



CCA TODAY

sharing the news of
Christ Church Anglican

September 2009

NOTES FROM THE MUSTARD SEED PROJECT

by Doreen St. Germaine

Interesting that Reverend Moses' sermon touched upon something that was discussed yesterday by members of the mustard seed project. Moses said that Joshua had an effective leadership style, that of leading by example. Joshua pledged, "...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15). When we left C&E, Reverend Gil and Reverend Moses, and we too, all took a stand and made a choice as to where, how and Whom we would worship.

Our prayer for our mustard seed project is that we, as parents and grandparents, will, by our example, humble ourselves before God, seek His face, and turn from our evil ways. If we do this, God promises: "I will hear from heaven and forgive (their) sins and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

To me this means admitting when we are wrong, apologizing to the wronged party, asking forgiveness, and taking responsibility for our actions.

My dad used to say, "Do as I say, NOT as I do." But it's what we see modeled before us that is remembered.

And so, we pray that we will model what is required of us: "To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. (Micah: 6:8) God is faithful. And we, with the faith of a mustard seed, can move mountains. Let's work together for God's healing of this land.

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Sunday
8:00 am, 10:00 am
9:00 am Sunday School &
Adult Christian Education

Rector
Reverend Gilbert Wilkes
Assistant Rector
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CCA WELCOMES SIMEON BOS

It was with great joy that we celebrated the baptism of our son Simeon Grey Bos on Sunday, August 16th. Thanks to all who were able to celebrate with us this important occasion in Simeon's life. We are honored to have Michael and Bet Frost and Pam Wilkes as his Godparents. It has truly been a blessing to our family to have been so warmly welcomed into the Christ Church Anglican family. We invite all to pray for and encourage our son to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.

—Adrian and Cynthia Bos

God's Work in Progress

I GO TO THE GARDEN TO PRAY *by Lil Gardener*

It's been awhile since I went out to my garden to do anything. I hired a gardener to do the maintenance part since there are so many perennials. Lyme's disease spooked me and the aches and pains of stiff joints made think that shopping was friendlier. This sharing is not about that but about my return to the gardening that I loved to do for so many years. I decided to say no to the fears and aches and headed out Friday morning with the tools of the trade in hand. I decided that the shrubs were in need of a second trim, the gardener had just done them but not to my liking. I live in a condo and the rule is that the shrubs have to be several feet from the building. I've broken condo rules before when I planted my foundation three feet deeper than was allowed. No one measured but that meant lots more to weed and trim.

I walked straight into that first shrub and with clippers in hand hacked away with leaves in my face and branches pulling my hair. Cut, cut and cut until I stepped away and was horrified. That did not stop me, however, I proceeded to do the same thing to the second one thinking I had learned from the first. The effect was not pretty! My mood changed as I dropped my hands down to my side and realized I had been away from this, toooooo long! I apologized to the shrubs and it was then that I heard that quiet voice I had treasured in the years past speak to me.

If you are going to do the work of a gardener then learn from the Master! I realized that Jesus was speaking to me about my life as a shrub! I felt that teaching in my spirit tell me that when you get too close to your own situation, rush into the center of it and clip away, you get left with a life that can be misshapen and exposed in the wrong places and wound yourself with internal criticism. You can even look very odd in the garden of Life! In the middle of the shrub I lost the big picture and could only look out not in. My vision was hampered and my actions should have been, too.

The Holy Spirit is a Master at being able to move in close, crowd the center if He has to and still maintain the picture in God's heart for my life and destiny. He doesn't become reckless and careless with me and doesn't have to apologize later. My branches have been cut, for sure, but my life has been hidden away in safety. With the naked eye you can only see what is left here and not the spaces where He pruned me. He is a gentleman in the middle of our hearts mindful of our fragility as human beings.

Now, one would think that having demolished the shrubs I would have called it a morning but this garden kept calling me back. I noticed the flowers and how they had grown into each other, some overzealous ones popping up everywhere and distracting from the balance and all around effect.

Sounds like gardening talk doesn't it? So, I moved in with a twinkling in my eye and began to weed and separate. I grabbed hold of one long tendril of a plant that I could track because it was blooming red everywhere! I pulled it and soon noticed the ground moving under other plants that were just minding their business and blooming in place! As I continued to pull I saw the other plants begin to move, their root systems disturbed by my vigorous pulling. What I was trying to get at was underneath something I wanted to leave untouched. I'm not a mole so I couldn't just tunnel my way in. I could pull the whole thing out and hope that there would be enough roots left for next year, that the good plant would return and the creeping one disciplined! I amazed myself at my own aggression toward plants!

It was then that I heard the Lord speak to me again. He likened my behavior in the garden to my behavior with people. He asked me how many times I had gone into the personal garden of someone's life and tried to weed? Anxious to help someone get to the root of the problem did I pull up and weaken the strength that kept that person functioning? Am I a garden tender or treader? Am I well meaning but dangerous? Have I read the Master's Gardening Book?

I've translated my lesson into some good learning points that my friend Jesus helped me with Friday morning. As Christians, well meaning ones, we aren't that good in garden etiquette. A little clumsy and awkward at times we try to weed each other's gardens when we think we have finished with our own.

The full effect of God's Church is His garden, His vision, His work. My job is to bloom where I am planted and if another gets into my space and crowds me out in an unhealthy way, the Master will be around with his own tools. And ... when He lays the axe to some root in my life it will be because there is something underneath my soil I can't see or deal with. I have known both his gentle hand and His swift pruning. In both I am still left intact, still able to praise him and live out my story.

John 15:1-2

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, He takes away, and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes so that it will bear more fruit.

... Friday morning, the joy I felt as I tarried there, none other has ever known!

A LESSON IN PRAYER *by John Guida*

Last month I told you I'd just finished reading 'Passionate Prayer' by Catherine Martin; a 30-day journey on discovering the power of talking with God. This month I want to tell you how I learned to pray using a prayer.

The Lord's Prayer provides a wonderful pattern for prayer. His prayer includes worship, confession, petitions, forgiveness, supplication, intercession, and praise.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Begin with worship of God and ask for the advancement of the Lord's honor and the holiness of His name among men and women. In this element of prayer, you can focus on the various names of God and revere God for who He is, what He does, and what He says.

Thy kingdom come. Pray for the reign and rule of God in your life and in the lives of others, asking for His kingdom to come "more and more completely until its full and final consummation."

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Acknowledge, submit to, and surrender to His sovereign control over the affairs of earth and heaven and over your life as well. This prayer asks for the power to say yes to God in obedience to whatever He may ask of you and to "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts."

Give us this day our daily bread. Tell God everything you need and ask for His provision for all your life necessities. Lay out all the requests on your heart for everything you need.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Confess your sins to God, ask Him to show you any areas of hardness in your own heart, and then ask for the ability to forgive others who wrong you.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Ask for help in your adversity, deliverance from trials and temptations, deliverance from enemies, and strength in spiritual warfare.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen. Praise God for who He is, what He does, and what He says.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first day of Sunday school will be **September 20th!!!** We encourage you to bring your children to Sunday school. It begins at 9:00am every Sunday. We have a very dedicated group of teachers that believe the future of this church depends on our children. Registration forms for Sunday school will be available beginning Sunday, September 6th.

EXCERPT FROM 'THE PURSUIT OF GOD' BY A.W. TOZER

submitted by Kate Heermans

Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshippers meeting together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be were they to become "unity" conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship. Social religion is perfected when private religion is purified. The body becomes stronger as its members become healthier. The whole church of God gains when the members that compose it begin to seek a better and a higher life. (pg 96)



Gift cards are available every Sunday at the 8am and 10am services. **We are now earning 5% Profit on every dollar!!** Thanks to our loyal buyers each week — we have topped \$1000 in profit with our new bunch of cards this month!! Awesome!! And that is just by doing our regular shopping! The bonus: there is no extra cost to us, we are making money just for normal shopping!!! So please remember to get your gift cards every Sunday, we have denominations of \$100, \$50, \$25, \$20 And even \$10 cards. **Every dollar counts!!**

NOTES

- Please continue to pray for the healing of Myrtle Cunningham, Anthony Bates, Bobbie Buckley, Frank Stoddard, Sheryl Raffile, and Karl Swanson. (Names on this list will be removed after one month unless there is a request to renew them.)
- We support Fair Haven Parents Ministry as one of out-reach efforts. Please bring in food donations and leave them in the basket by the entrance. The offering taken at coffee hour also goes to FHPM.
- STOP & SHOP GIFTCARDS--buy them every Sunday!!
- Please bring in pictures of your children and/or grandchildren to be displayed as part of the Mustard Seed Project. We will be praying for them as we pray for the healing of this land.
- The Wednesday Bible Study is at the Wilkes home (672 Townsend Ave., New Haven), beginning at 7 pm. The study will concentrate on the Gospel of John. Please let Fr. Gil know if you plan to attend.
- Please join Fr. Moses at the Heermans home, (47 Prospect Rd, East Haven), Tuesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. as we pray for Christ Church Anglican, that we grow in love for one another, and that we will have the courage to follow God's call on us.
- Please join Marion Clark on Tuesday evenings, beginning at 6:30 pm, at the Hagaman Memorial Library for a study on Recovering from the Losses in Life.
- This is YOUR newsletter so, voice your opinion, write your stories!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| John Patrick Torre | 2 | Logan Morann..... | 22 |
| Henry Lau..... | 7 | Diane Bogdan..... | 25 |
| Bet Frost..... | 14 | Ebun Aderibole | 25 |
| Frances Taft..... | 17 | Kirk Trofatter | 25 |
| Mike Bogdan, Sr..... | 18 | | |

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| John & Eileen Torre | 9-02 |
| Bill & Deb Morgan..... | 9-11 |
| Henry & Annie Lau | 9-14-1986 |
| Moses & Ebun Aderibole | 9-23-2005 |
| Mike & Bet Frost..... | 9-30-1988 |

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Labor Day..... | 7 |
| Vestry Meeting | 15 |
| Sunday School begins | 20 |
| Sue Riley's Wedding | 26 |