

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

September 2022

IT'S ALL PRAYER - PART 2

Last month I wrote that prayer is more than a petition, a supplication to God for something, and that in our Anglican Tradition Praying Shapes Believing: *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi* – what we pray is what we believe (and conversely, what we believe is what we pray).

Prayer is how we shape our faith, our life, our hopes, and build our relationship with God. It's the foundation of our relationship with God.

The Book of Common Prayer could be called the Book of Common Belief!

The Greek word that gets translated as “to pray” is *proseuchomai*. The root meaning is to exchange wishes or desires. In the context of prayer, or by our interaction with the Lord, we are exchanging our human wishes with God's.

The Jewish concept of prayer comes from the word *Tefillah*, which has a range of meanings as do many Hebrew words. But, its root meaning is to execute judgement, as in using your best. Or, thinking, reflecting, and contemplating upon something.

When used in connection with God it's understood to be about the kind of introspection and self-analysis that results in a bonding. As a child would bond with a parent.

So how did we get from an exchange of wishes and bonding, to prayer that's pretty much about petition and a wish list?

Well...the really short answer has to do with the medieval use of the word “Pray.” In Old English you could say, either to God or to anyone else, “I pray thee to do such and such.” The basic concept being a heart-felt and polite request.

To “pray” in Old English came from the Old French word *preier*, which comes from the Latin root word, *precari*...“ask earnestly, beg, or entreat.” The original Latin and Old English translations of the Bible used *precari*, and not the Latin word for praying, *orandi*. Thus, over time this has influenced what praying has come to mean.

At its heart, though, praying is letting go of this

world to enter into God's. To open our hearts and let God in to love us, guide us, strengthen, and enlighten us. St. Paul says it this way in Ephesians:

“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ...may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that with the eyes of your heart enlightened ...you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints. [Ephesians 1:17-18, NRSV.]”

The eyes of the heart...an incredible phrase...the heart being in those times the locus of your identity, your wisdom, where you feel and make sense of the world. And, where your spiritual center lies.

In seminary we were expected to recite regularly our Call Story, the moment when we knew with absolute certainty God was calling us and we picked up our cloak.

I can say with certainty that none of us heard God's call while running on the treadmill at the gym or in the cereal aisle at Kroger. The common thread was some form of prayer and contemplation.

Be still and know that I'm God!

Because, it's only with faith and with God's help that the eyes of your heart are enlightened and you have the courage to say yes to whatever God is calling you to do.

That is *Lex Vivendi*, the third part of the phrase about prayer.

Lex Orandi...Lex Credendi...Lex Vivendi...What we pray is what we believe...and what we live. We live what we believe through prayer.

In my homily a few weeks ago, I said that the Lord set the bar really high for us with the Great Commandment, that to love divinely was like climbing Mt. Everest.

The saints are those who've managed to climb higher up the mountain than the rest of us. If you read *(continued on page 2)*

VESTRY

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

open

Newsletter editor—John Glaze

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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.

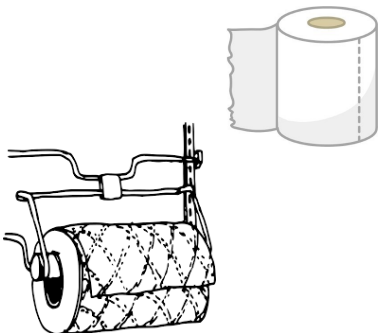


Diapers

Clothes Washing Liquid

Toilet Paper

Paper Towels



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

Vestry Report

On Monday August 8, Rev. Terri, Charles Everhart and I met with the architect from McCarty, Doug Karnes, and the principal contractor, Jeremy Decker of Legacy restoration and Construction LLC. Due to the increasing number of compounding issues and complexity of the project to replace the Sanctuary floor, we discussed options and some new perspectives on the Sanctuary. Included in the discussion were possible problems in supporting the choir loft properly, and the fact that it is likely the floor and joists under the Chancel are no better, and could be worse, than what was discovered under the Sanctuary.

Rev. Terri pointed out that while the entire project has been frustrating, we are now presented with the opportunity to “upgrade” and refinish the Sanctuary in ways beyond just the floor replacement. The marble slabs have to come down, and we have the option of putting them back right away, or storing them until later. This would also be a great chance to paint the walls, clean the fans, check out the chandelier, and finish the space to best serve St. Mary’s- not only in the months ahead, but years and decades from now.

Doug Karnes of McCarty and Associates is to provide us a proposal an overall view of the scope of work required to provide the electrical, structural, and finish drawings needed to complete the project and obtain the requisite permits. He and Jeremy will also coordinate the many steps essential to complete the work. We had expected the proposal last week, but it has been delayed due to illness. As soon as we receive it and review it, we will pass along that information.

In the meantime, discussions continue on how best to proceed with the Partnership with All Saints; how best to conclude the lawsuit over the HVAC problems; and how best to continue improving the many other things that impact our spiritual life at St. Mary’s. Please keep in mind the messages from Rev. Terri, and Rev. Michael, our Missioner, that church life as we fondly remember it from years ago is not going to look the same moving forward. Due to the clear shortage of clergy in all congregations, and certainly the Episcopal Church, we will be challenged to work together and provide the leadership needed in order to grow the vitality and energy required for churches to survive in today’s world. As Rev. Terri has said, being a good Episcopalian and Christian is hard, and will likely lead us to less reliance on a Pastor for leadership and guidance. She’s also repeatedly reminded us of the need for hope, faith and patience, which I trust we are all praying for. Bear in mind, this construction mess will pass someday, and think about how joyous it will be when we can return to refurbished Sanctuary with updated sound and video systems.

Respectfully submitted,

John Joy

It's All Prayer (continued)

their stories what helped them climb higher, move forward and to have faith and hope in the face of struggle, was a commitment to a life of prayer, to regular communing with God, and to swapping wishes. To living in the world with enlightened eyes of their hearts

A long time ago a wise person told me that prayer doesn’t require words. That when we pray (which includes singing!) ...when we open our hearts to God...God already knows what’s there. We just have to turn to God and let God in to know and love us, and especially to bond with us.

No special formulas, perfect words, or requests required. Just Be Still and Swap Wishes with God.

Rev. Terri

Our Parishioners: The Kerns

We know that our parishioner, Elizabeth DeHaas Hughes, married Charles Mortimer Kerns on 26 Jun 1898. She was the daughter of Solomon and Mary Ellen DeHaas Hughes. Charles' parents were John Kerns III, grandson of John Kerns, the first Revolutionary War Veteran buried in Highland County. Elizabeth was a descendant of Brigadier General John Phillip DeHaas, and a member of the Waw Wil A Way Chapter of the DAR.

From Hillsboro Gazette (21JAN1902):

NEW BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

Charles Kerns, who for the past eleven years has been in the employ of S. E. Hibben & Son, the dry goods merchants, will start into business for himself in the near future. He has rented the Lytle room on East Main Street, formerly occupied by the Central Clothing Co. This room will be fitted with all the latest conveniences and made up-to-date in every respect. Mr. Kerns will go East next week to purchase his stock of goods, which will embrace all the newest fabrics in dry goods and the latest designs in all the articles usually kept in a store of this character. Mr. Kerns long experience will enable him to choose just what is needed for the trade here, and with the confidence of the public he will no doubt make a success of the business from the beginning. He expects to open up on the first day of March.

And then, "The Hillsboro Gazette" 26 Sep 1913 GRAND OPENING of Chas. M. Kerns' New Store Draws Large Crowd to see the Magnificent Display of Dry Goods, Notions, Furs, Carpets, Rugs, etc. Offered For the Inspection of the Public. The formal opening of Chas. M. Kerns' new dry goods store in the Richards' Building on South High Street occurred yesterday morning at nine o'clock and was attended by large crowds during the day, everybody complimenting Mr. Kerns on the splendid display and the attractive equipment of the store. For several months workmen have been engaged in remodeling the interior of the building and installing new fixtures of the very latest style and calculated to display the goods to the best advantage and to give customers the chance to thoroughly inspect them. The shelving, showcases, counters and other fixtures are of solid quartered oak, the ceiling and walls of the room being tinted a cream color, thus adding to the flood of light which pours in from the big plate glass windows of the front, making every nook and cranny of the store as light as the open streets. Not only has Mr. Kerns arranged for the best possible display of his wares, but he has gone to a great deal of trouble and expense to fit up the room for the comfort and convenience of his customers. He wants you to make yourself at home when you visit his store and in the office will be found a table with chairs and writing material for the use of the public. In addition, there are lavatories for ladies and gentlemen and other conveniences seldom seen outside of the stores in large cities.



By the way, when you visit Kerns store you will see little difference between it and the most attractive stores in large cities and that difference will be in Kerns' favor for he is not crowded for space and accordingly everything is shown in the most attractive way.

Elizabeth DeHaas Kerns died 13 May 1949 and is buried in Hillsboro Cemetery. Charles died in 5 May 1962 and is buried beside his wife.

Join our research team! Pick a past parishioner, research and write up a story for the RD.

A Child's Prayer

Dear Father, hear and bless
Thy beasts and singing birds;
And guard with tenderness
Small things that have no words.

Hall of Fame

Thanks to those who attended the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on 21 August. Your support was very much appreciated!

John Glaze

Highland County Historical Society

HALL OF FAME

You can view the Hall of Fame by visiting :

www.hchistorical.society.weebly.com

Click on "Hall of Fame" on the menu.

Here you will find a link to view the new online Hall of Fame. You can not only read about John Glaze, but also see how many Episcopalians you can! Your editor will also try to count and the answer will be in next month's Red Door.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and these on our Parish prayer list: Eleanor Cumberland, Dan Pitsos, Carlene Phillips, Shirley Gilliam, Margaret Lyons, **the families of Brooke Lawson and Mary Reynolds**, Joyce Kittrell, Herschel Hook, Nancy Orth, Maxine McGrath, Sharon Kamm, Bob & Dorothy Hodson, Dan Fisher, Bob Lowell, and the prayer concerns of Paul and Joyce Nort, Robert Walker and Family, **Shirley Furbee, Scott Gunn**, 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



September
3—*Andrea Harner*
13—*David Harner*
19—*Dan Fischer*
21—*Bob Lowell*
22—*Jim Heathcote*
22—*Maria Weisenborn*

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

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