information next month. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22.
- *Mark your calendars for **St. Peter’s Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 19.**
- *Have you picked a Sunday to bring flowers for the altar? The New Flower Chart is posted in the Narthex. A new Breakfast Chart is also posted. Check them out!!!
- *If you would like to make an “Estimate of Giving Pledge” to St. Peter’s, please advise, Andy Marks or Mary Buerosse. Forms are available in the Narthex.

“Nunsense”

Our outing to the Sunset Theatre in Elm Grove for their production of “Nunsense” is 2 pm on Sunday, January 15, 2012. We will end the evening with an early dinner at Baker’s Square restaurant following the performance. Even if you are not attending the play, you are welcome to come to Baker’s Square for dinner. Please let Sheila know if you will be going to Baker’s Square, so she can let the restaurant know how many people will be coming. Questions – call Sheila @262-691-4857.

St. Peter’s Helped Pantries Reach Record Goal

Thank you to all who gave so generously to the North Lake Food Pantry as part of our Christmas Outreach. We received donations of \$320 for the North Lake Food Pantry and \$60 for the Pewaukee Food Pantry. By sending our checks to the “Yule Feed Families”, we helped them reach a new record goal of \$82,320 for the four food pantries: Pewaukee, Hartland, North Lake, and Kettle Moraine!

New Stained Glass Window

If you don’t often walk in the back door of St. Peter’s, now will be a good time for you to check it out. A new stained glass window, given by the congregation of St. Peter’s, was installed on December 20, dedicated to Fr. David and Sabine! It’s a beautiful, delicate blue-colored cross in the window of the back door. The dedication plaque declares:

“Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord.
Given with sincere gratitude to Fr. David and Sabine for sharing the light and love of Christ.
St. Peter’s Family—Advent 2011”

What’s Happening at St. Peter’s?

In the last several months there have been a few changes made at St. Peter’s. A hole in the pipe from the well into the church required fixing. We upgraded the system and had a new well pump installed and a new control box. The furnace has been cleaned and checked for optimum operation. There are seven new “EXIT” lights, a new electrical outlet for the piano light, a timer clock for the water heater and new ballasts and tubes for the basement lighting. St. Peter’s will profit by these changes in the future and keep its physical plant in good working order. We’re ready for the next hundred years!!!

Treasure in your trash?

At one of our recent church events, our conversation morphed into a discussion about the goodies in our trash. In particular, our local schools collect items for funding special programs or the purchase of school supplies. I was musing by the time I’m done sorting through our trash each week, pulling all box tops and can tabs, there’s hardly anything left for Waste Management to collect! Rick suggested I list those special items for our newsletter so that other families can share in the fun tearing through their trash - for good causes. The items Richfield collects are:

- General Mills Box Tops for Education (Cereals, Kleenex Tissues, etc.)
- Campbell Soup labels (also found on Pepperidge Farms products, V-8 items, etc)
- Milk Caps from Golden Guernsey, Kemps, and others
- Coke Rewards Points
- Aluminum can tabs (For Ronald McDonald's House)

If you’re not already collecting for someone else, but wouldn’t mind collecting for the school children of St. Peter’s Parish, they’d thank you kindly. - Stephanie Naze

Lake Country Reporter—Col. Shears

On December 27, 2011 the Lake Country Reporter had an article about Col. Shears in *The Old Rail Fence* column. Mention was made to the fact that Shears built the first resort on North Lake, which later became the Schuschardt’s Resort. “Shears and his wife led the drive to establish St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, the first church in North Lake. That project was started in 1867 and was completed in 1869. One of Shears’ daughters, Lizzie, married another one of North Lake’s prominent citizens, Dr. Byron Kilbourn. He was the son of the famous Byron Kilbourn, co-founder of Milwaukee.” Col. Shears, his wife, Byron Kilbourn and Lizzie are all buried in St. Peter’s cemetery. St. Peter’s has a rich history in North Lake. The full article is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Diocesan News

Parish ordered to relinquish property, vacate building— Milwaukee Journal Sentinel 12/22/11

Waukesha County Circuit Judge J. Mac Davis ruled in favor of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee in a dispute over church property taken by an Elm Grove congregation when it broke away over theological differences in 2008. It means that the members of St. Edmund’s Episcopal Church must relinquish all church property and vacate the building on Watertown Plank Road. St. Edmund’s was the first congregation in Wisconsin to break away from the Episcopal Church over theological issues. Bishop Miller is beginning to work with the St. Edmund’s parishioners pushed out by the split in an effort to help rebuild their congregation. The full article is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Senior Warden's Reflection by Andy Marks

Take Christmas with you.

Over the past several years I marveled at all the excitement generated by the Harry Potter series among most of my students. Just the mention of the name Harry Potter in my math class invoked immediate and enthusiastic discussion. This year, one of my 7th graders insisted that I at least read the first book in the series, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, which he happened to have with him that day. I conceded and soon began my journey into the life of Harry Potter. The novel revolves around Harry Potter, an orphan who discovers at the age of eleven that he is a wizard, living within the ordinary world of non-magical people known as Muggles. As I read through the story, I could see how many young and not-so-young people became engrossed by the magical world of wizards. And I couldn't help but think how important it is to have imagination; to be able, even if only for a moment, to go beyond the visible. Imagination is that hidden ingredient that awakens the deepest part of us and allows us to go deep within ourselves.

As the Christmas season winds down, there is always one question that remains, has anything changed? Am I changed? Am I better? Has the Spirit of God marked me in some way that helps me see the world differently? Is there something I can hold on to? This year, the Advent programs with homemade soup and bread, the greening of the church, Christmas Eve service with Fr. David concluded with the singing of Silent Night by candlelight, the gatherings of family and friends, all helped to make the season wonderful for us. But like one of those flash dances that occurs in the middle of a shopping mall or a train station, the Christmas season comes, it's amazing, but then it's gone. Soon we are back to work, back to our routines, back to the politics of the day. What struck me most in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* was the amazing way the author, Joanne Rowling, transitioned Harry from his everyday life, to his first year at the magical school of Hogwarts, and then back to his ordinary life when the school year ended. Harry, through it all, was somehow changed. He now realized his potential and possibilities and was filled with awe and wonder.

Now as we head into the New Year, are we simply left with fond memories of this past Christmas and other favorite Christmas seasons? Or are we somehow changed? Is it possible for us, this year, to wrap up all those favorite memories and place them securely in our hearts and realize that this is God's gift to us? And as we journey on, embrace the love of Christ which makes all of this possible.

What We Sing: # 7 "Christ, whose glory fills the skies"

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) wrote this morning hymn. It was first published in a book entitled *Hymns and Spiritual Songs* which he produced with his brother John in 1740. For many years it was wrongly attributed to Augustus Montague Toplady who wrote "Rock of ages." It did not appear in its complete form in the *Wesleyan Hymn Book* until 1875. Like most of Wesley's hymns, it relies strongly on metaphors and images from Scripture. In the first verse the phrase "Sun of Righteousness" is taken from the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi 4:2: "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings." "Dayspring from on high, be near" is a phrase coming from Luke 1:78-79: "Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death". "Day-star, in my heart appear" follows 2 Peter 1:19: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." (King James Version) The second and third verses of this hymn are quoted in Chapter 38 of George Eliot's novel *Adam Bede*, which was first published in 1859. Seth Bede, the hero's brother and a devout Methodist, sings Wesley's hymn described as one of his favorites, as he is walking home on Sunday morning. We sing it today as it was originally written!

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night:
Day-springs from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return,
Till thy mercy's beams I see;
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiance divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

Thank God for Music

Music plays a big part in the Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, God enlists musicians to work on His behalf. He uses music to call people to worship and to send them to war, to soothe ragged emotions and to ignite spiritual passion, to celebrate victories and to mourn losses. Music is an all-occasion, all-inclusive art form. Music is a wonderful metaphor for the church because everyone participates by doing what he or she does best. We all sing or play different notes at different times, but we all perform the same song. The better we know our parts, and the better we follow the conductor, the more beautiful the music. One of the best uses for music is praise. When Solomon's temple was completed, the musicians praised and thanked God. As they did, "the glory of the Lord filled the house of God" (2 Chronicles 5:14). We thank God for beautiful music, for it's like a preview of heaven, where the glory of God will dwell forever and where praise for Him will never cease.

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationship, so that we may live deep within our hearts.
May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.
May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.
And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.
In the name of the God who created us, the Son who redeems us, and the Spirit who gives us strength.

AMEN

A Prayer for the World —Rabbi Harold S. Kushner

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges,
the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly.
Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness
So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color.
Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness
So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors.
And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors.
Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven. Amen

”In Rome many people maintain the custom of throwing something out the window on New Year’s Eve. What a relief to get rid of every old resentment, every old fear, old prejudices, old notions, old ways of doing things.” -Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

On a very cold , snowy Sunday in January, only the pastor and one farmer arrived at the village church. The pastor said, “Well, I guess we won’t have a service today.” The farmer replied, “Heck, if even only one cow shows up at feeding-time, I feed it.”

**The proper time to do the proper thing is before you have to do it.

**A thing done right means less trouble tomorrow.