

observed many baptistries used for rites of purification. At about age 30, John left the monastery for the Jordan River area where Jesus would be baptized. John and Jesus had the same message of repentance which literally means to change one's mind and getting back on the right path through forgiveness of our sins through our baptism.

1 Kings 18:20-40; Psalms 40, 54; Philippians 3:1-16

Birthdays: Jacquie White, Alba Hazen, Ann Stratte

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: Acolytes

Saturday, September 16

Philippians 3:17—4:7 *Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.* (v.17)

In today's Scripture, Paul challenges the Philippians to pursue Christlikeness by following Paul's own pattern or example. Early in my career, I was blessed with an older mentor veterinarian who told me he lived by the Bible verse Proverbs 3:5-6 which begins with "Trust in the Lord with all your heart!" He was also a member of a community service club called Kiwanis. This led me later to join service clubs myself, the Jaycees and Rotary Club. My church also played an important role in my Christian formation. Ministries like Stephen Ministry and Order of St. Luke added to my medical school training. They taught me in grief support and healing from God's point of view. These gifts in my life have no doubt helped develop my character and faith. I have recently told my animal stories and written my autobiography, called *Memoirs of Doctor Dog*. I'm also now contemplating a postscript to my book. As radio commentator Paul Harvey once said, "The rest of the story." This would be a thanksgiving for God's gift of the Holy spirit engineered and supporting a wonderful life.

1 Kings 18:41—19:8; Psalm 55; Mathew 3:13-17

Birthdays: Marcia Nock, Jerry Staggs, Jim Sutherland

Saturday's Calendar:

9:30 a.m. Step Sisters Meeting
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study ONLINE
 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
 8:30 p.m. Not Alone Group

Today's Ministry: Alpha Course

by **R. Bruce Keene**

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. Joseph Shepley, Rector - frjoe@stmarys-stuart.org
 The Rev. Christian S. Anderson, Senior Assoc. Rector - christian@stmarys-stuart.org
 The Rev. Dr. Patsy McGregor, Assoc. Rector for Spiritual Formation - patsy@stmarys-stuart.org

Affiliated Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Todd McGregor
 The Rev. Steve Fregeau
 The Rev. Tom Hartley
 The Rev. P.J. Woodall

Lay Staff

Tom Winter, Director of Finance - tom@stmarys-stuart.org
 Ashley Guzi, Director of Administration - ashley@stmarys-stuart.org
 Brandon Glick, Director of Music & Liturgy - brandon@stmarys-stuart.org
 Malinda Fritz, Youth Director - malinda@stmarys-stuart.org
 Justin Breese, Director of Facilities & Events - justin@stmarys-stuart.org
 Kate Abate, Administrative Assistant - kate@stmarys-stuart.org
 Pat Channing, Praise Band Director - patchanning@hotmail.com

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
 623 SE Ocean Blvd. | Stuart, FL 34994
 Phone (772) 287-3244 | www.stmarys-stuart.org



ST. MARY'S
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Good News Daily

Volume **XXIII** **September 10-16, 2023** Number 37

Sunday, September 10

John 10:31-42 *Again, the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"* (v.31 KJV)

In this Scripture, the Jews are failing to believe Jesus is the Christ and are accusing him of blasphemy. He explains to them the miracles he had done should speak for themselves. Also, he tells them that they are not his sheep, or they would believe!

A recent sermon at our church comes to mind, when our pastor asked us what miracles we remember when God proved to us who He was. In my life, I remember three important miracles that provided proof to me. The first was 56 years ago, when God answered my prayer to help me get into vet school to become a veterinarian. The second was after a disastrous career partnership breakup that resulted in my having to start over in a new veterinary practice. However, God always knows best because I had to learn I would be much happier in a smaller relationship, "mom and pop" type practice. And a third miracle came during that time, when I was at home, out of work. If I had not been there, at that time, there would have been no one to resuscitate my son from a near downing event which he survived. Thanks be to God for His answers to my prayers.

What miracles has proved God's existence to you?
 1 Kings 12:21-33; Psalms 63, 98; Acts 4:18-31

Birthdays: Janet Bevan, Judy Chisholm, Fay Dean, Sharon Hoffman, Helen Lavery, Frank Tarantino

Sunday's Calendar :

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship
 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Today's Ministry: Stephen Ministry

Monday, September 11

Philippians 1:1-11 *Being confident of this very thing, that he who hath began a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.* (v.6)

I mentioned yesterday one of my miracles was back in 1976, was when I ended my veterinary partnership and had to start over. Also,

at that time in 1977, I went with other Christian men from my church on my Cursillo (#7). For those of you not familiar with the origin of Cursillo, it was started in the Catholic church. It is a weekend spiritual retreat for men and women filled with fellowship, study, worship, and prayer. For many, like me, it can be an epiphany or revelation. Following the weekend, there is a small group fellowship that meets weekly to share their spiritual journey as disciples.

My Cursillo sponsor and spiritual father, a real man of God, led our group of 6 men for many years. Now, fast forward 46 years and I'll bring you up to date. Over the years, we have lost many that have joined the Lord and added four more at various times. This weekend, I'll be attending the celebration of life for my final brother in Christ, besides me. I'm 82 now, and looking forward, in God's time, to join them. In today's Scriptures, Paul reminds us to pray for one another, and to be confident in His grace peace and provisions for our spiritual journey. I have always worn my Cursillo cross that reminds me that Christ is counting on me!

1 Kings 13:1-10; Psalms 41, 52; Mark 15:40-47

Birthdays: Kay East, Joe Pietrosante, MJ Gamble

Anniversaries: Bob & Beth Bysshe, Ann & Chip Golibart

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)
5:45 p.m. ACOA

Today's Ministry: Stewardship Committee

Tuesday, September 12

Philippians 1:12-30 *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* (v.21)

I just returned from my Christian friends' funeral. The celebration of life was at an Anglican church that split off from my Episcopal denomination several years ago. It was a congregation that had lovingly supported him after he lost his wife. He was a veteran and was legally blind. The burial of his ashes in the church garden had a military color guard, including a folding of the American flag and a six gun salute in his honor.

He had found a roommate that helped him with the cooking and housework. He also had a special grandson, from out of state, that helped him with his finances. He loved music, played piano, and especially loved the good old Christian hymns. At one time, he had been sexton at our church.

We have had a Cursillo group at his home for over twenty years. Several years ago, I found him a dog named Angel to be his companion and friend. This therapy dog loved him, as Christ does us, unconditionally.

Today's Scripture account of Paul's ministry from prison was like my friend's life. Like my brother in Christ, he believed the word of God and lived courageously and fearlessly with good will and love. Over these many years, we have rejoiced through our prayers together and,

with the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, shared what is called the fourth day of Cursillo.

By the way, Angel was adopted by his roommate, who had also learned to love him.

1 Kings 16:23-34; Psalm 45; Mark 16:1-20

Birthdays: Pat Mielke, Maddie Astras, Reagan Cooper, Jaime Oldenborg-Vaccaro, Bill Allen

Anniversaries: Jeff & Bev Davis

Tuesday's Calendar:
7:00 a.m. Hour of Power AA
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Life Group ONLINE
12:10 p.m. Healing Service

Today's Ministry: Sunday School

Wednesday, September 13

1 Kings 17:1-24 *Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!"* (v.23)

I will never forget the day in my life when a second miracle happened during the time I was contemplating the next step in my veterinary career. I was in my home office when I heard loud cries from our backyard pool. My 6-year-old daughter came in and calmly said "Bryce, (my 2-year-old son) has drowned." I rushed to the pool where my lifeless son laid after my daughter, a strong swimmer, had pulled him off the pool bottom. Life hurried through my mind, as I sprang into action, first hanging him by his feet letting water gush out of his full lungs. Then after not being comfortable with the new resuscitation method, I took him to the grass yard and preformed the old fashion resuscitation on his back. Ella, our Christian maid at the time, was praying to Jesus for Bryce. I remember thinking of all the brain damaged and fatalities I had seen in my memories, and how now we could join this tragic family experience. However, more importantly, I realized that life is in God's hands as Ella prayed like Elijah for my son's life.

God answered our prayers that day and we're now thankful and proud of our 20-year veteran Marine son.

Psalm 119:49-72; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 2:1-12

Birthdays: Steve Winchip, Seida Hart, Pamela Norris, Vanessa Gumm, Maureen Cotter, Al Krueger, Mandy Horton Walker

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, Rite II
10:00 a.m. Life Group
4:30 p.m. Mary's Kitchen
6:00 p.m. NAMI

Today's Ministry: The Vestry

Thursday, September 14

Psalm 50 *For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle unto a thousand hills. For all the fowls of the mountains and the wild beasts of the field are mine.* (vv.10-11)

As a veterinarian, I have often been asked the question by my clients, "Will I see my pet in heaven?" As a lifelong Christian, I started my research to find the answer to that question at my retirement fifteen years ago. I studied many religions, read many books and articles on the subject of animal souls and eternal life.

One of my clients recommended I attend a course at her synagogue on the Jewish Kabbalah. Her Rabbi was teaching their view of souls. That religion believes there are three types of souls. First, angel souls, who are God's messengers; second, animal souls, which are sometimes referred to as "earthly angels," who also serve God and man; and lastly, the human soul which alone has a will to decide for good or evil and serve God or not. I'd like to share a couple views that were my favorites since there are as many answers to this question as people. First, Billy Graham, the Evangelist, said, "God will prepare everything for our perfect happiness in heaven and if it takes my dog being there, I believe he'll be there." Also, in Andrew Linsey's book on animal theology, he says the real question is whether you and I, who are neither sinless nor innocent, will be there?

1 Kings 18:1-19; Philippians 2:12-30; Matthew 2:13-23

Birthdays: Andrew Larosa, Brett Collins, Violet Fecko

Anniversaries: Ann & Bill Stratte

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
4:30 p.m. Life Group, Smith Hall
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Stepping Stones

Today's Ministry: Ushers

Friday, September 15

Matthew 3:1-12 *This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the LORD, make straight paths for him.'"* (v.3)

In May 2014, my wife and I joined members of a Reformed Jewish congregation with their Rabbi, an Episcopal priest, and their wives for a trip to the Holy Land. In preparation for our pilgrimage, I read a book by Adam Hamilton called *The Way*. It paints a picture of walking in the footsteps of Jesus. As I write this installment, we are just starting Lent and the author recalls the events around the relationship of John the Baptist and Jesus, who were cousins. The two boys were six months apart in age, and probably visited each other during yearly Passover. He also notes the family relationship of Elizabeth and Mary and their pregnancies.

Later, John was in a monastic community along the shores of the Dead Sea called Qumran. During our trip, our group visited this site. It is also near where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. In the ruins, we