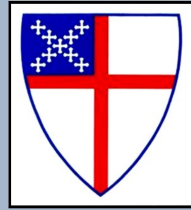


The Builder

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

St. Thomas's Episcopal Church
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From the Pastor

We recently celebrated “Good Shepherd Sunday.” The Sunday we hear Psalm 23 and the beautiful “I am the Good Shepherd” passage from John’s Gospel. One of the essential points that Jesus makes (and reiterates numerous times throughout his ministry) is our need to cease “worrying.” As Jesus says in John 14:1: “*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.*” Jesus constantly bids us to stop worrying, stop being so anxious, stopped being so troubled. Jesus is actually making a very bold and powerful faith statement in his teachings. If we truly trust in God, if we truly believe that God has our best interests at heart, then we do not need to worry. After all, God is always in charge.

This concept of an anxiety-free life is founded upon the belief that God knows the intimate workings of our lives and that God does care about us, because our God truly is “The Good Shepherd.” Letting go of our anxieties and concerns and turning them over to God’s care is what lies behind the popular Christian expression: “Let go and let God” as in: let go of your problems and let God handle them.

This is not to say that we should blithely go about our lives with no concern. When we consider potential problems or pitfalls in a course of action, it helps us to anticipate how best to avoid, address, or overcome those same problems when or if they arise. It is not a matter of eschewing prudent concern, but whether we allow our anxieties to consume us. When trouble arises, we can easily be overwhelmed and remain so focused on our troubles that we have no peace, we lose sleep, or we turn away from God.

The Traveler’s Insurance Company recently ran a commercial showing a West Highland-like Terrier mix worried about his “prized possession”—a bone. As Ray Lamontagne’s lyrics play in the commercial’s background:

“Trouble, trouble, trouble’s been doggin’ my soul since the day I was born.” Worry, Worry, worry just will not seem to leave my mind alone... Worry, worry, sometimes I swear that this worry seems like my only friend.”

The anxious dog tries to hide his bone in various places, yet worriedly sits and watches for anything amiss before moving it again and again. The dog is so troubled and obsessed with the security of his bone that he sees nothing else around him. It may seem like a cute insurance commercial, yet many peoples’ lives are just as troubled, just as anxious.

Likewise, when troubles threaten to overwhelm us in our lives, we no longer see God’s goodness around us and we cannot feel his presence and concern for us. Worse, it implies that we lack faith in God, that we do not believe that God cares for us or can help us. So, what do we do when the anxieties and challenges of real life consume us? We turn to God. The dog in the commercial finally finds peace when he turns his trouble over to “Traveler’s Insurance.” He puts his problems into the hands of another whom he trusts. And isn’t that what Jesus, the Good Shepherd, bids us to do?

Pastor Lin +

For All the Saints...

Saint Philip and Saint James Apostles: May 1



The term “Apostles” [which means: *sent ones*] is referred to those disciples who served the Lord in his earthly ministry and/or saw him in his resurrected state. The two apostles commemorated on this day are among those about whom little is known, except for their mention in the Gospels.

“James” [the anglicized version of the Hebrew name: “Jacob”] is a common name in New Testament times. This James is biblically referred to as “James the Less” to distinguish him from James the son of

Zebedee [and brother of John] and from: “*James the brother of the Lord,*” or perhaps, as some theorize, he was called “the Less” to indicate either his youth or stature. He is known to us from the list of the Twelve, where he is called “*James the son of Alphaeus.*” He may also be the person referred to in Mark’s Gospel as “*James the younger,*” who, with his mother Mary and the other women, watched the crucifixion from a distance.

Philip appears in several important incidents in Jesus’ ministry as reported in John’s Gospel. There we read that Jesus called Philip soon after calling Andrew and his brother Peter. Philip in turn found his friend Nathanael and convinced him to come and see Jesus, the Messiah.

Later, when Jesus saw the hungry crowd, he asked Philip, “*How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?*” [John 6:5]. Philip’s practical answer, “*Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little,*” [John 6.7] was the prelude to the feeding of the multitude with the loaves and fishes.

Later still, John records that some Greeks came to Philip asking to see Jesus. At the Last Supper, Philip’s request, “*Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied,*” evokes the response, “*Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father.*” [John 14:8-9]

Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988: May 19

In the ninth century, under King Alfred the Great, England had achieved considerable military, political, cultural, and even some ecclesiastical recovery from the Viking invasions. It was not until the following century that there was a revival of monasticism. Dunstan is considered the leader of that monastic revival in England.

Dunstan was born about 909 into a family with royal connections to England’s King Alfred the Great. He became a monk and in 943 was later made Abbot of Glastonbury. During a period of political exile in Flanders, Dunstan came into contact with the Benedictine monastic revival.

In 957, King Edgar recalled Dunstan to England and appointed him as the Bishop of Worcester, then later as



the Bishop of London; and, in 960, named him Archbishop of Canterbury. Together with his former pupils, Bishops Aethelwold of Winchester and Oswald of Worcester (later of York), Dunstan was a leader of the English Church. All three have been described as “contemplatives in action” as they sought to bring the fruits of their monastic prayer-life to the immediate concerns of the Church and State. In addition to requiring better education and discipline among the clergy, the restoration of former monasteries, and the revival of monastic life for women, they also established a more elaborate and carefully ordered liturgical worship.

The fruits of this reform movement were set forth in the “Monastic Agreement,” a common code for all English monasteries. It called for the continual intercession for the royal house and emphasized the close tie between the monasteries and the crown. This close alliance of Church and State, sacramentalized in the anointing of the King, was expressed liturgically in the earliest English coronation ceremony of which a full text survives, compiled for King Edgar by Dunstan.

The long-term effects of this tenth century reform resulted in the development of two peculiarly English institutions: the “monastic cathedral” and “monk-bishops.”

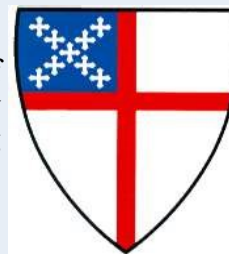
Dunstan is reputed to have been an expert craftsman, particularly in the working of metals and the casting of bells. As a result, he has long been considered the patron saint of those particular crafts.



MORE, “101 Reasons to be an Episcopalian”—

Reason # 63: “My favorite reason for being an Episcopalian is the coherence of scripture, tradition, and reason/experience as basic tenets of our belief. I appreciate our melding of church and world, sacred and secular, soul and body, sophistication and simplicity, literary and non-verbal, seriousness and nonchalance, holiness and ordinariness, indeed, our being deeply rooted in the Incarnation.” *The Rev. Malcolm Boyd, Diocese of Los Angeles*

Reason # 7: “Episcopalians see reality as existing in the tensions of paradox, ambiguity, and diversity.” *Richard C. Milhon, Diocese of Kansas*



The Anglican Choral Tradition Society presents

A Concert of Sacred Music

**St. Thomas Episcopal
Church in Orange
May 4th at 7PM**

**The Anglican Choral
Tradition Society &
Organist Jon Bolena**

Program to include works of Byrd, Greene, Elgar,
Bach & Vierne



Pentecost is Coming! The Birthday of the Church. Wear Red.

Pentecost is the “fiftieth” day after Easter. It is the day that we recall the awesome coming of the Holy Spirit—with a “violent rush of wind” and “flaming tongues of fire.” It was the day that Jews from throughout the Roman Empire had come to Jerusalem to celebrate God’s gracious gift of The Law to Moses and the Children of Israel. Suddenly, in the wondrous power of the Holy Spirit, each of these Jews *heard, spoke,* and could understand each other, in a countless variety of languages. [Acts 2.1-12]

It was as if you suddenly started speaking Portuguese, your brother or sister started speaking Russian, and your parents started speaking Mandarin Chinese. Not only do none of you speak any foreign language and now suddenly seem be able to do so, but even more astonishing, you actually understand each other and everyone else in the babble of languages being spoken around you. In effect, we see a reversal of the Tower of Babel. If you recollect, the Bible says that originally, everyone spoke the same language. However, when the people gathered to build a city and a tower to the heavens, God decided to thwart their plans by “confusing” their language so that they would not understand one another. [Genesis 11.1-9] Now, through the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, God suddenly gives the followers of Jesus the comprehensive ability to communicate with one another.

From this phenomenal event, the Jews who had been touched by the Holy Spirit, returned to their various countries spreading the news of this Pentecostal event. These same Jews also spread the *good news* of Jesus Christ who had been executed and buried, but who rose from the dead to teach them for 40 days. As result of the Pentecostal power of the Holy Spirit, these Jews also realized that the resurrected Christ, who had ascended into heaven, had also promised to send the power of the Holy Spirit so that they would be “his witnesses in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” [Acts 1.8]

In a remarkable confluence of historical events: the efficiency of the Roman roads, the safety of the commercial sea lanes under Pax Romana, the common Greek language inherited from the Hellenistic culture, and Rome’s willingness to let indigenous peoples continue their various religious practices, the story of Jesus Christ spread throughout the Roman empire. It spread like a wildfire. A fire lit by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. That is why we refer to Pentecost as the “birthday” of the Church.

The *color for Pentecost is RED*. By it, we are reminded of the “tongues of fire” that anointed the first Christian followers. Often, Church doors are painted red to remind us that each of us comes into the Church, the body of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This year, Pentecost is celebrated on Sunday, May 28th. Everyone is encouraged to wear red on this Sunday. It serves as a visual reminder of this spectacular moment in God’s story and it serves as a reflection of our Pentecostal fellowship with all Christians everywhere, with all those who have come before us, and with all those who will be baptized in the Spirit throughout the rest of time.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who were so generous in their **giving to the Church of Jerusalem** during our **Good Friday Offering**. In keeping with Paul and the ancient Church, the Episcopal Church designates the Good Friday offerings to the **Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem** for use in its many missions and ministries. There are 24 churches in the Diocese of Jerusalem, two colleges, 17 schools (including one for the deaf, one for vocational & technical training, and one for children with disabilities), two hospitals, two community based medical clinics, one nursing home, and a diabetes clinic.

Our giving makes us one with St. Paul, who also took up collections for the Church of Jerusalem. As he wrote to the Roman churches: *“At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem in a ministry to the saints; for Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. So, when I have completed this, and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will set out by way of you to Spain.”* [Romans 15:25-26,28]

Thank you to everyone who brought such **beautiful flowers** for our **Flowering Easter Cross**.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the **Rector’s Discretionary Fund**. Your continuing generosity allows us to assist those our community Christian Emergency Council have identified as having the most legitimate need for assistance with rent, utility, or food. **Your RDF contributions have the power to change lives for the better!**

THANK YOU!

COMMUNITY NOTES



SUNDAY MAY 7, 2023 AFTER BOTH SERVICES

We will be hosting our annual African Craft Sale to benefit churches in Africa. Stop by and browse the beautiful jewelry, carvings, statues, and other amazing hand crafted items from talented artisans. It's the perfect time to pick up a Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation, or birthday gift!



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DUFF GREEN

There will be a memorial service for long time parishioner, Duff Green, on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 2pm.



The Women's Diversity Forum will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 2pm.

NOW SHOWING



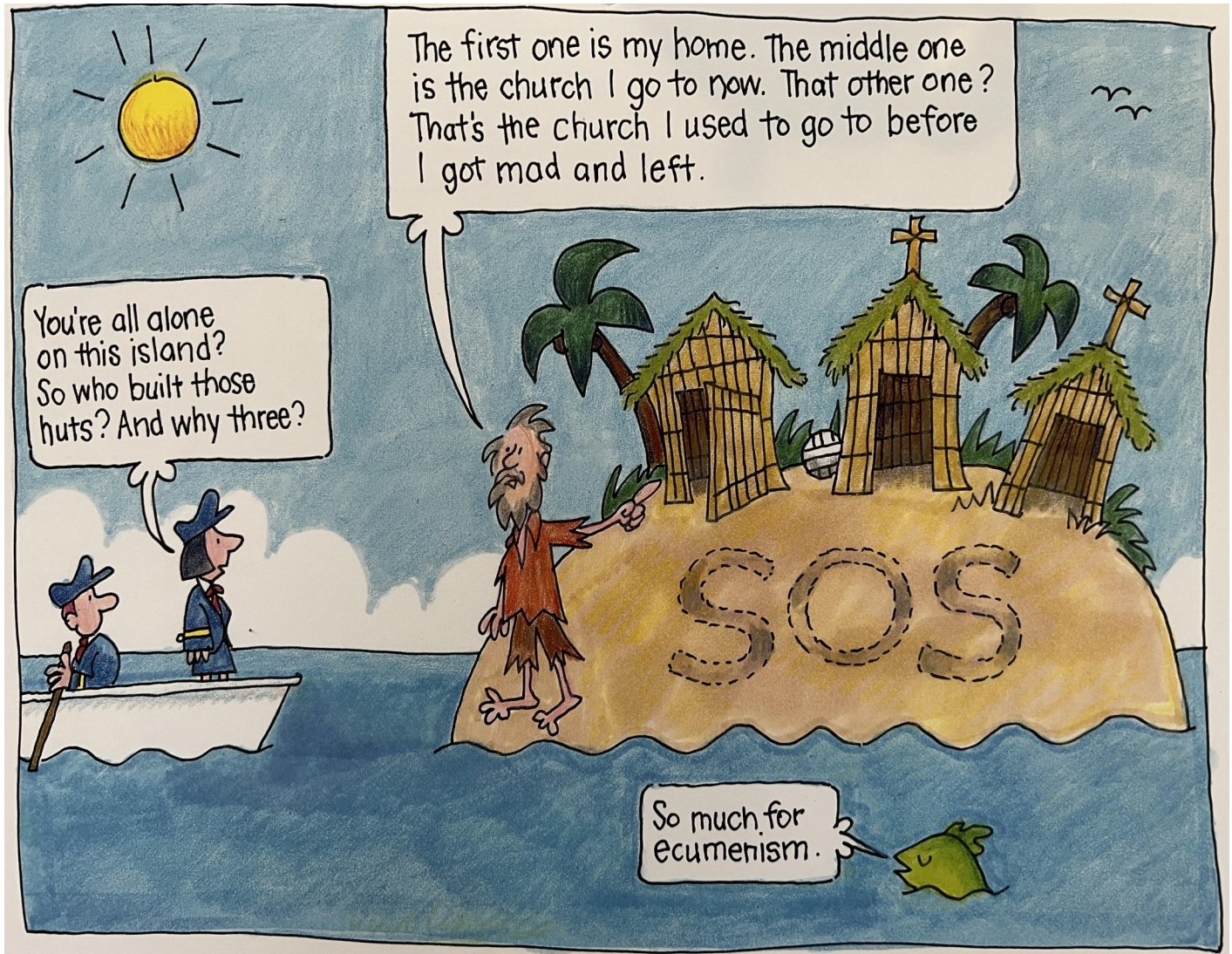
The Fabelmans is a 2022 American coming-of-age drama film directed by Steven Spielberg, who co-wrote and produced it with Tony Kushner. The film is a semi-autobiographical story loosely based on Spielberg's adolescence and first years as a filmmaker. The plot is told through an original story of the fictional Sammy Fabelman, a young aspiring filmmaker who explores how the power of films can help him see the truth about his dysfunctional family and those around him. It stars Gabriel LaBelle as Sammy, alongside Michelle Williams, Paul Dano, Seth Rogen, and Judd Hirsch in supporting roles. The film is dedicated to the memories of Spielberg's real-life parents, Leah Adler and Arnold Spielberg, who died in 2017 and 2020, respectively. ~ *Wikipedia*

Friday, May 26 at 7:00 pm in Robertson Hall

~ cost of admission is one non-perishable food item ~



May Cartoon



May 2022

St. Thomas Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	 Student organ recital 7 pm	5	6
7 The Fifth Sunday of Easter  African craft sale to benefit churches in Africa	8	9	10	11	12	13 Memorial service for Duff Green 2 pm
14 The Sixth Sunday of Easter 	15	16	17	18 Ascension Day	19	20
21 The Seventh Sunday of Easter: the Sunday after Assentation Day Women's Diversity Forum at 2 p.m.	22	23	24	25 Vestry meeting 5:30 pm	26 Movie night 7 p.m.	27
28 The Day of Pentecost 	29 Memorial Day 	30	31			



~Anniversaries~

~Birthdays~

- 05/01 Page Higginbotham
- 05/02 Joanie Palmer
- 05/09 Pen Breese, Jr.
- 05/11 Mary-Parke Johnson
- 05/14 Sarah Rogers
- 05/20 Kathryn Caswell
- 05/23 Franklin Higginbotham
- 05/23 L. Borden Lee
- 05/25 Gordon Cowan
- 05/28 Grayson Wood
- 05/29 Lisa Wagner
- 05/30 Doug Arnold

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
 the Lord make his face shine upon you and be
 gracious to you;
 the Lord turn his face toward you and give
 you peace.*

Food Pantry

Special requests for April are ***canned meat, canned vegetables, and canned fruit.*** All food items and cash gifts are always welcome and appreciated. You can drop off donations at the Love Outreach Food Pantry each Tuesday from 9:00-10:30 and on Wednesday from 8:30-12:00.



Their mailing address is: Love Outreach Food Pantry, Inc., P.O. Box 788, Orange, 22960. You may also bring any donations to the church to be delivered.

Prayer List

We pray especially for our church's leadership:

Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, Presiding Bishop; Mark, Gayle, David and Ted, bishops for this diocese

Our country: President Joe, Vice President Kamala, & Governor Glenn

For the men and women in our armed forces serving our nation around the world.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

For: Terrell, Margaret, Carroll, Harriet, Ellen, William, Susan, Casey, Bev, Aubrey Elaine, Heather Charlie, Lynne, Lola, Keith, Kevin, Sarah, Julie, and Catherine

Please feel free to submit your prayer requests via phone (540-672-3761) or email (stthomas3@verizon.net) for inclusion in the morning prayer bulletin.

Please submit entries for the June issue of *The Builder* by May 24th to annwood304@gmail.com or to the church office.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
119 Caroline Street
Orange, VA 22960

May 2023

