

Most of all, I've learned that it's actually the Risen Christ who is ministering to them through me, loving and not despising them! They have given me much more than I've given them.

Hosea 10:1-15; Acts 21:37—22:16; Luke 6:12-26

Birthdays: Taraj Maxwell, Stephanie Shaw, Gavin Melians, Miranda Melians

Anniversary: Tom & Jane Gilson

Friday's Calendar

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

Today's Ministry: Daughters of the King

Saturday, October 6

Luke 6:27-38 *"Instead, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked."* (v.35)

I admit that I have some difficulty not viewing people with whom I disagree as "enemies". As I overhear conversations, watch TV, read magazines and newspapers, I'm becoming more and more aware other people are having the same difficulty.

What bothers me most about this is I was a Marine in Vietnam, willing to kill and harm people I did not know. I've thought a great deal about this recently. What I've realized is I was willing to do this violence to others because I'd depersonalized the people I considered enemies. It troubles me that I see and hear myself and others doing that same depersonalizing here and now.

Jesus gives us a vision of reunion and reconciliation of all people. He asks us to live out that vision in everyday life. That doesn't mean we have to agree with everyone, or even to like them and their behavior. It does mean we are called to be kind and loving toward all people, not to depersonalize them into enemies. Tough stuff!

Hosea 11:1-9; Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Acts 22:17-29

Birthdays: Virginia Lavish, Jim Yeagley, Jerome Williams, William Foley

Saturday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:30 a.m. AA Step Study for Women
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Today's Ministry: Eucharistic Visitors

By John Ferguson

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

Pat Channing, *Praise Band Director* - pat@stmarys-stuart.org
Kim Collins, *Nursery Care Ministry* - kim@stmarys-stuart.org
Debbie Flerx, *Facilities Director* - debbie@stmarys-stuart.org
Kelly Garner, *Children's Ministry Director* - kelly@stmarys-stuart.org
Brandon Glick, *Music Ministry Director* - brandon@stmarys-stuart.org
Sheryl Konen, *Office Manager* - sheryl@stmarys-stuart.org
Phillip Lindecamp, *Sexton* - phil@stmarys-stuart.org
Alexis Stuckey, *Youth Ministry Director* - alexis@stmarys-stuart.org
Hernan Welch, *Parish Administrator* - hernan@stmarys-stuart.org



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

Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with Love

Good News Daily

Volume XVIII September 30 October 6, 2018 Number 39

Sunday, September 30

Matthew 13:44-52 *"The kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off in his joy, sells everything he owns and buys the field."* (v.44 NJB)

I have a friend who keeps discovering parts of the kingdom in the here-and-now of his life. When he makes these discoveries, he's very excited. He tells his friends at church all about the discovery: "This is life changing for me," he enthuses.

Yet after a week or two, he seems to have forgotten all about his discovery. I've asked him about this a few times. He replies, "My schedule got too busy, and I couldn't find the time," or "I was overloaded at work, and was too tired to think about it." My friend discovers parts of the kingdom, but he's not yet ready to buy the field.

Sometimes, folks joyfully find the treasure, but discover the cost of buying the field includes giving up some aspect of our lives we're not yet ready to part with. The Holy Spirit will keep revealing parts of the treasure of the kingdom to us. The good news is that God will provide, guide, and support us in finding our way to buying the field.

Hosea 2:2-14; Psalms 66, 67; James 3:1-13

Birthdays: Dorothy St. Germain, Gloria Gibson, Tracy Volz

Sunday's Calendar

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Coffee Hour - Smith Hall after 10:30 A.M. Service

Today's Ministry: Capital Campaign

Monday, October 1

Luke 5:1-11 *For he and all his companions were completely awestruck at the catch they had made.* (v.9)

In the last twenty years, my faith community has spent a tremendous amount of time and energy on the matter of church growth. We've read books about growing a congregation. We've attended workshops on church growth. We've created programs advised by "experts". We've even hired a consultant or two. Yet, honestly, all our time and energy has had some good results, but not what we hoped.

It occurs to me that in all our efforts, we've never taken the time to pray intently (as a group) about where Jesus wants us to cast the net. I'm convinced that if we took a weekend together praying, sharing, and fasting about the matter, Jesus would find a way to show us where and how to cast the net.

Like it or not, denominations and congregations are institutions. Institutions do institutional programs, proposed by institutional experts. I wonder what would happen if we did something radically Christian, and asked Jesus to show us the way. I believe we'd be awestruck by the results!

Hosea 2:14-23; Psalm 89:1-18; Acts 20:17-38

Birthdays: Lee Vought, Melissa Jones

Anniversary: Edward & Krystal Moen

Monday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
5:30 p.m. ACA Families

Today's Ministry: Children's Choir

Tuesday, October 2

Luke 5:12-26 *Seeing their faith Jesus said, "My friend your sins are forgiven you."* (v.20)

At all worship services in our congregation, we pray aloud a list of people who've asked us to pray for healing for themselves, or someone else. The list is quite long. (Some people complain it takes "too much time".)

The people who ask for our prayers often have minimal connection with our congregation, but they know we'll pray for anyone who asks, for as long as the request remains. I often think about how this practice expands the size of our faith community. People we don't personally know, from places we've never heard of, become friends. Periodically, we get a report back about healing and grace-filled events in the life of one of our distant friends. What blessings!

In the Scripture verse above, Jesus validates that the faith of others can be a powerful force in the healing of a person who needs that healing.

In the midst of these public healing prayers, my mind often sees an image of the paralyzed man's friends lowering him through the roof to the healing Lord. Let's join them!

Hosea 4:1-10; Psalms 97, 99, 100; Acts 21:1-14

Birthdays: Charles Hoffmann, Anne Cooling

Anniversaries: Joe & Kate Abate, Vic & Bonnie Ardito

Tuesday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing
5:30 p.m. Soul Care
6:00 p.m. Overeaters' Anonymous

Today's Ministry: Choir

Wednesday, October 3

Luke 5:27-39 *Jesus said to them in reply, "It is not those that are well who need the doctor, but the sick."* (v.31)

In the busy life of the church, I often find that in the midst of programs, planning groups, and worship services, it's often difficult to remember that we're a group of people on a mission. My denomination enshrines that mission in this statement: "The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." I wonder what would happen if we actually made this mission the first priority in our congregation? What if we actually spent the majority of our resources of time, energy, and money on undertaking that mission?

Many of us first came to Jesus Christ and his Body, the Church, seeking to be healed, forgiven, and given a new start in life. We all encounter people who are seeking to find something that can transform and give meaning to their lives. We have a personal witness to bear to them about the love and transforming power of God, in and through Jesus Christ. Our mission is to share that witness!

Hosea 4:11-19; Psalms 101, 109; Acts 21:15-26

Birthdays: Dale Hudson, Kate Abate, Steve Strickland

Anniversary: Bob & Nancy Ward

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
4:45 p.m. Mary's Kitchen
5:30 p.m. AA "Daily Reflections"
6:00 p.m. Life Groups
6:30 p.m. Alpha Dinner and Course

Today's Ministry: Coffee Hour Ministry

Thursday, October 4

Psalm 105:1-22 *Seek Yahweh and his strength, tirelessly seek his presence!* (v.4)

Recently, a friend of mine complained, "As the pace of my life speeds up, and the huge amount of information that comes my way each day increases, I often find myself feeling spiritually overwhelmed and emotionally drained. There are days I'm just too numb the think about God, or to pray."

There are days I feel that way too! This leads me to some reflection about the matter. When I feel overwhelmed and drained, I find that I'm viewing my relationship with God and prayer as something to be engaged in when I have the time and energy. Yet, when I actually take the time for prayer and devotion in a hectic and information overloaded day, I don't feel overwhelmed and drained, even though the pace of the day and the barrage of information are the same. Hmm!

Jesus promised us that when we are overburdened, overwhelmed or drained, we can come to him and be refreshed. He truly means it!

Hosea 5:8—6:6; Acts 21:27-36; Luke 6:1-11

Birthdays: Bob Crowder, Kathleen Crum

Anniversary: Kevin & Julie Sullivan

Thursday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
5:30 p.m. ACA Men's Group
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. AI-Anon "Stepping Stones"

Today's Ministry: Counters

Friday, October 5

Psalm 102 *He will turn to hear the prayer of the destitute, and will not treat their prayer with scorn.* (v.17)

For several years, I've joined other members of our congregation participating in a United Way Resource Day for homeless people in the Seattle area. Our ministry has been the washing of homeless people's feet. This includes caring for their wounded feet (due to spending many days without being able to remove their wet shoes and socks). It is a profound experience!

In the intimate exchange of holding and washing their feet, they open up to us about their experience of homelessness. They often talk about longing for a different future for themselves. In that sharing, which is truly prayer, I've come to realize I have more in common with them than I could have ever realized. I've also come to know these people are very special to God, in ways I could never have imagined.