

owners of the apple tree, wherever it is and whoever they are, remain anonymous, uncredited, and unknown.

It is not important to always know the details and outcomes of our sacrifices and stewardship in God's kingdom. Those things are in good hands when we leave them in His Hands. We are in Those Hands. Proverbs 8:22-36; Psalms 20, 21; Matthew 12:15-21

Birthdays: Georgiana Hawken, PJ Woodall

Saturday's Calendar:

7:00 am	Hour of Power AA
9:00 am	Shepherd Group
9:30 am	Step Sisters Meeting
10:00 am	Bible Study ONLINE
8:30 pm	Not Alone Group
5:00 pm	Holy Eucharist Rite II

Today's Ministry: Altar Guild

Reflections by Rick Hoover

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church

"Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with Love"

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ST. MARY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Good News Daily

Volume XXIV

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Number 20

Sunday, May 19

Deuteronomy 16:9-12 *Count off seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain.* (v.9 ESV)

On this Church festival day in 1770, British Navy Captain James Cook sailed into a beautiful 74-island group, the Whitsundays, near the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and named the islands after the occasion. The term "White Sunday," used in England, refers to the baptismal garments worn by those who entered the church at this time. The other popular color of the day is red, a reference to the tongues of fire that appeared above those who were baptized in the Holy Spirit seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

Jesus revealed the universal change to the world's segregated habits that his arrival foreshadowed when he told the Samaritan woman, "The hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father." Neither red nor white, Northern Hemisphere nor South, would define the encounter the Father sought with those who were created in His Image. The Son came to rescue all. And the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all mankind, to the farthest corners of the world.

Psalm 118; Acts 4:18-21, 23-33; John 4:19-26

Anniversaries: Pat & Valerie Graham

Birthdays: Dick La Mirand, Alec Thyrré

Sunday's Calendar:

7:30 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00 am	Contemporary Family Worship
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II
2:00 pm	Overeaters Anonymous

Today's Ministry: Sunday School

Monday, May 20

Proverbs 3:11-20 *Nothing you desire can compare with her.* (v.15b)

Jay Rosenblatt took home movies with his daughter on her birthday every year from age 2 to 17, the year she was leaving home for college. He asked her the same questions each year. The short documentary, *How Do You Measure a Year*, shows Ella growing by stages from being a giggling child, a spunky tomboy, an unhappy teenager, to a serious but shy high school senior. As she meets the ongoing string of life expectations, older viewers who have been there and done that can only groan sympathetically. Frustrations arise when we use the wrong desires, out of order, to set our agendas. Having a patient dad who loves you is priceless.

Our ears are sensitive to the world we walk through, but they can't respond to ice cream. Our eyes don't care what music is pleasing our ears. The collector of Proverbs warns that, in a clutter of life desires, nothing is as valuable as God's direction and wisdom. Having a loving Father who gladly shares that with us is priceless.

Psalms 1, 2, 3; 1 John 3:18—4:6; Matthew 11:1-6

Birthdays: Christopher Copley, Anne Hoffmann, Jack Smith

Monday's Calendar:

7:00 am	Hour of Power AA
10:00 am	Praying Hands (1 st & 3 rd Mondays)
3:00 pm	Daughters of the King (2 nd Mondays)
5:45 pm	ACOA

Today's Ministry: The Vestry

Tuesday, May 21

Psalms 5 *Make your way straight before me.* (v.8b)

The week I was writing these daily devotions, I was also wrestling with computer monitor problems. Suddenly I could only get a small, old-style "narrow" image on the screen instead of a proper, full "wide screen" display. I tinkered to my shallow technical limits. I went online ordering 3 or 4 new parts one at a time. Nothing resolved the problem. Computer user group readers suggested that I might need a whole new (not cheap) video card. The first one I got didn't fit. The second one worked only after a kind tech friend came by to look things over. The whole DIY "try this, try that" process took two weeks.

What I do know about computers is that these complicated, ingenious devices are designed to connect and work one, intended, right way. Any alternative choices I may try, no matter how shiny the ideas seem, won't work for long, if at all. When I have a problem, I save time by asking for the manufacturer's directions first and then doing that. People always tell me that. They're right.

Proverbs 4:1-27; Psalm 6; 1 John 4:7-21; Matthew 11:7-15

Birthdays: Savannah Haynes, Angelina Vaccaro, Isabella Vaccaro

Tuesday's Calendar:

7:00 am	Hour of Power AA
9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
12:10 pm	Healing Service

Today's Ministry: Ushers

Wednesday, May 22

1 John 5:1-12 *If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater....* (v.9)

For 30 years, students of Decision Theory have argued over the Sleeping Beauty puzzle. Sleeping Beauty is put to sleep on Sunday and a coin is tossed. If the coin is *heads*, she's awakened Monday morning, asked one question, and then put back to sleep. If the coin is *tails*, she's awakened again Tuesday morning and asked the same question. When she's asleep, she loses all her memory of what happened earlier. The test question is, "Did the coin come up *heads* or *tails*?" The experiment means to analyze issues of belief formation. Given the experiment rules, how will Sleeping Beauty decide her answer?

The same puzzle faces us reading claims in the Bible. Sleeping Beauty's first decision is not about some coin toss. Her first decision has to be about whether to believe the people who say there even *was* a coin toss. If we won't believe the witnesses God has sent to tell us what's going on, we will have no way to find out where we really are, or what's happening in the world He has made.

Proverbs 6:1-19; Psalm 119:1-24; Matthew 11:16-24

Anniversaries: Helen & Ron Chabot

Birthdays: Martha Glantz, Krystal Moen

Wednesday's Calendar:

7:00 am	Hour of Power AA
9:30 am	School of Prayer
10:00 am	Life Group
4:30 pm	Mary's Kitchen
5:30 pm	Daily Reflections AA

Today's Ministry: Youth Ministry

Thursday, May 23

1 John 5:13-21 *I write these things to you who believe....* (v.13)

My church has Sunday school classes on general topics that are open to all. Other classes focus on heavy themes where it is recommended that attendees join up from the beginning. It is harder to get in step with those subjects if you haven't been able to be there from the start of the series.

The Bible is like that. Some parts can be picked up "in the middle" as it were. Other sections are harder to grasp fully if it's your first time in. John wrote about some of those deep truths that were more easily received by believers who had been faithful followers of Jesus for a while.

God's Word has milk for those young in their faith. And there's meat for those who have had time to grow in spiritual maturity. It's always a good time to read the Bible a first time. Returning to read it again and again is when you see new, deeper revelations that invite your spiritual roots to grow even deeper.

Proverbs 7:1-27; Psalm 18:1-20; Matthew 11:25-30

Anniversaries: Mark & Misty Broderick, Brendan & Abigail Rogan

Birthdays: Peter Grimm, Avery Maxwell, Linda Guy

Thursday's Calendar:

7:00 am	Hour of Power AA
7:30 am	Men's Bible Study
9:30 am	Life Group (Zoom)
10:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II
4:30 pm	Life Group
5:00 pm	Life Group
5:30 pm	AA California Group
5:45 pm	ACOA
7:00 pm	AI-Anon- Stepping Stones

Today's Ministry: Acolytes

Friday, May 24

2 John 1-13 *I would rather not use paper and ink.* (v.12b)

Surveys report that 7 out of 10 Americans use internet social media to stay in touch. Last year, the web platform Facebook had nearly 3 billion users. 98% of them used their mobile phones to post and read messages there. It's not just America. Facebook is the third most-visited website in the world. 90% of Facebook users live outside the U.S. and Canada. Only half of Facebook users speak English.

A craving for contact with someone else is at the core of God's design, making us in His image. The Trinitarian image of God is one of relationship. The desire to communicate is evident in the writings of the Bible. Three quarters of the New Testament took the form of personal letters. Even so, the writers recognized limitations in this medium. Writing a few lines to one special, chosen lady, John explained his brevity. It was the same heart cry heard in the Father's question while searching for Adam. He didn't come to leave a note. He wanted to hear a voice. And He had given us ears.

Proverbs 8:1-21; Psalms 16, 17; Matthew 12:1-14

Anniversaries: Bill & Pate Mears, Virginia & Al Ferreira

Birthdays: Dwight Geiger, Jay Lovett, Janice Suriano, Robert Mancuso

Friday's Calendar:

7:00 am	Hour of Power AA
9:30 am	Life Group
8:00 pm	AA Friday Nite Young People

Today's Ministry: Alpha Course

Saturday, May 25

3 John 1-15 *Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are.* (v.5)

Anglican Vicar Peter Owen-Jones filmed a BBC special on his attempt to live a simple life by following the rule of St. Francis of Assisi. As part of his experiment, Fr. Peter set out on a 240-mile pilgrimage across southern England, taking no money along, depending on the charity of strangers to provide him with food and shelter each day. At one point, walking on a lonely country road, he finds a plate of freshly picked apples on the ground. A hand-written sign on the plate says, "Help yourself." Having had nothing to eat that day, Fr. Peter gratefully takes an apple. The