

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

July 2022

DEMONS, AND DEVILS, AND EVIL SPIRITS...OH MY!

Let's not forget Lucifer, Satan, Beelzebub, fallen angels, the Serpent, and a bunch of demi-gods. Two weeks ago, Luke's Gospel had Jesus casting out the demonic spirits from a man who'd been possessed most of his life. The spirits were called, "Legion," as in there were a lot of them...a reference to the Roman military. Afterward we got to discussing the whole casting out of demons and evil spirits, particularly, the pantheon of all the ones found throughout scripture.

Our modern day understanding of who these spirits and beings are has evolved over millennia and been influenced by: a Medieval flare for scaring sin out of people who were possessed (think Inquisition); a lot by Renaissance literature and art, especially Dante's Inferno; and the Book of Revelation's graphic demonic imagery.

However, it was Pope Gregory the Great in the late 6th Century who set the ball rolling for our concept of the Devil. He amalgamated all the prevailing ideas about these characters into "the devil" as the first creation of God, the highest of the angels in the Angelic Hierarchy who became the "fallen angel," and the leader of demons.

In the Reformation, the devil became a powerful being, the antithesis of goodness with an adversarial position against God and all God's creation.

But, the concept of The Devil with a pitch fork and a pointed tail didn't exist at the time of Jesus, although the concept of The Devil, the Tempter, was being formed.

Some of the amalgamation also comes from the influence of Greco-Roman culture and philosophy on early Jewish religious thought, and the translation issues of translating scripture from Hebrew to Greek, Greek to Latin, and all those into English.

For example, in Luke's Gospel Jesus casts out the Greek daemons which gets translated into "demon." In none of the ancient languages, including Hebrew and Greek, is there anything comparable to our English "demon." The Greek daemon was a kind

of demi-god or spirit, usually unclean (the most common translation), that possessed people and generally was the cause of various diseases, illnesses, and personality disorders.

Satan evolved from early Hebrew satan (pronounced SAH-tan), which was a common noun meaning the accuser or the adversary. HaSatan, the one featured in the Book of Job, was part of God's Angelic Council, the chief accuser and prosecuting attorney. Think God's Attorney General. Ha in Hebrew is the definite article, so in Job it's "The Satan," the chief accuser. It was The Satan's job to roam the earth to bring to God's attention, to indict, those who had sinned or were not righteous. Satan could tempt people to test their faith and righteousness. It was also the word used for human accusers.

In the early rabbinic literature, Satan is never referred to as "the Evil one, the Enemy, nor as a fallen angel or a rebel against God."

In the New Testament, the Hebrew Satan gets translated into Greek word diabolos, meaning "slanderer." Diabolos is where we get the word diabolical, and which evolved into "devil." Sometimes the Greeks used the word satanas instead, meaning one who is a malicious adversary.

There is no Lucifer, proper name, in the Bible. There's the word lucifer, though. In Isaiah 14:12 the text reads, "How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn!" The Hebrew word for "morning star" is helel, which in Greek is heosphoros, meaning "dawn bearer." The Latin word for "light bearing" used in St. Jerome's Vulgate Bible is lucifer.

It seems, though, that when Vulgate was translated into the King James Bible, lucifer became "O Lucifer." Great tomes and dissertations have been written about whether this was intentional for theological reasons or a mistake. Either way, Lucifer now took his place in the pantheon of names for the Devil. Whatever the name, Satan, Lucifer, Demon, or Devil, *(continued on page 3)*

VESTRY

Vestry Report

John Joy, Sr Warden
 Charles Everhart, Jr Warden
 Richard Davis
 Judy Franklin
 Andrea Harner

open

Newsletter editor—John Glaze

Submissions to *THE RED DOOR* are welcomed. © items cannot be published without consent of the owner.

Samaritan Outreach continues to depend upon donations to meet their current needs. Please help us help SOS serve our community. The collection box is now in the Parish House.

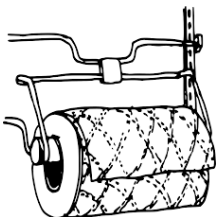


Diapers

Clothes Washing Liquid

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*If you would prefer to mail a monetary donation:
 Samaritan Outreach Services
 PO Box 242
 Hillsboro, OH 45133*

As most of you probably know by now, when the Sanctuary flooring was pulled up, there were numerous places where the original floor joists were rotted, sagging, or missing. The joists appear to be original, and the stone foundation piers used to support them for the past 170 or so years won't meet current construction standards. As a result, we will have to retain an engineering firm to design new supports for the joists, so new floor joists can be installed. While all of us regret the months of delay this adds to the project, this work has to be done to make sure the building functions as it should in the years and decades to come. We also discovered where the past HVAC contractor installed ductwork through the wall, the foundation part was not braced properly, and the wall and stained glass window above the hole were at high risk to sag or collapse if the repairs are not done. Again, this corrective work has to be done, and done soon.

On more pleasant topics, I hope you have all had a chance to come to one of our "house" worship services, as Reverend Terri refers to them. We are enjoying the more intimate setting of Lacy Hall as our place of Worship. On June 26, we enjoyed having Rev. Warren Huestis of All Saints in Washington Court House come as serve as our Priest for the service, while Rev. Terri changed places with Warren in WCH.

Please note Rev. Terri has a previous obligation to meet and will not be here on July 10 or the 24th. I am pleased to let you know Jim Heathcote will conducting Morning Prayer on July 10, and we would like to plan a visit for the Church service July 24th at All Saints in WCH. If you can drive from Hillsboro and take some folks with you, please let Maggie know. If the gas prices are an obstacle, we will arrange to reimburse gas for those driving to All Saints that Sunday. Carol and I will be going and will have room for at least two! Please keep this date in mind and note we will not be having a service in Hillsboro on July 24th.

Respectfully submitted, *John Joy*



UNDER THE SANCTUARY FLOOR



Demons, ... (continued)

throughout history and in scripture they've come to represent why evil, sin, suffering, illness, and injustice exist in the world. It's a lot easier to blame these things on "the Devil made me do it" than it is to admit we have responsibility for the ills inflicted upon God's creation through our own sins.

Rev. Terri

Would you like to visit with Rev. Terri? Call the church office to schedule an appointment!



Flip Wilson, portraying "Geraldine," who's well-known "The Devil made me do it!" became a staple in pop culture.

The Life and Dignity of Women Matter:
A Statement from Bishop Wayne Smith
June 24, 2022

The Episcopal Church has a clear record in its teaching about abortion. It is nuanced but hardly confusing. The record names circumstances in which terminating pregnancy is an acceptable choice within the tradition but makes pastoral provision for other circumstances also. Our Church specifically treats all life as sacred but argues that limiting access to abortion is wrong. Let us be clear that today's Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade puts women at risk. The ruling makes possible, even likely, that the actions of women, whether taken out of necessity or in good conscience, will be criminalized. Counsellors and allies are by extension also at risk. So are the Churches and other religious bodies who support them. But most of all it is the women. The Episcopal Church casts it lot with the whole of human life, with no exceptions. (Gal. 3:28) We say as much at our baptism.

We are still learning the disciplines for such a life, and we often fall short of our best ideals. We remain committed to it nonetheless. For the sake of Jesus who has come to us as one of us, the life and dignity of every human being matter.

George Wayne Smith

June 24, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Just before the U. S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the bishops of the Episcopal Church received an advisory from Canon C. K. Robertson of the Presiding Bishop's office. He wrote:

"We have received information from federal authorities of credible security threats against clergy and churches around the potential release by the U.S. Supreme Court of its abortion decision. There is concern that clergy who have advised parishioners about abortion access and their reproductive rights may face threats or violence.

"The guidance we are hearing is for religious communities to encourage peaceful responses to the decision when it comes—in the days following the decision and also in weeks to come—while remaining vigilant about potential security threats."

Now that the court's decision has come, we, as leaders of a church with a long history of supporting the right to an abortion, must consider the steps necessary to protect our congregations. Fortunately, we do not undertake this work alone. We have a letter regarding programs and other resources if you are interested in further information.

I understand that receiving this news and this plethora of resources can be a challenging experience. Please know you are in my prayers, as I hope I am in yours. Let us work together, judiciously and methodically, to keep God's people safe and to continue to speak God's word.

George Wayne Smith

Bishop Provisional

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

Under the Floor

What we found: remembering that our sanctuary was built in 1854/1855, we found their building method was to create three piers of stone and dirt upon which they rested the connections of the floor joists. There were no steel joists to be had at that time, so wooden joists were used. Due to the strength limits of an extremely long piece of wood and availability of such length, they rested one end of 1/3 of the span at the wall foundation, then the other end on the first pier where they attached it to the next joist, which in turn rested on the second pier, where the 3rd joist was attached with its other end resting on the opposite foundation wall. Over 168 years, we can tell that the flooring has been removed in some places to install central heating, electricity, etc., but we cannot say with certainty that the joists have ever been replaced.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and these on our Parish prayer list:

Brooke Lawson, Joyce Kittrell, Herschel Hook, Nancy Orth, Mary Reynolds, Maxine McGrath, Sharon Kamm, Bob & Dorothy Hodson, Dan Fisher, Bob Lowell, and the prayer concerns of Paul and Joyce Nort, those affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and those serving to relieve their suffering, those thousands who have lost loved ones in Ukraine. the patients and staff at Georgetown Veterans Home and those serving in our armed forces: Macy Lyle, Henry Sherrill, Jaden Chin-Franz and Javier Paula.

Names in **Bold will be removed at the end of the month. If you know the person continues to need our prayers, please call the church office.*

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
234 N. High St.
Hillsboro, OH 45133



July
6—*Melanie Harner*
8—*Sandy Ferrell*
9—*Thomas Harner*
28—*John Glaze*
30—*Cary Weisenborn*

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH INFORMATION

The Diocese of Southern Ohio
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
234 N. High St Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-393-2043

The Rev. Terri Thornton
Supply Priest

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 am
IN PERSON & *delayed posting on Facebook*
COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND—
Sunday after service.

*We strive to be safe and make our parishioners and
guests feel safe and welcome!*

WEB SITE:

www.smehillsboro.weebly.com

Lector & Intercessor Schedule

1st wk Betty & Jim Heathcote
2nd wk Connie Reynolds & Dea Flinn
3rd wk Carol & John Joy
4th wk Rich Davis & Connie Reynolds
5th wk Connie Reynolds & Dea Flinn