

**Birthdays:** Ezekiel 34:17-31; Psalm 102; Hebrews 8:1-13  
Charles Rusch, Ronald Doucette, Daniel Beier,  
Kelloryn Kalwa, Gemma Nelson

**Anniversaries:** Amy and Nicholas Freese

**Friday's Calendar:**  
7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
9:30 a.m. Life Group  
2:00 p.m. Ministry Intercessory Prayer Group  
8:00 p.m. Friday Night Young Peoples' AA

**Today's Ministry:** Sunday School Teachers

### Saturday, June 8

Psalm 108 Give us help from trouble, for the help of man is useless. Through God we will do valiantly, for it is He who shall tread down our enemies. (vv.12-13)

In the version of the Bible that I am using, there are topical headings for groups of verses to introduce the theme or focus of the verses. In Psalm 108, the heading is "Assurance of God's Victory over Enemies." Psalmist David praises God, who will tread down our enemies. What an awesome image, God trampling down the enemies that will harm us. Victory is power over the enemy.

Those enemies appear every day—personal health issues, our children's suffering from emotional or physical disease, or financial inadequacies. And you know that there are many who willingly offer advice, products, or services to mitigate or resolve the problems. The verse says that the help of man is useless. I do believe that the help of another person is beneficial with the insight and knowledge they provide as well as comfort in knowing that someone cares. But only God knows our heart. Only He can provide the path and give us the tools to defeat the enemies, no matter what kind of enemy is plaguing our life. "Through God we will do valiantly." It is through prayer that we are led to be courageous, to act bravely, and be bold. That is the definition of valiance.

Ezekiel 43:1-12; Psalm 107:33-43; Hebrews 9:1-14; Luke 11:14-23

**Birthdays:** Jean Corson, Frances Davidson, Dennis Johnson

### Saturday's Calendar:

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
9:00 a.m. Shepherd Group  
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
6:00 p.m. Taste of St. Mary's Mission Trip Fundraiser

**Today's Ministry:** Sunday Worship Assistants

by Dorothy Magill

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## "Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with love"

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St. Mary's  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with Love

## Good News Daily

Volume June 2– June 8, 2019 Number 22  
XIX

### Sunday, June 2

Psalm 66 Say to God, "How awesome are your works!" Come and see the works of God. He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men. (vv.3a, 5 NKJV)

An early morning swim in our pool is refreshing, both for my physical well-being and my spirit. There is stillness and quiet before the people noises begin. The birds signal to each other. A light haze on the water rises slowly, barely visible as the brilliance of the sunrise intensifies. I am truly in awe of the works of God. This is my time for prayer as I take in all the sights and sounds of this small parcel of our earthly home.

I view the uniqueness of draping palm fronds and lacey ferns compared to blooms of the bird of paradise plant and the fragrant gardenias. My mind then revisits memories of the forested skyline from atop Mt. Pisgah in North Carolina and the majesty of colored rock layers of the Grand Canyon. I contrast a very calm, crystalline turquoise ocean lapping at the shell-filled sandy beach on our east coast with the thrashing and devastating surf that chewed up New England coastlines in a thundering storm. How awesome are the works of God in the natural wonders we witness. Awesome indeed!

Ezekiel 3:16-27; Psalm 67; Ephesians 2:1-10;  
Matthew 10:24-33, 40-42

**Birthdays:** Edward Morgan, Raymond Smith, Cecil Worley,  
Carmen Ucelo

### Sunday's Calendar :

TRUE FUND SUNDAY  
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship Service  
10:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Pittenger Center  
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Today's Ministry:** Shepherd Group

### Monday, June 3

Psalm 89:1-18 Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance. In Your name, they rejoice all day long, and in Your righteousness they are exalted. (vv.15-16)

The joyful sound! Hymns and praise songs are a means to extol the message of Jesus and all of God's mercies. We are so blessed to have a hymnal

that encompasses decades of musical compositions and choral traditions to enhance our worship experience. I know that I have my favorites.

The thought of “the joyful sound” brings a smile to my face when I reflect on a special needs day camp this season that focused on the arts. The campers were offered opportunities in painting, culinary arts, creative writing, and, of course, music. At the end the five-day camp, the young adults presented their Showcase of the week’s accomplishments. Artwork was displayed in the foyer. Tasty tidbits were prepared and served by the creative chefs. On stage in the auditorium, the young authors shared their creative stories and poems, either independently or with help. To conclude Showcase there was a short concert to present their joyful music. Every camper, with every ability, had the opportunity to hold the microphone for a short time and share their joy. Several campers were only capable of uttering a few sounds, but you know that their contribution to the concert was inspirational and uplifting. Their smiles sent their message. The varying limitations of their disabilities were overshadowed by their exalted joy and praise to God.

Ezekiel 4:1-17; Hebrews 6:1-12; Luke 9:51-62

**Birthdays:** Eva Lippincott, Margaret Hickey, John Norris, Christopher Gerbino, Hailey Hoskins

**Monday’s Calendar:**

7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”  
10:00 a.m. Cursillo Reunion Group  
4:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Sessions  
5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training  
5:30 p.m. ACA Families

**Today’s Ministry:** St. Mary’s Closet Thrift Store

**Tuesday, June 4**

Psalm 100 *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.* (vv.4-5)

I am thankful for the myriad blessings from God: good health, and good relationships with family and friends. But I am most thankful for the how the Holy Spirit leads me to answers when I share my concerns in prayer. Often, when I pray about how to resolve a concern, the answer may come from a radio program or an article in a publication that arrives in the mail. A conversation with someone may lead me to resources that I had not previously considered.

Recently, I carried a particularly stressful burden on my heart. It was causing physical stress as well as mental anxiety. I attended church that Sunday morning. As the sermon unfolded, I began to tear up just a bit. The lesson from the Book of Wisdom revealed that in the midst of all despair, God gives us hope. Out of chaos comes that ray of light that brightens the pathway to hope. I returned home with a new spirit that there would be a good resolution. I am thankful for the Holy Spirit who leads me to the place I need to be to discern God’s personal message to me.

Ezekiel 7:10-15, 23b-27; Psalms 97, 99; Hebrews 6:13-20; Luke 10:1-17

**Birthdays:** Gates Ryan Gorley Raymond, John Stuckey, Julia Evelyn Flaugh, Johnathan Symons,

**Tuesday’s Calendar :** Collin Shepard  
7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”  
9:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study  
12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist/Healing  
6:00 p.m. Overeaters’ Anonymous

**Today’s Ministry:** Stephen Ministry

**Wednesday, June 5**

Ezekiel 11 *“Although I have cast them far off among the Gentiles, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet I shall be a little sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone.”* (v.16)

In our reading from Ezekiel, God reveals that the Jews who are scattered throughout the lands will return to their beloved Jerusalem. However, cast into a foreign place, they created little sanctuaries so that they would continue to worship and keep their sacred traditions. The word sanctuary means a place of refuge or a holy place. We have all created our own little sanctuaries in a new place when we left our home base, whether it was far away to pursue job or educational opportunities, or locally to meet with a group whose shared interests draw everyone together.

I will always remember a very loving sanctuary that lasted only a few days but was an anchor at a time of deep concern. My husband had major surgery at a hospital hundreds of miles from our home. The recovery time before we could return home lasted about a week. In the hospital on the morning of the surgery, a wife and two sisters whose loved one was also having a similar procedure, saw that I was alone. They invited me to share a cup of coffee in the cafeteria. From that morning we continued to meet in the solarium at the hospital for prayer and sharing our common concerns for our loved ones. Our sanctuary provided support and solace until were able to return home.

Psalms 101, 109:1-30; Hebrews 7:1-17; Luke 10:17-24

**Birthdays:** Cole Proctor

**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, Rite II  
10:30 a.m. Adult Life Group  
10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
4:45 p.m. Mary’s Kitchen  
5:30 p.m. AA “Daily Reflections”  
6:00 p.m. Life Group

**Today’s Ministry:** Stewardship Committee

**Thursday, June 6**

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32 *“Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which*

*you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.”* (vv.30b-31a)

How many times have you done something foolish or acted without considering the outcome of your actions? Have you caused another person to be angry or hurt or dismayed? Have you later admonished yourself and asked, “Why did I do that? What was I thinking?” Sadly, those are questions I ask myself far too often. We all make choices and then must live with the consequences, for better or worse. When I reflect about all my transgressions that occur on just a daily basis, and then amplify that number to my whole life, I am even more astonished at how God continues to accept me just as I am, despite all the bad “stuff”.

God gives us a plan for a fresh start, a chance to clean the slate. He says to get a new heart and a new spirit. What does that mean? First, we must repent and sincerely commit to make changes that will be pleasing to Him. And then, make the changes! Just as we trim out the dead branches and vines of our plantings, we need to trim out the dead spirit and ill will within us and allow new growth in our hearts.

Psalm 105:1-22; Hebrews 7:18-28; Luke 10:25-37

**Birthdays:** Marilyn Gwathney, Mark Ingram, David Dye,

Anniversaries: Emily and Matthew Gallo,  
Elizabeth and Ernest Peixotto

**Thursday’s Calendar:**

7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
11:30 a.m. Kneller Funeral Service  
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Today’s Ministry:** Sunday School

**Friday, June 7**

Luke 10:38-42 *“Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.” And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”* (vv.40b-42)

I am the oldest of four daughters in our family. My sisters and I share many funny stories. This is a favorite: it took place on a Saturday morning when three of us were cleaning and dusting and working very hard doing chores. The fourth sister was seated on her bed, painting her fingernails, paying no attention to all the busyness around her. We did not think it was fair and told our mom so. Determining what is fair, whether it is the size of a cookie or whose turn it is to empty the dishwasher, is normal in daily sibling interactions.

In this reading, we have a fairness issue: Martha is annoyed that she must serve the many guests and her sister is not helping. Mary chose to sit and to listen to Jesus. Martha is more concerned about food for the body, whereas Mary is feasting on food for her eternal soul. Fairness is a judgement call. In Ezekiel 18, God says that His ways are fair. By living a righteous life according to His commandments, we will be judged fairly by God according to our ways.