

Birthdays: June Gibson, Edwina Dunworth,
Michael Abruzzo, Rhett Keene, Savanna Nardone

Friday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:00 a.m. A Way Out
9:30 a.m. Friday Life Group
10:00 a.m. Friday Bible Study
8:00 p.m. Friday Night Young Peoples' AA

Today's Ministry: Mission Trip

Saturday, June 24

Luke 21:20-28 *"And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides."* (v.25)

A few years ago a friend of mine bought a house. Now, I use the term "house" loosely, because it was in a state of utter disrepair. The walls were caked with grime and mold. There were holes right through the roof. A raccoon lived in the attic. The place was, in short, a nightmare. I remember walking through the rooms, trying not to let my horror show on my face.

But today, this house is a neighborhood jewel-box—spacious and beautiful, full of light, with nary a raccoon in sight. This is because my friend has been flipping houses for decades. She walked into that disaster zone and saw exactly what the house could become—and knew who to call to accomplish it. She had the vision to see the bleak house's bright future.

Today, our whole world seems a bit of a disaster zone, and too often I view the news with the same horror I felt when I walked through that derelict house. I suspect I'm not alone. But when I get overwhelmed, passages like this one in Luke give me comfort. Christ told us that the world would be in utter disrepair, but that this would lead to his return. He left us with this precious prophetic vision of the "neighborhood jewel-box" that our desperate world will become.

1 Samuel 4:1b-11; Psalms 87, 90; Acts 4:32—5:11

Anniversaries: David & Marni Abate, Bob & Linda Brown,
Nick & Libby Reynolds

Saturday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:00 a.m. Shepherd Group
9:30 a.m. AA Step Study for Women
12:00 p.m. NarcAnon "Clean@Noon"
5:00 p.m. Eucharist, Rite II
6:30 p.m. NarcAnon "Kleen N Krazy"
8:30 p.m. NarcAnon "Not Alone"

Today's Ministry: Music Ministry

By Ruth Owen

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP
PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790
www.biblereading.org

"Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with love"

The Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Todd L. Cederberg, *Rector*
frtodd@stmarys-stuart.org

The Rev. Christian S. Anderson, *Assistant Rector*
Christian@stmarys-stuart.org

The Rev. Steve Fregeau, *Retired Assisting*
frsteve@stmarys-stuart.org

Lay Staff

Debbie Flerx, *Facilities Director* - debbie@stmarys-stuart.org

Kelly Garner, *Children's Ministry Director* - kelly@stmarys-stuart.org

Melissa Lewis, *Parish Administrator* - melissa@stmarys-stuart.org

Phillip Lindecamp, *Assistant Sexton* - phil@stmarys-stuart.org

Elise Moloney, *Office Manager* - elise@stmarys-stuart.org

Joanne Nelson, *Music Ministry Director* - joanne@stmarys-stuart.org

Alexis Stuckey, *Youth Ministry Director* - alexis@stmarys-stuart.org

Pat Channing *Praise Band Director* - pat@stmarys-stuart.org



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

623 SE Ocean Boulevard

Stuart, FL 34994

Phone (772) 287-3244

Fax (772) 220-1249

Website: www.stmarys-stuart.org

St. Mary's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with Love

Good News Daily

Volume XVII

June 18—24, 2017

Number 25

Sunday, June 18 - FATHER'S DAY!

Matthew 18:1-14 *Then [Jesus] said, "I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven."* (vv.3-4 NLT)

When I think about children, the first descriptor which leaps to mind is not usually "humble". Delightful, energetic, trusting, joyful, and yes, loud, are all on the list before "humble". I've always thought of humble as a sacrificial thing, which requires me to give up something to please God. And let's face it: anyone who has been in a room with one toy and two kids knows that "sacrificial giving" is not their go-to place.

So what did Christ mean when he praised this child for being humble? Well, I think it's because of one thing that children are so much more aware of than adults—they need help. Food, shelter, guidance, and love are all provided by adults. They know that they can't exist on their own. Sometimes they rebel against that fact, but they all know it.

When Jesus encouraged us to become "as humble as this little child," I believe he wanted us to embrace this dependence. We need Christ's help. We cannot exist without God. "Humble" is about so much more than giving up our toys.

2 Chronicles 32:1-23; Palms 93, 96; Revelation 15:1-8

Birthdays: Peg Kennelly, Jan Rogan

Anniversaries: Wink & Barbara McKinnon,
Zach & Ashley Johnson

Sunday's Calendar

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:15 a.m. Coffee in the Courtyard

Today's Ministry: Mary's Kitchen

Monday, June 19

Luke 20:9-19 *Now Jesus turned to the people again and told them this story: "A man planted a vineyard, leased it to tenant farmers, and moved to another country to live for several years." (v.9)*

This might shock you, but Jesus offended people. To illustrate, take this section from Luke where Jesus tells the story of the "Wicked Tenant Farmers." This parable tells how the tenant farmers unlawfully stole the profits from the farm entrusted to them. To this end they beat the servants the owner sent, and eventually killed the owner's beloved son rather than pay up.

This parable was an in-your-face condemnation of the temple Pharisees, who rejected the message of the prophets and ruled for their own power rather than God's. And where did Jesus preach this? On the temple steps. Right in the faces of the Pharisees.

As Christians, we are called to live in peace with others, but not when it conflicts with the truth. God sent His beloved Son to make those tenant farmers accountable. We're called to do the same—even if it offends someone.

1 Samuel 1:1-20; Psalm 80; Acts 1:1-14

Birthday: John Funston

Monday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
5:30 p.m. ACA Meeting (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Today's Ministry: Mary's Library Book Group

Tuesday, June 20

Acts 1:15-26 *So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven. (vv.23, 26)*

This is the section of the Book of Acts I like to call "The Guy Who Wasn't Picked."

Jesus had just ascended into heaven, and the now-we-are-eleven apostles felt they needed to choose a twelfth. They decided on two candidates, Justus and Matthias, both of whom had been with them since the early days of Christ's ministry. Some traditions say that they were part of the seventy workers Jesus sent "forth as lambs in the midst of wolves" in Luke 10. But regardless of their specific backgrounds, they'd both known Jesus and were exceptional choices. So the disciples cast lots. And Justus lost.

There are times when you think God's plan for you is certain—the perfect job, an award you deserve, the dream house, etc.—only to have those plans inexplicably crumble. Those plans may have even gone forward, but not with you. And sometimes it hurts.

But while Justus might not have become an apostle, he continued to be a vital part of the young church, even (according to one tradition) becoming venerated as Saint Justus of Eleutheropolis. God's plans for you might involve temporary failure, but they never involve defeat.

1 Samuel 1:21—2:11; Psalm 78:1-39; Luke 20:19-26

Anniversary Bob & Pat Ditmars

Tuesday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:30 a.m. Beth Moore Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Tuesday Bible Study
12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Healing
5:30 p.m. Overeaters' Anonymous Meeting
7:30 p.m. NarcAnon "Just for Today"

Today's Ministry: Men's Cursillo

Wednesday, June 21

Psalm 119:97-120 *You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word. (v.114 ESV)*

Do you have a "safe place" in your life? I'm not talking so much a safe place from physical threat, but more like a place which protects your mind and heart from what Shakespeare calls "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." It may be your friend. It may be when you are with your spouse or child. Heck, it may even be your church. But whatever that safe place is, I ask you now to imagine it in your mind.

Now, imagine that this safe place has been completely ripped away from you.

Many of the issues we see in the Healing Ministry can be boiled down to this one thing—a person thought they had a safe place, but that place disappeared. In some cases, the disappearing took place decades ago, but the person still holds on to the anger, bitterness, mistrust, and even grief. That is why the words of the Psalm 119 are so important. God is the ultimate "safe place"—our hiding place and our shield. He can never, ever be ripped away from us (Romans 8:38-39). If your "safe place" is anywhere except in Christ's arms, consider relocating.

1 Samuel 2:12-26; Acts 2:1-21; Luke 20:27-40

Birthdays: Marge Hohman, Stephani Nardone

Wednesday's Calendar

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
1:00 p.m. Journaling 101
4:45 p.m. Mary's Kitchen
5:30 p.m. AA "Daily Reflections"
7:00 p.m. Life Group
8:30 p.m. NarcAnon "Klean and Crazy"

Today's Ministry Mission 345

Thursday, June 22

Acts 2:22-36 *"God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this." (v.32 NLT)*

The hit Broadway play *Hamilton: An American Musical* tells the tale of a man of questionable parentage, who rose to fame in the face of a hostile power, who founded a new movement, who died too young...okay, you probably see some comparisons to Christ' story. But one thing which this musical highlights, and which is often overlooked in the Christian literature, is the importance of the *witnesses*.

The second chapter of Acts tells how God sent His Holy Spirit to comfort and encourage Christ's followers. And Peter, filled with the Spirit's power, joyfully shouts Jesus' story to the astonished crowds. "God raised Jesus from the dead! We are the witnesses!"

Today, we Christians are the ones who tell Christ's story. We are the witnesses. Maybe we won't get a Tony award, but we do get the Holy Spirit. All things considered, that's not a bad deal. 1 Samuel 2:27-36; Psalms 34, 83; Luke 20:41—21:4

Birthdays: Patti Sullivan, Robert Carey, Kasia D'Auria

Anniversary: Jerry & Virginia Lavish

Thursday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Rite II
12:30 p.m. Overeaters' Anonymous Meeting
5:30 p.m. ACA Men's Group
5:30 p.m. Qigong Exercise Class
7:00 p.m. AIAnon "Stepping Stones"

Today's Ministry: Mary's Library and Bookstore

Friday, June 23

Psalm 88 *You have taken away my companions and loved ones. Darkness is my closest friend. (v.18)*

Anyone who thinks the Bible is a nice or sweet book should take a look at Psalm 88. This poem is a nightmare of honesty. It starts off in despair, and gets worse. It is a scream of unfiltered, primal pain.

And yet, this psalm, like all the others, was sung as a public prayer to God. Or, to put it another way, it is something our Father wants us to sing to Him. He wants us to strip off our "happy masks" and bring Him the horrors that we have been deceived into believing we must face alone.

If you are hurting, try shouting Psalm 88 at the top of your lungs. Don't be afraid of your darkness; God isn't. As Corrie Ten Boon wrote, "There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still."

1 Samuel 3:1-21; Acts 2:37-47; Luke 21:5-19