



# The Vision

Episcopal Church  
of Our Saviour

August, 2007

## Prayer—By: Tom Bryan, Sr. Warden

I always have a hard time trying to decide what to write about or say when I am asked to write an article for our newsletter. My knowledge of scripture and verses are a long way to being committed to memory. I also notice that the older I get the harder it is to remember what I already know, without trying to add more to it. As I was trying to ponder on what article to write I started one, then discarded it and then another, this article is the 3<sup>rd</sup> topic that I finally decided to write about and I actually need to thank the guys in our bible study group for this one.

One of the hardest things I have ever tried to do is sit down, block out the outside world and pray. Not just directed prayer but praying in my own words without a bible or prayer book in my hands. I can start out ok, but then my mind starts to wonder off and before I know it I am thinking about some overdue bill or one of my children or something other than prayer. I think most of us are like this; life can be so overwhelming at times and busy we very seldom have time for ourselves. Prayer is a discipline, you have to have the mindset and be in a place where you can block out the world. I have found that using some type of outside intervention works well for me. Birch tells me that he uses his labyrinth and his holding cross. For me, my prayer beads work well; it helps me focus and keeps my mind from drifting and so I can focus on my intent.

What types of prayers are there? Here are the top 5, I'm sure there are more:

### I. Adoration

In prayers of adoration or worship, we praise the greatness of God, and we acknowledge our dependence on him in all things. The Book of Common Prayer, psalms and the other liturgies of the Church are full

of prayers of this sort, such as the Gloria (or Glory to God).

### 2. Expiation

In a prayer of expiation or contrition, we acknowledge our sinfulness and ask God for His forgiveness and mercy. The Penitential Order and or the Confession of Sins and the Agnus Dei (or Lamb of God) before Communion, are prayers of expiation.

### 3. Love

Prayers of love or charity are just that - expressions of our love for God, the source and object of all love. The Act of Charity is perhaps the best example of a prayer of love.

### 4. Petition

Prayers of petition are the type of prayer we are most familiar with. In them, we ask God for things we need primarily spiritual needs, but physical ones as well. Our prayers of petition should always include a statement of our willingness to accept God's will, whether He directly answers our prayer or not. The Our Father is a good example of a prayer of petition, and the line "Thy will be done" shows that, in the end, we acknowledge that God's plans for us are more important than what we desire.

### 5. Thanksgiving

Perhaps the most neglected type of prayer is prayer of thanksgiving. While Grace before Meals is a good example of a prayer of thanksgiving, we should get into the habit of thanking God throughout the day for the good things that happen to us and to others. (con't on page 3)

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#### Points to Ponder

- \*Never let yesterday use up today.
- \*Give God time.
- \*Nature is God's song.
- \*If your day is hemmed with prayer, it is not likely to unravel.
- \*Humor can make a serious difference.
- \*A narrow mind will fit neatly in a rut.
- \*The wages of sin—quit before payday!

## Bits 'N Pieces

We thank the Rev. Janey Wilson, who was our supply while Fr. Birch and family were on vacation. Janey and her husband live in Berea.

We will have guest organist, Margaret Foote, join us for services on August 5 and 12. Please be sure to welcome her!

It's not too late to purchase tickets to the 'Pops at the Park' community event that Our Saviour participates in. Theme for our table this year: Red, white and brew! See Fred or Carol Ruppel if interested in attending.

Thanks to our Home Meals Delivery team, James A., Pat H, Anna H. and Carrie K. for continuing to represent Our Saviour to the community with this worthwhile ministry. The team rotates turns delivering meals to those in need on our specified route on average of once a month. Would YOU be interested in joining the Home Meals Team? If so, call the church office.

Looking for a way to serve? The sitting garden by the new building, as well as the flower beds around the parish house need weeding! No need checking with anyone—just start pulling! :)

## Financial Report—By: Laura Melius

<b>OPERATING FUNDS</b>		
6/30/2007	Checking Account Balance	\$ 14,950.36
6/30/2007	Reserves - Hilliard Lyons Investment Account*	<u>\$ 10,665.29</u>
	Sub-total	<b>\$ 25,615.65</b>
6/30/2007	<b>Accounts Payable &amp; Designated Payables 2007</b>	
	Designated - Youth Mission Trip	\$ 904.36
	Designated - Building Fund	\$ 3,187.82
	Designated - Youth	\$ 386.89
	Designated - Music	\$ 149.00
	Designated - Hispanic Ministry	\$ (249.13)
	Designated - Altar/Flowers	\$ 86.00
	Episcopal Relief & Development Fund	\$ 11.00
	ECW	\$ 30.00
	Men's Group	\$ 1,150.54
	Memorial Garden	\$ 100.00
	MacSwords Memorial Fund	\$ 1,400.00
	Sub-total	<b>\$ 7,156.48</b>
6/30/2007	<b>Net Operating Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 18,459.17</b>
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>		
6/30/2007	Hilliard Lyons Building Fund Account	\$ 12,698.89
12/31/2006	Endowment Fund at Diocese	<u>\$ 18,683.00</u>
	Building Fund Balance	<b>\$ 31,381.89</b>
	Loan From Diocese	<u>\$(180,000.00)</u>
6/30/2007	<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$(148,618.11)</b>



# Serving in August

Date	5th	12th	19th	26th
<b>Acolyte</b>	Angie R.	Wallace	Cheri	Louise
<b>Altar</b>	Marilyn Pat	Becky A. Peggy	Becky A. Peggy	Angie Becky K.
<b>Greeter</b>	Sandra	Stephan	James	Sandra
<b>Reader</b>	Sandra	Greg U.	Danny J.	Jim F.
<b>Tellers</b>	Anna Charlie H.	Louise Sandra	Greg Don W.	Sally Anna
<b>Usher</b>	Carrie	James	Don W.	Greg U.
<b>Dates to re- member</b>	Our Saviour women's re- treat—Aug. 11	Pops at the Park—Aug. 18	School starts in August. Pray for our children.	Bishop's Com- mittee—Aug. 19

## Marking Our Journey: A Mini-Retreat for the Women of the Church - By: Grace Sears

All the women of the church are invited to spend Saturday morning, August 11, in reflecting together on their spiritual journey over the past year, individually and as a faith community. *Where have we been? Is there evidence of spiritual growth in our lives? What is our vision for the journey ahead?* The Daughters of the King are offering this opportunity to rest in God's presence for a whole morning before our busy fall schedules get underway.

A continental breakfast will be available at 8:30 in the

parish house, and we will move to the church building at ten minutes before 9. Grace Sears will give three short meditations; each will be followed by time for personal prayer, reflection and response. Fr. Birch will join us for part of the time. Lunch and general debriefing will follow, concluding about 1:30 pm.

If anyone needs child care in order to come, please let Ranay know by Friday, August 3, so we can make appropriate arrangements.

### Prayer—continued from page 1

The Episcopal Church is blessed with the Book of Common Prayer and the great liturgical services we have, In all of our services we have all 5 of these prayers within the content. Unfortunately, it seems in time of distress, great need or sorrow is when most people find the time to pray. Even people that don't find themselves in the church even on special occasions (Christmas and Easter) seem to find the time and words during time of great crisis. And sometimes there is no words just great sorrow, pain or even fear. But I think God knows our hearts and our minds and we need no words. As a child can go to their parent for comfort when they get hurt or are in great need, so we go to our heavenly father for the same comfort. And just like a child when we go to our father in Heaven he is always there, always listening and always waiting for us to come to him. We can all take comfort in this, Jesus told us the parable of the 2 sons in *Luke 15:11-32* Jesus contrasts the father's merciful love with the eldest son's somewhat harsh reaction to his errant brother and to the lavish party his joyful father throws for his repentant son. While the errant son had wasted his father's money, his father, nonetheless, maintained unbroken love for his son. While he hoped for reconciliation with his father, he could not have imagined a full restoration of relationship. The father did not need to speak words of forgiveness to his son; his actions spoke more loudly and clearly! The beautiful robe, the ring, and the festive banquet symbolize the new life -- pure, worthy, and joyful -- of anyone who returns to God. In this parable Jesus gives a vivid picture of God and what God is like. God is truly kinder than us. He does not lose hope or give up when we stray. He rejoices in finding the lost and in leading them home. In our times of great distress is when most people turn to God in prayer and God is always understanding, with opened arms and welcomes us home.

Jesus' disciples came to him one day and said, "Lord, teach us. Teach us how pray!" The one thing that I notice is not what they asked, but when they asked, not after a sermon,

or parable or after he was speaking in the temple but as recorded in *Luke 11:2-4* "Jesus was praying in a certain place and when he finished, they said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.' I think they saw the power of prayer in Him. They saw how important prayer was to Him. The awakened interest in prayer came not at all from new arguments about it, but from a new exhibition of its power. Here, before their very eyes, they saw a personality in whom prayer was vital and influential. The more they lived with him, the more they saw that they could never explain him or understand him unless they understood his praying and so not at all because of new arguments, but because of amazing spiritual power released in him by prayer. His relationship with God, his "oneness" or special relationship with God is why they wanted Jesus to show them how to pray.

As shown in some of the questioning of the parables, the disciples sometimes were slow on the uptake, but at this point they were quick and precisely on target. They saw in Jesus the answer to this question: how do we pray and why do we pray? And they learned from Him (as we can) what the elements are that lead to a meaningful prayer life.

And finally the biggest question that everyone asks, "does God answer prayer or why doesn't God answer my prayer" and my answers is always a "He did or He does" but sometimes, he doesn't always answer it in the way "you" want him to, "For not our will be done but His will be done"

Father in heaven, you have given me a mind to know you, a will to serve you, and a heart to love you. Give me today the grace and strength to embrace your holy will and fill my heart that all my intentions and actions may be pleasing to you. Help me to be kind and forgiving towards my neighbor as you have been towards me.

Peace and love be to you all today and forever,  
Your Brother in Christ  
Tom



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Serving Madison County



**Summer schedule—10AM  
Sunday mornings**

### **Bringing the Children—By: Grace Sears**

Lately when Fr. Birch calls the children of the church to the front for a children's sermon, we are often surprised at how many there are! If you are the parent of one or more of those children, we would like to hear your ideas for improving our Christian education and care for children. What can we do as a congregation to support you as parents? to introduce the children to Jesus? Many of them were in Vacation Bible School, where they heard that God's people CARE, HELP, TRUST, BELIEVE, and LISTEN. We would like our whole faith community to model and teach those traits to the children. It's up to all of us—not just to parents!

Please share your thinking on this topic during fellowship hours after church throughout this coming month. Carol Ruppel, Grace Sears, Melissa Weiseman, and Fr. Birch have begun talking about how we can develop better ministry to children. They need your ideas—and some volunteers!

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries in August**

### **Birthdays ~**

Don Yow—3rd  
Rusty MacSwords—6th  
Art Conaway—8th  
Zachary Dismukes—13th  
Jessica Dismukes—15th  
Micah Rambo—15th  
Clarence Miller—20th  
Carol Ruppel—28th  
Peggy Stanaland—29th  
Grace Sears—30th

### **Anniversaires ~**

Mark & Ranay Chula—5th  
Paul & Laura Melius—7th

If we do not have your birthday and anniversary on file, please call the church office to be added.

We would also love to add your email address to our weekly e-news that is sent to all congregants. Please call or email the church office with your address.