

your Word reflected by my mother, Lord, I give thanks.
Numbers 13:1-3, 21-30; Psalm 88; Romans 2:25—3:8

Birthdays: Ann Stocker, Anne Blake, Genie DuPell,
Jackie Dillon, Morgan Ferrera
Anniversaries: Paul & Sally Perryman,
Darla & Fr. Todd Cederberg,
Janet & Tom Bevan

Friday's Calendar:
7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
9:30 a.m. Life Group
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
12:00 p.m. A Way Out
8:00 p.m. AA Friday Nite Young People
Today's Ministry: Daughters of the King

Saturday, June 18
Psalm 90 *Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.* (vv.2, 4)

Several years ago, I had the privilege of going on a Celtic Pilgrimage to Ireland and Scotland with my sister and a group from my childhood church in Pensacola. It was wonderful! Some very beautiful, sacred places we visited were Monasterboice, Clonmacnoise, Glendalough, and Iona. Many of the communities are over 1000 years old and some have stunning high crosses up to 22 feet tall. At Monasterboice, we were able to observe a man carving the name of his recently deceased friend on the family's cross. Several generations of the family were listed below each other, something I'd never seen before. The history, the sense of community with those who've gone before and those yet to come, was powerful. I saw my own life from a much different perspective, a tiny part of a much greater whole. It was humbling and left me in awe and grateful to have been given life at all. Life is gift, to quote the late Rev. John Claypool. We do nothing to earn or deserve it. Our God, the Author of everything, who existed before He brought forth the earth, who determined that His creation needed humans and gave us life, that same God loves you and me. He gave us our very existence. We're here for a season; it may last a few years or a hundred years. We're made in God's image and found worthy to have some time in this beautiful world. Let us use our season wisely and with grateful hearts.

Numbers 13:31—14:25; Psalm 87; Romans 3:9-20; Matthew 19:1-12

Birthdays: Margaret Kennelly, Jan Rogan
Anniversaries: Ashley & Zach Johnson,
Barbara & Wink McKinnon,
Melinda & Bob Rhoads

Saturday's Calendar:
10:00 a.m. Bible Study ONLINE
8:30 p.m. Not Alone Group
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Today's Ministry: Eucharistic Visitors

by *Suzanne McKee*

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"Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with Love"

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Sunday, June 12

Numbers 6:22-27 *"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."* (vv.24-26 NIV)

Known as the Aaronic Blessing or the Priestly Blessing, these words are familiar and bring us comfort as we hear the petition for the Lord's favor and protection on us. How humbling to consider the radiance of our Lord's glory shining directly on us as He faces us and brings us peace. Have you, like I, perhaps missed the intimacy of this blessing?

Words of blessing are also ours to share with others. To pray blessings on those we love for the Holy Spirit to go to the areas of pain or need can bring healing and solace. A dear friend of mine frequently says, "God bless you always." And today I was truly blessed when my original baptismal certificate arrived in the mail, dated 11-7-48! For months I have been on a journey to find the date of my baptism since my church lists them with birthdays and anniversaries each week. The blessing started when I wrote two small Episcopal churches in Durham, NC seeking help and a special deacon named Monnie heard my plea and eventually went through another church's archives until she found me! Blessings abound but none so great as knowing the Lord seeks us personally to pour out His love and favor on us.

Psalms 93, 96; Acts 13:1-12; Luke 12:41-48

Birthdays: Janet Warren
Anniversaries: Jana & Tom Hartley
Sunday's Calendar : **Trinity Sunday**
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Today's Ministry: Altar Guild

Monday, June 13

Romans 1:1-15 *I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.* (vv.11-12)

Along my Christian journey, I have been encouraged by special friends, "soul" mates in the truest sense of the word, for these people fed and nurtured my soul in such tender ways when it felt bruised and broken. Through our shared faith in Jesus Christ, healing took place. I've

also been blessed in my professional career to be an encourager to those whose lives are affected by spina bifida, a permanently disabling congenital birth defect. As much as I have given, I have received even more from my patients and families.

One of my most challenging moments came recently as a loved one's life came to a very sudden end, only weeks between diagnosis and death. I so loved this person but knew her faith had been challenged for decades. It's hard to tread between sharing one's faith as an encourager to being judgmental. The peace I received was in just sharing my love for her and letting her know God loved her even more than I did. I am comforted in knowing that she was "sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever" (BCP). I know that our God is always wooing us and never lets us go even when we become distant from Him. I know that God's love is a one-way love and that He's hopelessly devoted to us, as our rector often says. I know that our Comforter meets us when we're at our neediest moment, so I rest in His peace that my dear loved one is with Him.

Numbers 9:15-23, 10:29-36; Psalm 80; Matthew 17:14-21

Birthdays: Susie Marsh

Anniversaries: Barb & Dick La Mirand, Herb & Marcia Nock

Monday's Calendar:

7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
10:00 a.m. Praying Hands (1st & 3rd Mondays)
3:00 p.m. Daughters of the King (2nd Mondays)
3:00 p.m. Memorial Day Concert in Ross Hall
5:45 p.m. ACOA

Today's Ministry: Backpack Buddies

Tuesday, June 14

Numbers 11:1-23 *The LORD said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you. I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit that is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you carry the burden of the people so that you will not have to carry it alone."* (vv. 16-17)

The strength of a community of faith is precious, powerful, and purposeful. Knowing our anchor is Jesus Christ brings comfort in times of personal crisis as well as corporate need.

On a recent Sunday morning with a new associate priest leading the congregation for only the second time, a parishioner suffered a medical emergency. As the call for doctors and nurses went out and a call to 911 was made, there was such a sense of everyone coming together. Attention and prayers for the person were immediate but then another voice was heard as a young man offered a prayer corporately for this person, the family, the medical personnel, and first responders. How powerful, how calming, how reflective of this passage from Numbers: you will not have to carry this burden alone. At moments of loss, of fear, despair, when we don't know what to do, we can, and we should, pray.

During the rest of the service, with everyone still processing what had happened and hopeful that our fellow member was on the way to full recovery, our new priest reminded us of the "Comfortable Words" of Christ, including, "Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden,

and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). He reminded us that the crowds who flocked to hear Jesus preach were those who knew, without a doubt, that they were in need, were broken, were desperate for something beyond themselves, and they were met by a God of compassion, a God who loves us and wants only the best for us—wholeness of body, mind, and spirit.

Psalm 78:1-39; Romans 1:16-25; Matthew 17:22-27

Birthdays: Brad Thayer, Nancy Ward, Bob Brown, Dave Von Holle, Tom Baker,

Fr. Christian Anderson
Pete Ciccone & Mary Lupton

Anniversaries:

Tuesday's Calendar:

7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
9:30 a.m. Life Group ONLINE
12:10 p.m. Healing Service

Today's Ministry: Capital Campaign

Wednesday, June 15

Matthew 18:1-9 *And he said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."* (v.3)

Little children have such a sense of mystery and wonder at the world. They can see with eyes that aren't clouded by the world's problems, with a purity of spirit, and innocence. Young children trust that their needs will be met, for food, clothing, shelter. Who does a child run to when she falls but mom or dad? That's where comfort, care, and love reside. That we could be so childlike, so trusting and dependent on our heavenly Father to meet all our needs, to comfort us when we fall, to give us unconditional love with arms that are always open. The good news is that we can! Our God loves us with a love that's beyond human understanding if we will only open our eyes to the beauty that's around us in so many places and so many ways. I often feel childlike, full of awe at His amazing world as I move a tiny caterpillar to my insect hotel and wait for that moment when I see a beautiful butterfly flapping its wings to be released. It is good to see God with awe, mystery, and often surprise!

Numbers 11:24-35; Psalm 119:97-120; Romans 1:28—2:11

Birthdays: Cindy Herlihy

Anniversaries: Kendra Brown & Mac Stuckey,
Sherry & Werner Olle, Jim & Widget Webert

Wednesday's Calendar:

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Life Group
4:30 p.m. Mary's Kitchen
6:00 p.m. NAMI

Today's Ministry: Choir

Thursday, June 16

Matthew 18:10-20 *"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the*

hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost." (vv.12-14)

The phrase "to look for the one that wandered off" touches my heart and soul. Have you ever had a loved one who seemed to have wandered off, to have lost his or her way? It's so difficult and we learn, hopefully sooner rather than later, that we cannot make the changes needed in this person's life. We may want better things for him, we can suggest, offer, and try to guide but, ultimately, the individual must make the changes himself.

I've learned the power of prayer in such circumstances, prayers that often go on for years. I've learned the value of a family's love, the gift of a faith community and friends who remain steadfast in their support. And oh, how my heart sings when little steps forward are taken, then bigger steps. Yes, Lord, I understand this verse and am so grateful that You never give up on any of us—never. You are relentless in Your pursuit and for that I give thanks.

Numbers 12:1-16; Psalm 83; Romans 2:12-24

Birthdays: Nick Reynolds, Leanna Everett, James Korber

Thursday's Calendar:

7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
1:30 p.m. Grief Support Group
7:00 p.m. AI-Anon—Stepping Stones

Today's Ministry: Coffee Hour Ministry

Friday, June 17

Matthew 18:21-35 *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"* Jesus, answered, *"I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."* (vv.21-22)

Forgiveness, so vital to a fulfilling life, is much easier said than done. We are told repeatedly to forgive those whom we hurt and those who hurt us including in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Forgiveness is freeing to the person who does the forgiving. Mind you, this doesn't mean you condone the behavior or offense that was done. It means you can let it go, move on; it is freeing.

My family went through some very painful times many years ago where I learned firsthand the power of forgiveness. Without it, my family would not have survived intact, and my parents would have divorced instead of staying married for almost 70 years. That example helped me when my own marriage ended after 31 years. In 2001 my precious and spunky mom filled out a *Journal of Wisdom: Grandmother's Thoughts on Life and Living* and this is what she wrote on the value of forgiveness: "Nothing is to be gained by hurt feelings, holding a grudge, or feeling sorry for yourself. Be confident in your own values and yourself and it will be easy to forgive others. Many lives can be saddened by people who don't forgive. We've all needed forgiveness at sometime and to be forgiven is as great as the warm feeling if you are doing the forgiving. Go from there and be happy." For the wisdom of