



PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Welcome to a new edition of "Pilgrim's Progress!" As I have contemplated this article, the phrase "pilgrim's journey" kept coming to my mind. I did a little research on John Bunyan's tale "The Pilgrim's Progress," and found indeed that in the preface to the book, Bunyan speaks of "writing of the Way and Race of Saints in this our Gospel-Day...about their journey." I have a little wall hanging, the topic of which is fitness that says "Fitness is a journey, not a destination." I tend to think this is also true of the Christian life. I love that phrase which goes, "I am a Christian, I want to be a Christian, I will be a Christian." It's a day to day journey to be a Christ-follower. A couple of things I notice about myself as I walk the journey: At times, I feel pretty sure I've learned what healthy Christian life is all about—some don'ts, a lot of do's, staying self-defined (using our family systems talk), and staying connected and in relationship with important others (God, community, family, world). Then, I notice that a new situation arises, and all of a sudden,

what I thought I knew and learned is not reflected in what I do. For instance, as an instructor at the community college, I keep pretty tight reins on not developing personal relationships with students. It's a boundary principle, and is important in terms of staying in connection in a healthy way with others. But, then, Face Book comes along! And students ask to "friend" me! What do I do? I admit I have "friend-ed" a couple of my students—but, I am also aware that this is not the healthiest behavior, and so I am working on probably creating a separate FB account for my students.

Living the Christian life is not a static accomplishment. It's a day-to-day journey. One of the other things I notice is that it is a journey meant to be taken in community with others who travel similar paths. It's hard to walk a trail alone for long. Yes, times of solitude and isolation can be healthy and healing. But, in general, I believe we are made for each other. And so especially when the going is tough, even though it's hard to reach out, that's the important time I need to be connected to others. It is

tempting to withdraw when life is hard, and courageous to reach out to others when in need. The trick might be to be connected with others who are also consciously blazing their own path as pilgrims.

St. James' has done a lot of journeying these past eight months. We have learned a lot about a "new normal," new paradigms for living in healthy relationship with one another. We are still experimenting with and exploring opportunities that lay before us. And we are discerning the trail forward, perhaps not to the end, but from bend to bend. It's been a lot of hard walking, too! I hope this new edition of Pilgrim's Progress represents, not a return to the way things were before, but a re-invention of who we are and will be as St. James. God is always calling us into the future, into new creation. It's an exciting journey, full of adventure, and worth the life-time it takes to be disciples and saints.

On the trail with you,
Carol+



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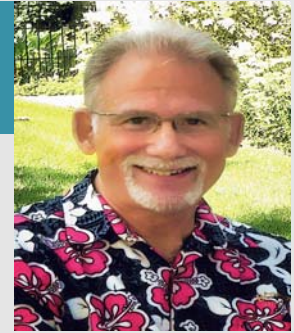
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MUSINGS—WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT?



*It was the best of times,
it was the worst of times,
it was the age of wisdom,
it was the age of foolishness,
it was the epoch of belief,
it was the epoch of incredulity,
it was the season of Light,
it was the season of Darkness,
it was the spring of hope,
it was the winter of despair,
we had everything before us,
we had nothing before us,
we were all going direct to Heaven,
we were all going direct the other
way in short, the period was so far
like the present period, that some
of its noisiest authorities insisted on
its being received, for good or for
evil, in the superlative degree of
comparison only.*

[Charles Dickens *A Tale of Two Cities*,]

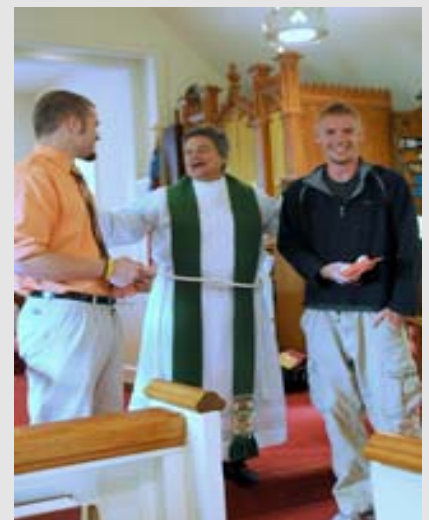
A quotation that seems an apropos description of the past year here at St. James. It had it's highs and it

had its lows. All in all, I think we can say with some certainty that we have ended up in a better place than where we started. Things to feel good about: First, I look forward to coming to church on Sunday. Second, our leaders are compassionate, kind, and committed to leading us to a greater understanding of Christ's expectation for each of us and His role in our lives. Third, we have learned to be open and honest with each other understanding that mistakes were made by all. Fourth, we asked forgiveness of each other and it was graciously given. Fifth, our relationship with the Bishop and the diocese has been put back to one of trust. Sixth, we painted fish and that seemed entirely normal. Seventh, the chicken barbecue is alive and well. Eighth, *Pilgrim's Progress* is back. Ninth, all those with

broken bones are on the mend. Tenth, my DBS surgery is going well and I am optimistic. Eleventh, Mother Carol has scheduled a blessing for teachers and students and we are providing school supplies for those in need. Improvements are needed: First, a more reasonable schedule of Bishops Committee meetings so that we don't burn out our leadership. Second, a more generous stewardship of our resources to put our house in financial order. Third, holding out a hand of friendship to those who have not yet returned. And last, recognition of the fact that all of our accomplishments have been wrought by God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

Congratulations to our high school graduates:

Steve Machin
and
Alex Frost



FISH PAINTING—A PHOTO ARTICLE



MOVING FORWARD

PAT BURNETT

Good for us — we pulled together and solved many of our financial problems!

Now it is time for us to pull our time and talents. St. James in need of volunteers in order to make the church strong and to move forward.

Here are some our committees that need volunteers:

1. Help in the **Sunday school**. Contact: Wendy Arntson or Julie Lowery
2. **Buildings and grounds**. This committee takes care of the church property inside and out. Contact: Len Arnston or Deb Wilson.
3. **Evangelism**. This committee works on planning secular events, hospitality and welcoming new members. Contact: Pat Burnett
4. **Pastoral Care**. This group takes care of those in the parish who are ill or in need of special help. Contact: Diane Umstead or Jack Edington.
5. **Service committee** [Outreach Committee] This committee plans special events like the chicken barbecue. Contact: Jackie Shock or Megan Minock
6. **The Altar Guild**. Contact: Margaret Breeden or Robin Maloche
7. **Ushers**. Contact: John Swan
8. **Acolytes, readers, and lay readers**. Contact: Mother Carol
9. **Adult Education**. Contact: Mother Carol

As you can see there are many opportunities for service at St. James. In order for our church to be viable and visible in the community we all need to give our time and gifts. Give thought to where you can best serve and talk to the contact person.

A STEWARDSHIP PARISH PRAYER

My parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am

It be holy, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work if I work.

It will be prayerful if I pray.

It will make generous gifts to many causes if I'm a generous giver.

It will bring others into its worship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a parish of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity, and mercy, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with the same things.

Therefore, with the help of God I will dedicate myself to the task of being all things that I want my parish to be.

Amen

ALTAR FLOWERS



The flowers placed behind the altar each Sunday may be sponsored by anyone. There is a flower chart in the narthex which allows you to write in your name and the reason for sponsoring (i.e., in memory of someone, in thanksgiving for something). There are a lot of open Sundays available. The cost of flowers each Sunday is \$30 and you can put your flower contribution in the plate or in the mail. Just make sure to note that it is for flowers!

Margaret Breeden for the Altar Guild

ST. JAMES' COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES.....SMALL CHURCH,... BIG HEARTS!!!

I am pleased to report that we have gotten a wonderful response for the funding of our 2010-2011 concert series!! Though not all the dates have not yet been confirmed, we have gotten funding for three of the four concerts scheduled!! The only concert that needs additional sponsors is the duo, "Gemini", two brothers who perform a wonderful program of music for young children and the whole family. It includes singing, guitars, and audience participation. We are looking for 3-4 more donors who would help support that concert. In the fall, our music series will feature "Our Own Thing Chorale", a community chorale, conducted by Willis Patterson, Professor Emeritus from U of M, a string quartet, sometime in February, "The Writers Tell Their Stories", a drama by Hal Hopson involving the congregation, narrators, combined local choirs, and brass quartet. The story re-enacts the history of different hymn writers through the years and will be presented sometime in March, Last, the family concert, "Gemini", in early May. (if we have enough donors) If you are still interested in helping to sponsor a concert, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can confirm all the dates for the coming year, and begin the publicity. No contribution is too small, and any amount will help! A big thank-you to those of you that have come forward already and pledged a donation. All concerts will be held on Sundays at 4:00, followed by a reception. We are also in need of volunteers to help with publicity, and to help set up a reception after each concert, If you have any other questions, please see me, or e-mail me at Alicevw@aol.com. Thank-you!



Alice

BISHOP'S WARDEN'S CORNER

KEELY TAMER

I started coaching field hockey again this summer. How fun to be back on the pitch teaching and learning with high school aged kids again! I breathe fresh air and become energized in a way I experience only through sport.

We started this year with practice twice a day. In the morning session we have been focusing on physical conditioning to be prepared for the demands of the sport and skill development to improve our overall game. Most of the girls have never played the sport before (this is the first year Dexter has had high school field hockey), so this is new thinking for these girls, a new way of doing things and the development of completely new skills. For the girls that have played, some of the skills are being taught in a new way or relearned with a new emphasis. These girls that have some playing experiences are learning to develop their strengths so they can contribute to the team. We come back together again in the afternoon and work on game situations. With so many young players we focus on transfer. We ask them to apply their newly developed skills in the game situation. For those that can, the coaches use words like coachability, listens well, understands her role and works hard. For those that don't transfer skills from drills to games, they are given more time to do so, and typically become part of the JV team so that they can work on transferring what they know.

Our past eight months seems similar to me. The LMPC process can clearly be likened to the morning practice session of our two-a-days, preparing for the game, developing skills and become the best individual player we can be. It has truly been skill development for the church. We have all learned new ways of interacting and understanding. We have talked and worked hard in our workshops to practice new skills

to handle conflicts and decision-making processes. We have talked repeatedly that there is a new normal at St. James and tried to understand how these new skills transfer into the everyday at our church.

Taking the analogy one step further, I suppose then we are now in the game situation. Every Sunday, every church event, every interaction for that matter, is now game play. As a leader in the church, I constantly ask myself "how am I doing at this skill transfer?" And now, I am asking you, are you proving to be "coachable", would you be Varsity or JV if we were picking teams? Simply put, are you as an individual player in this game of transformation living into our new normal or are old habits creeping back in?

The LMPC process asked us to grow in a new direction and made evident that the new path we walked together demanded that these new skills and new practices be put into action. It asked us to abandon old ways that were unhealthy in our church environment and show respect for each member even if we did not see eye to eye. The girls on the field hockey field are getting it, all have coachable moments and they are showing transfer. I am encouraged when I see the same at St. James. As we continually hold in focus the new skills we learned through the LMPC process, I know we can strengthen our environment in a way that continues to foster love, understanding and caring for everyone that comes in and out of the church and becomes a part of our lives.

TWO WORKSHOPS ON SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND GROWTH SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH

1:00-3:00p.m. "CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH AND THE PRACTICES OF INCLUSION" PRESENTED BY OASIS MINISTRY.

As a way to encourage and inspire other congregations that are seeking to grow spiritually and increase their in membership, representatives from several growing parishes will talk about how they have sought to welcome and incorporate people into their respective congregations. Panelists will include representatives from St. Paul's Brighton, St. Barnabas Chelsea, Spirit of Hope Detroit, St. Luke's Ferndale, and Holy Faith Saline.

3:00-4:00p.m. Refreshments and informal socializing.

4:00-6:00p.m. "SONGS FOR A NEW CHURCH"

PRESENTED BY THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION.

At this workshop various choirs and individuals will share music that is either not in the hymnal, or not well known, as a way of expanding our collective knowledge of music that inspires people. Presenters will include Stephen Rush, Julia Huttar Baily, and the Rev. Lisa Gray. Please contact Joe Summers at (734)846-3578 if you, or your choir, would like to contribute one or more selections. Incarnation's music leader, Brian Buckner, is a great sight reader so don't worry if your accompanist can't participate. There is no fee for attending the workshop but a Jubilee offering will be taken up to help pay down the principal on The Church of the Incarnation's building loans. So that we can have a sense of how many people to expect, if you plan to participate in one, or both, of these workshops please RSVP to Joe Summers at jsummers@umich.edu or (734)846-3578

BOTH WORKSHOPS WILL TAKE PLACE AT

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION,
3257 LOHR RD. ANN ARBOR MI 48108.

ACTIVITIES TO LOOK FORWARD TO

KIDS AND KAYAKS AND COOKOUT! Kids, bring your mom and/or dad, brothers and sisters, and friends! August 29th! 3:30pm at Tamer's house! Church folks: If anyone has an extra kayak we can borrow, please let Keely Tamer know. Thanks!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL DONATIONS: The stores are reminding us it's time to think about (gasp!) going back to school. This fall St. James' will be collecting 'cool' things to donate to teachers and students in the area. If you find a great deal on pencils, stickers, notes, or something else that looks fun as well as practical, buy one or more to put into our collection. Kleenex & hand sanitizer are always needed, too!

LABOR DAY BLESSING OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS! Monday, September 6th, at 5:00 pm. If you'd like to help with a Dollar Dinner (hotdogs, chips, and pop), or in anyother way, please see Mother Carol.

The Rev. Carol Mader, Consulting Priest

St. James Episcopal Church

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*Our mission is "...to restore all people
to unity with God and each other
In Christ."*

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