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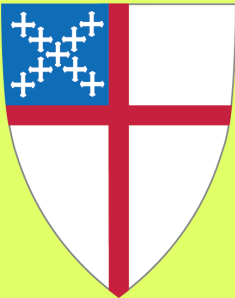
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The Chalice

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The Chalice



MAY 2020

Mom was a good mom!

by Father Al Jewson

My oldest sister, Jean Marie died on September 22, 2019, and was buried from St. Francis' Church. Jean was developmentally disabled and I was her guardian from 1990 until her death; she lived in a facility that cared such individuals. When I arrived for a visit Jean would excitedly shout, "My broder, Afid (Alfred)!", and run toward me in her awkward gate to hug and kiss me. Then she began her litany, "How Dina (Dayna)?" How Cayin (Carolyn)?" On and on her litany listed each person by name. Then she would ask, "How mom?" I always responded "Jean you know mom died and is in heaven." "I forgot," she would say and then always added, "Mom was a good mom, huh Afid." Of all the losses that members of our family experienced after our mother's death in 1992, I grieved most deeply for Jean who continued to struggle with grief years after our mother, Lillian, died.

The month of May, filled with blooming flowers, shrubs, and warm sunshine has always been a wonderful time to honor mothers. On

the second Sunday in May mothers everywhere gathered at churches, brunches, and other activities to be honored for 365 days of loving service and parenting. This year, 2020 our remembrance will be very different. I'll come back to this.



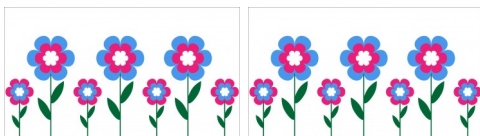
Was our mom a good mom? Yes, she was. Lillian had defects, some peculiar to her, especially chronic depression. She came from a family with problems and married into a family with even more problems. In some ways, her mothering reflected these conditions, but she tried by everything within her to be a good mother. She did the best she could. What I re-

member most about her was her goodness and compassion. She was a warm, loving person who always took to time to find the beauty in each person she met. It was from Lillian that I inherited the gift of greeting strangers, talking with clerks by name at the check-out, greeting service personnel before I ask the location of an item, etc. Lillian also taught us about Jesus, Mary his mother and living our lives as children of God.

Not everyone has good memories of her/his mother; but I believe most mothers do and have done the best each could given the circumstances in which they were raised and any problems (baggage) they carried with them. With an optimistic genre I believe most mothers are grateful for their children and truly want to do the best job possible in raising them. Sadly, the extra baggage gets in the way sometimes. Nonetheless, we can honor our mothers for the love and mothering they were able to provide us and be grateful for what we have received.

Each year on Mother's Day in the various churches I

served we honored mothers at our Sunday worship in special ways; sometimes it was the gift of a flower as a small token of appreciation and sometimes it was a card children made in Sunday School the week prior honoring motherhood. This has been our way of honoring the place of mothering and those who do that work in the life of the Kingdom. This year it will be different. In our Zoomed service there will be no flowers or cards handed to mothers in church. Coronavirus pandemic has changed the way we do most things even Mother's Day. Please remember your mothers in a special way this year: a song, a flower from the garden, a homemade card, a telephone call, even thanking your mother who is in heaven with the saints and angels. Happy Mother's Day on May 10!



From the Archdeacon's Desk

by Archdeacon Rebecca Barger

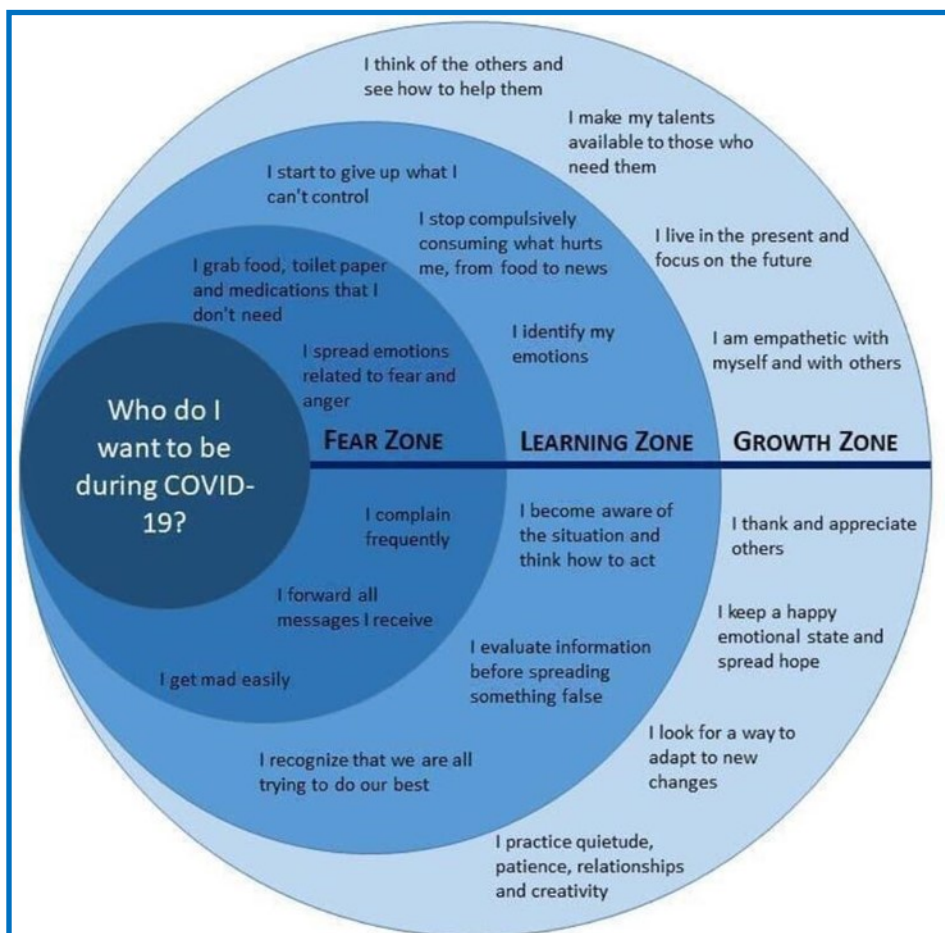
The old saying goes "a picture paints a thousand words," then this timely graph is at the least a short story. My husband, Phil, sent it to me in early April as the pandemic was tightening its grip on the US. This graph was circulated throughout the Department of Medicine and Division of Cardiology at BJC Hospital where he works. Between us, we were discovering the many similarities in themes and topics of our respective Zoom meetings. Although our "jobs" vastly differ, we share a core principle of bringing about healing or a sense of well-being—whether it is healing the physical heart or the spiritual heart. And like all good stories that we read, we each take away an aspect from that story that speaks directly to us, an aspect with which we identify through either life events or our formation.

I debated a long time whether or not to write an article that had anything to do with COVID-19. Some days I *still* find that I am just about worn out from the constant bombardment of information (useful and otherwise) as well as the steady assessment of how we go about "maintaining" some semblance of normalcy. But this graph is useful in almost all predicaments in which we find ourselves—think hurricanes, fires or other natural disasters or a serious illness to name a few. This graph is especially pertinent following the severe storms and destructive tornadoes that ripped through the South on Easter Day.

I have had the advantage of looking at this graph over a period of time as the pandemic has progressed. I have observed in others and myself movement between zones, movement that ebbs and flows forward and backward, progressing and regressing. But what is of greatest importance is that there is movement and we are not staying stagnant in one place specifically the "Fear Zone." Many times that is how our relationship with God goes. There is movement, some days God's spirit is strikingly present and almost palpable and then there are those days when we can't lift the "veil" that covers us (heart and eyes) and keeps us from seeing God in those with whom we share life.

As the title of the graph suggests, "Who do I want to be during COVID-19?" my thoughts wonder too, as to who others see that I am during this present crisis? As much as I want to remain in the "Growth Zone" I found myself whining to a friend that I was tired of adjusting to changes and so on and so forth. As much of that was a "normal" reaction, I was aware that I had drifted out of the "Growth Zone" and had to readjust my thinking in order to get myself back.

And I thought about the progression of the zones and in what zone we presently "find" ourselves, and how that

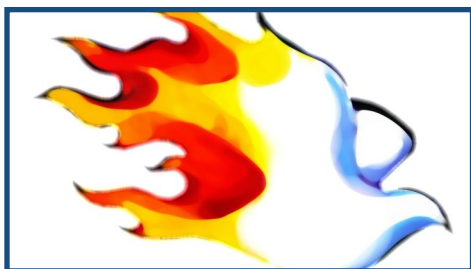


correlates to our action or response to this crisis. As Christians, God's transforming love helps us to redirect our self-absorbed inward focus towards that of the suffering of others whose plight is far worse off than our own. Love directs our responses. Love helps us draw on our talents and spiritual gifts to discover ways to help others. Love helps us remain grounded in that "Growth Zone" so that our actions promote health and wellness of others in the midst of social distancing. We worship the God of Love. There is a sense of peacefulness found in God's love that is like no other. I believe God is found in the "Growth Zone." Maybe we should rename it the "God Zone." During this time of pandemic, isolation, and uncertainty, we can discover hope and goodness when we move out of the "Fear Zone" and bring ourselves to reside in the "God Zone."

The Day of Pentecost/ Whitsunday

by Father Al Jewson

This year May 31 celebrates the Day of Pentecost. Each year when the reading from the Book of Acts: 2: 1-21 is read we have invited individuals who are fluent in various languages to take a part along with the English



reading. It is a moving reading from that perspective. On Pentecost Sunday this year we might be Zooming worship from our homes; but that will not stop St. Francis' Church from having a variety of languages used for the reading from Acts.

If you are fluent in a foreign language and interested in participating in the reading from Acts on Pentecost please contact Fr. Jewson (ajewsonstfranch@gmail.com) with your name and language gift. Even if we have individuals reading who are fluent in the same foreign language it still adds to the ambiance of the reading. Please let me know as soon as possible so that this part of our liturgy can be orchestrated for Pentecost Sunday.

Stump the Vicar



*by Father Al
Jewson*

Q: Why is Pentecost Sunday also called Whitsunday?

A: Pentecost Sunday is one of the special feast days in the Church year when baptism is encouraged to be celebrated during worship. The name Whitsunday or Whit Sunday has been around for many centuries in Christian traditions that celebrate the liturgical year. From our Anglican heritage in Old English it was called Hwita Sunnandæg and in Middle English it was called WhitSondei, and is translated White Sunday. Pentecost Sunday is one of the special days in the Church Calendar on which baptisms are celebrated. In the past it was the custom that the newly baptized donned white garments after being baptized, hence White Sunday.

By the way, what are the other special feast days in the Church year when baptism is encouraged to be celebrated during worship?



Happy Mother's Day with gratitude

by Sheila McCart

As I sit here at home and watch the beautiful sunrise come up over the 100-foot cliffside behind our house, I am taken aback at the wonder, the tranquility, and the power of Mother Nature. My mind takes me to the very word, "mother" as one definition identified by the Merriam Webster dictionary: maternal tenderness or affection. As it relates to Mother Nature in this moment of solitude, I close my eyes and literally feel the sun's rays caress my face and for a moment, enjoy the tenderness of another sunrise too often taken for granted.

As Mother's Day approaches, my mind wanders back to the very moment each of my daughters were born and how forever my life was uprooted by the power of God and the grace and blessing of filling my soul with more love than I ever could have known possible. The tiny but meaningful moments in life---their laughter, the little freckles across Jude's face and the true goodness that radiates from Tatum are glimpses of heaven that I know all mothers have felt in their hearts in the experiences of rais-

Discernment Team Members

Paul Jokerst, Chair

Mike Rohan, Liaison to the BC

Michael Booker Barb Sacco

Suzanne Jones Jack Laules

Marsha Smith Jerry Smith

ing their own children and simply “taking in” all that is marvelous about this role as mother.

The last few weeks have been difficult for us all as we struggle to make sense of COVID 19 and the fear and anxiety that grips at our very core as we struggle to maintain normalcy and protection for those we hold most dearly to our hearts. I worry about my own mother whose immune system is compromised by rheumatoid arthritis. She has always been who I can turn to in my most difficult moments, a pillar of stoicism and strength that can pull our family through any diversion as our family unit navigates through life. I feel confident the prayers I lift up for her each day will keep her secure during this trying time.

The very role of “mother” need not be defined by childbirth, but also in the very love we show for our friends, colleagues, church family and four-legged family members. It is ingrained in us as females to care for and nurture, to worry and yet solve and embrace those around us with as much love as our arms can carry. I see this magnificent power in the love our members are extending by sewing and delivering face masks, in our food, clothing and toy drives and simply through the smiles that sustain us as we come together on Sundays to share in the word of God.

Although we may not be able to celebrate Mother’s Day this year in person at St. Francis or with our own family members, I do wish for each and every one of you to feel God’s love, the strength he has given you to lead, the wisdom to learn and the character to guide the next generation of “mothers” to use all the gifts our Lord has bestowed on us for the greater good of our family units and for all of humanity. Each of us has the power to make a positive impact-- and my dear friends, so many of you do without even knowing it.

Happy Mother’s Day with Gratitude.



Masks for St. Luke’s

by Donna Bernert

On Thursday, March 26 a call came in from Kimberly Taylor who works at St. Luke's Hospital asking the members of St. Francis Church to assist in making and donating face masks. In the time since that phone call came in, the members of St. Francis and the ECW have made and delivered 661 masks to help all those who work at St. Luke's Hospital. Sally Hader has made over 60 masks to give out to the members of St. Francis. We were able to accomplish this with the help of people laundering and ironing fabric, some cutting fabric, others sewing the masks, and still others driving to pick up and deliver the masks. Most of all this could not have happened without those who have contributed money to fund this project.

Since our monetary donations have slowed, we are now asking for donations of any fabric you might have that is 100 percent cotton with a tight weave. We are taking in used sheets and cutting out masks to be sewn. Anyone who has lightly used sheets or fabric they would like to donate, please call and the fabric can be picked up. You can also drop off the fabric at Sally Hader's house at 300 Williams Drive in Eureka. There is a clean, new trash can under the car port marked "Quilts" to put your donation in.

Thank you one and all for your generous contribution of time and money. Kimberly has told us they need as many masks as we can make. There is no quantity or cut off date at this time.

From the Bishop’s Warden

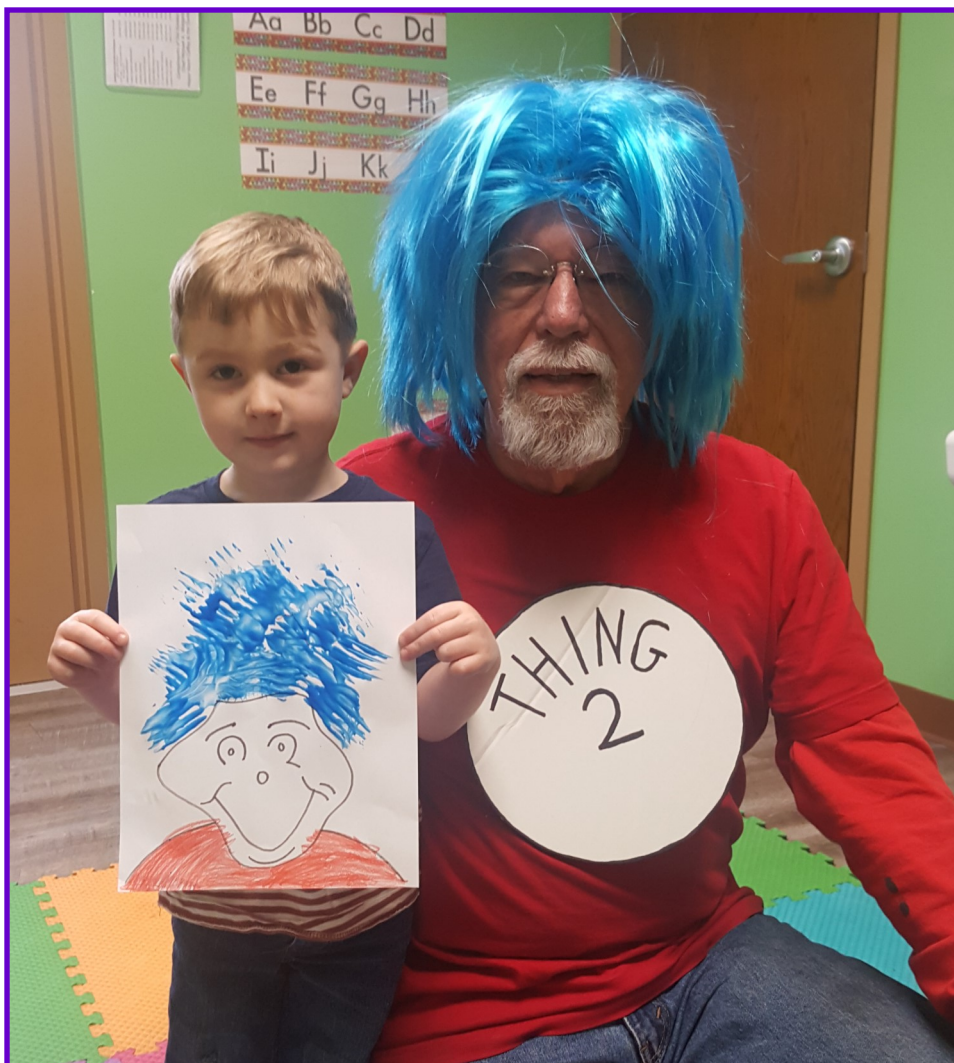
by Jackie Selle

This spring has certainly not been what most of us anticipated. Until now the arrival of spring typically meant warming temperatures, spring showers, budding plants, and the desire to get outside and enjoy nature.

Actually, those things haven’t changed. What has changed, though, is the **ability** to get outside and enjoy nature. Sure, it’s warmed up, it’s rained, and plants have sprouted and grown, but most of us have been confined to our homes for much more than we would like due to COVID 19. Sure, we understand why it is important to stay at home, to minimize our interactions with others, and to take safety precautions to minimize the chance of spreading the virus, but that doesn’t mean it’s easy to do.

Despite these restrictions and the temporary closure of our building and limitations on personal contact, the business of the church must go on as we prepare to gather again. Many of us are working hard to balance reduced incomes and perhaps new expenses at home, so it’s easy to overlook the fact that church expenses go on, just like personal ones.

Although it can be challenging, please make every effort to maintain your planned giving as much as possible so that we can continue the wonderful work that St. Francis parishioners do for each other and for our community. Tracey stops by the church building several times each week to pick up checks, make deposits, and keep the business side of things running smoothly. None of this would be possible without your support. So thank you to everyone who has worked so hard during this unprecedented era of social distancing and online worship. Let’s plan a fabulous



potluck as soon as we can return to celebrate Easter, Mother's Day, missed birthdays and anniversaries, and just the fact that we can be together again. Until then, stay safe.

Friends of St. Francis

by Kathy Regnier

Friends of St. Francis Childcare Center may be temporarily closed due to Covid-19, but we have a fun memory to share with you.

On March 2nd we celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday and guess who came to visit? Thing 2! We were all so excited! (Thing 1 felt a little under the weather and needed to stay home). Thing 2 read stories and played with the children. The kids made fun crafts to celebrate a special day of reading!

Can you guess who Thing 2 is? Yes it's our very own Mr. Herb!

Garden Talk: Flowering Dogwoods

by Marsha Smith

Surely one of our loveliest native trees is the flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*. In full bloom, they are gorgeous but they look good all year round. With their bright berries and reddish-purple leaves in the fall, they are hard to beat for good looks. Their berries are an important food source for songbirds and other small mammals such as squirrels and deer. I have watched big pileated woodpeckers hang upside down on small branches in order to reach them so

they must be a favorite food. They are very poisonous to humans though so don't try checking out their flavor.

Dogwood trees are a bit picky about their environment. Flowering dogwood trees require well-drained soils so they don't particularly like our heavy clay soils without good drainage. They have a very shallow root system and are sensitive to heavy foot traffic compacting the soil around their root systems or disruptions in the soil surrounding them. A shallow root system also means that they can dry out rather quickly. They prefer a shaded or partially-shaded location and slightly acidic soils.

The flowering dogwood was designated as Missouri's state tree in 1955. There are many stories of how the name was derived. One common thought is that the name dogwood comes from the Old English word 'dagwood' because its hard wood was used to make daggers. In the textile industry, the wood from dogwoods was used to make shuttles for looms because it is heavy, hard and fine-grained and because with wear it becomes extremely smooth. These same properties made it useful for golf clubs and as wedges for splitting logs.

I've been thinking a lot about dogwoods lately because they are in full bloom and also because I plan to plant a new dogwood in the front garden of the church to replace the one that died last year. A flowering dogwood tree has been purchased, a cultivar called 'Cherokee Princess'. This cultivar sports large white blooms and is very resistant to spot anthracnose and canker, common diseases of dogwoods. The soil in the front garden will be amended to improve the heavy clay soil, and the level of the soil near the dogwood will be raised in order to improve drainage. Hopefully, we will have a happy, healthy tree for many years to come. So drive by the church when you get a chance and check out our latest tree addition – I plan to



plant it later this week.

I hope you are enjoying our flowering trees; they have been especially beautiful this year... or maybe I've just had more time to appreciate them.

Eureka Food Pantry

by Arlene Underwood

The Eureka Food Pantry remains open to serve the needy in this area. If you have items to donate they can be delivered to the pantry during the hours they are open for distribution. Hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:30 am or Wednesday 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

The pantry is located in The River Church (formerly Eureka United Methodist) located on Central Ave. The entry is on the lower south side of the building. The volunteers can take your items at the door.

Their inventory is diminishing, so all non-perishable food items are welcomed and used. In addition, paper products, grooming toiletries, cleaning products, soaps, and sanitary products are welcomed.

Particular needs at this time are macaroni and cheese mix, tuna and meat Helpers, canned fruits, pasta sauces, cereals, and jellies. Thank you for sharing.

Left: Sally Hader and Donna Bernert pack lunches for distribution at Trinity.

Face Masks Thank You

Donna Bernert expresses her gratitude for the efforts of the members of St. Francis' Episcopal Church and others who have volunteered to assist with the project to make and deliver face masks. The vast majority of completed face masks are delivered to St. Luke's Hospital. A hearty St. Francis thanks goes to: Amy Booth (daughter of Donna and Joe Bernert), Polly Broom-Morse and her daughters, Amanda and Lydia, Linda Carter, Linda Dolittle, Sally Hader (who is also making face masks for parishioners), Janet Houseman, Corey Lawson, Pat Rohan, Barb Sacco, Doris Schaefer, Sue Schmidt, Caitlin Selle, Jackie Selle; and drivers: Charlie Coleman, Becky and Wade Hall, Mary Ann and Chris Kinder, Kathleen O'Reilly, Doris Schneider and Della Thompson.



Prayer List Requests

by Archdeacon Rebecca Barger

I will continue to update and maintain our prayer lists, so remember to submit your prayer requests to me via phone, call or text (713/515.5676), or email (rsbarger@charter.net). We will publish the list in the weekly bulletin that is posted online or sent out via email. Praying for those with specific needs and for each other helps to deepen and enrich our lives through our shared relationships with God and each other. We are all part of this beloved piece of the Kingdom that we call St. Francis' church. God is listening to our prayers.



Bible Study is Zooming Along

by Kathleen McDonald

We're getting pretty good at this meeting-online-and-not-in-person stuff at St. Francis, and many of our growth ministries are spiritually based. Now that people are asked to be at home, some people who normally work an eight or twelve-hour day are able to participate in the daily offices, and some able to participate in our Friday morning Bible Study.

Our Bible Study group, with help from Herb Smith (Zoom Master) and Paul Jokerst (Virtual Verger) has worked through tech issues, through health challenges, and through spiritual challenges that arise from our studies of the scriptures. It's been a wonderful way to connect with one another and with the Sunday readings. If you would like to attend Bible Study just once or indefinitely, please contact Kathleen McDonald at 636-667-6299.

SF Book Club Reads Again!

by Kathleen McDonald

After a month's postponement for social distancing, the St. Francis Book Club is ready to read and to discuss, even though it's online and not in person, the book we've been ready to share.

The Pioneers, by David McCullough, is the kind of historical narrative that breathes life and story into the events that shaped our country's settlements, not only geographically but with the new American ideals of morality, religion, and even government. How did we come to live in the sort of communities that were settled after the gov-

ernment was formed in the new United States of America? Who were the people whose visions shaped so much of who we now are?

Although it reads as comfortably as a novel, its non-fiction roots are found in the letters, diaries, sketches and legal records of the founders. It gets exciting, real, beautiful, and ugly by turns. Give this book a try!

If you need a copy, it's available through amazon.com. At this moment, Sylvia Ahmad and Kathleen McDonald each have a copy belonging to the county library. Since we can't return them just now, you're welcome to borrow.

The Zoom meeting link will be sent by email to all regular members and to any member I have forgotten but who lets me know they'd like to come and any new 'bookies' or history geeks who'd like to join us this time. Please call Kathleen McDonald at 636-667-6299.

Below: Della Thompson captured this image of the moon rising over St. Francis — two beacons of light in the dark!



Mother's Day Prayer 2020

God of life and love, on this special day we give you thanks for those who have given us life. We praise you, O God, for your gift of motherly love, both gentle and fierce, both strong and humble, both kind and true.

For those mothers who have joined you in heaven and whom we miss this day, we give you thanks. For mothers who work day and night to raise and care for their children, we give you thanks. And we also remember those mothers who labor at this task alone.

For women who are new mothers and those who are expecting, we praise you, O God, for the joy and anticipation of new life. Grant that we never forget our duty to uphold these growing families — that in our shared life together we all may hear the call to be your disciples in this world.

For mothers who have lost a child to death and must carry on, we ask for your mercy. May we all sustain these mothers in their time of need and reach out to them in compassion and love. For all of the women who have wanted to have children of their own but did not, we give you thanks. These women have been living examples of your love and grace as they have answered the call to nurture and care for others.

We also pray, O God, for the mothers who have failed to live up to the call of motherhood. We believe you are a God of healing and we remember that we all stand in the need of your grace. We praise your name and lift all mothers, those we have mentioned and those left unmentioned.

(Adapted from a Mother's Day Prayer at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church, Macon Georgia.)



May 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10 am Bible Study <i>St. Philip and St. James, Apostles</i>	2
3 10:15 am Holy Eucharist (Live-streamed on FB) Fourth Sunday of Easter	4 8:30 am Morning Prayer 5 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Worship & Music	5 8:30 am Morning Prayer	6 8:30 am Morning Prayer	7 8:30 am Morning Prayer 1:00 pm Chalice Meeting	8 10 am Bible Study	9
10 10:15 am Holy Eucharist (Live-streamed on FB) Mother's Day Fifth Sunday of Easter	11 8:30 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm Book Group	12 8:30 am Morning Prayer	13 8:30 am Morning Prayer	14 8:30 am Morning Prayer	15 10 am Bible Study	16
17 10:15 am Holy Eucharist (Live-streamed on FB) Rogation Sunday Sixth Sunday of Easter	18 8:30 am Morning Prayer	19 8:30 am Morning Prayer	20 8:30 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm Bishop's Committee <i>Chalice deadline</i>	21 8:30 am Morning Prayer	22 10 am Bible Study	23
24 10:15 am Holy Eucharist (Live-streamed on FB) Seventh Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension Day)	25 8:30 am Morning Prayer	26 8:30 am Morning Prayer	27 8:30 am Morning Prayer	28 8:30 am Morning Prayer	29 10 am Bible Study	30
31 10:15 am Holy Eucharist (Live-streamed on FB) The Day of Pentecost (Whitsunday)						