

*Good News Daily*

**Volume XIX**

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**Sunday, March 17**

Jeremiah 1:1-10 *Before I formed thee in the womb, I knew thee: and before thou earnest forth out of the womb, I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.* (v.5 KJV)

My church has just begun our search process for a new rector. We have a vestry who will make the final decision and a search committee that will conduct a parish survey first, to see what our members think they would like to have in a new leader. Then the top candidates will be interviewed and, finally, we will select who we pray will be God's choice. The process usually takes an average of 8 months.

Our intercessory prayers have already been answered in the selection of many outstanding church leaders for this important decision. We are all confident in the Holy Spirits' guidance. During this time, I also hope to discern my own future mission from God regarding my ministry area on the vestry this next 3 years. In Numbers 11:29 Moses said, "would God that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put His spirit upon them!"

Psalms 24, 29; 1 Corinthians 3:11-23; Mark 3:31—4:1-9

**ANGLICAN CYCLE:** **Pray for** the Church of England, The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby - Archbishop of Canterbury

**DIOCESAN CYCLE:** The Episcopal Parish of Alton, The Rev. Cynthia A. Sever, Rector; Muungano Parish: Rev. Samson Yakobo, Urambo, Tanzania; The Missions of St. Patrick and St. Mark, District of Ventanilla, Callao, Peru, The Rev. Jaime Siancas, Priest in Charge; Birthday of Margaret, widow of The Rev James W Evans, Buffalo, NY.

**Monday, March 18**

John 4:27-42 *Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.* (v.35)

In our first rector selection committee/vestry meeting, we were told about an interesting observation by our Bishop's assistant during his seminary experience. He said the three areas most seminaries don't spend much time preparing students for are leadership, stewardship, and evangelism.

As we begin our search process for a new rector, one of the disturbing things happening in our church is that we are experiencing decreasing attendance at our Sunday services. This is especially alarming due to the present need for faith in our country. In Florida, for instance, we recently had both a church and a school shooting

tragedy involving many faithful believers and innocent children. I once read a book titled *Liberation of the Laity*. The author points out that in God's plan for His Church, the ordained ministers are to teach and preach God's word, but it is the work of the laity to bring the unchurched to church. It seems to me we will need a rector to help us with the great commission of harvesting souls.

Jeremiah 1:11-19; Psalms 56, 57, 58; Romans 1:1-15

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Maseno South (*Kenya*), The Rt Revd Francis Abiero; Uyo (*Nigeria*), The Rt Revd Prince Asukwo Antai; Hong Kong Island (*Hong Kong*), The Most Revd Paul Kwong (*Primate*)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield, Consecration of church building, 1913; St. Paul's, Pekin, Anniversary of the Consecration of church building, 1876.

## **Tuesday, March 19**

John 4:43-54 *Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders ye will not believe.* (v.48)

This account was of the second miracle of healing that Jesus did, when he was traveling into Galilee out of Judaea. His first miracle was turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana.

For many years, our church has had a very successful healing service and ministry. However, recently there have been several disagreements between the ministry and our church. We must sort this out before the selection of a new rector. My wife is on a committee to seek God's wisdom in this area. She has had a six-year battle with bladder cancer. We are thankful for our church's answered prayers in her behalf for this disease. Initially, the prognosis was very guarded. In fact, I remember at one time, bladder removal was a possibility. But, thank God, through prayers and Jesus' healing using chemo and immune therapy, she has been cancer free the past three years. However, my wife recently needed prayers again regarding an exploratory surgery for a troublesome spot discovered by MRI. We both attended the healing service this week before the procedure and, I am happy to report, she was given a completely clean bill of health by her urologist. Praise God.

In today's reading of Jesus healing the boy, the healing came as a result of the father's faith and prayer for his son. All of us need the support of family and other's prayers and Jesus' healings. Wouldn't you agree?

Jeremiah 2:1-13; Psalms 61, 62; Romans 1:16-25

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Maseno West (*Kenya*), The Rt Revd Joseph Wasonga; Valparaiso (*Chile*), The Rt Revd Samuel Morrison

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. Mark's, West Frankfort, Anniversary of the Consecration of church building, 1939; Anniversary of the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Daniel Hayden Martins as the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Springfield.

ST. MATTHEWS: Ruth Stock's birthday

### **Wednesday, March 20**

Psalm 72 *His name shall endure forever: His name shall be continued as long as the sun: And men shall be blessed in him: All nations shall call him blessed.* (v.17)

A funny thing happened yesterday at the “Y” (as it is now called, it used to be the YMCA). I went to my monthly Mission Committee meeting (that use to be called the Christian Awareness Committee). This committee's purpose, I've been told, is “Trying to put the C back in YMCA.”

I've been active in the YMCA ever since I was a boy working summers as a camp counselor. In the early days when you walked in the door at my local Y, you were greeted by a chapel which had a sign across the portals saying, “Jesus, he's reason we're here!” I always thought that was very inspirational. However, several years ago, during a building remodeling project, the chapel disappeared and the old welcome sign was removed to a hallway hidden from view. Most members probably hadn't noticed this change—but I had.

Our Mission Committee recently voted to have a prayer board constructed for the hallway cove area. We wanted to have the old logo as the header for the board. However, the management of the Y decided that would not be “inclusive” enough and a controversy began. Yesterday, however, with God's grace and mediation, we decided to move forward accepting their logo, “Refresh your Spirit.” We're just thankful the old sign, a cross, and a chaplain ministry will be added to the area.

Jeremiah 3:6-18; Romans 1:28—2:11; John 5:1-18

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Masindi-Kitara (*Uganda*), The Rt Revd George Kasangaki; Vanuatu (*Melanesia*), The Revd James Tama; Vermont (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Thomas Ely

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of Ruth, widow of the Rev. Eric B. Asboe, Nebraska City, NE.

### **Thursday, March 21**

Psalm 71 *My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.* (v.15)

Today's psalm is a prayer for old age. I find myself thankful for my 78 years of life. Especially, when I consider the relative short lives of my animal patients the past 63years working as a veterinarian.

This week a past client and animal-loving deacon sent me a meditation from a Franciscan, Richard Rohr, who references a book I once read by Franciscan Jack Wintz, *Will I See My Dog in Heaven?* His conclusion, like mine, is “Yes, of course they will!” If you doubt, he suggests you read Isaiah 11:1-9 and 65:17-26 about God's future Peaceful Kingdom, and Revelation 5:13.

Father Wintz quotes from Job 12:7-10: “If you would learn more, ask the cattle, seek information from the birds of the air. The creeping things of earth will give you lessons, and the fishes of the sea will tell you all. There is not a single creature that does not know that everything is of God’s making. God holds in power the soul of every living thing, and the breath of every human body.”

As we grow older, he reminds us, “we are a part of this creation, not apart from it.” To love something is to mirror its inmost core and dignity, which we have also found within ourselves. That is what I’ve observed in my relationships with my clients and their pets these many years. The pets mirror the unconditional love of God, which I believe is our goal in our relationship with Him.

Jeremiah 4:9-10, 19-28; Psalm 70; Romans 2:12-24; John 5:19-29  
*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Massachusetts (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Alan McIntosh Gates, The Rt Revd Gayle Harris; Victoria Nyanza (*Tanzania*), Vacant  
*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of Rikke, wife of the Rev. Donald H. Langlois, Chandler, AZ.

## **Friday, March 22**

John 5:30-47 *Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.* (v.39)

I went to a movie with my wife and three other Christians this weekend. The movie was *I Can Only Imagine*, which is a true story of Christian forgiveness and reconciliation between a father and his son. The movie title is based on a very popular song about their relationship and the son’s musical gift. The story brought to mind my own life story with a very similar relationship with my father. Today, as I write this, is Palm Sunday, and we were reminded by our preacher that we can’t celebrate Easter without reliving Jesus’ suffering on the cross for our sins. To contemplate God our Father giving His Son for us, I can only imagine.

From my readings, I have been told the father-son relationship is very important. There are many Old Testament stories of this relationship, especially of oldest sons like me and the importance of the father’s blessing. I am happy to remember that before my earthly father died, I reconciled our relationship and received his forgiveness, as I have with my heavenly Father.

Jeremiah 5:1-9; Psalm 69; Romans 2:25—3:18  
*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Masvingo (*Central Africa*), The Rt Revd Godfrey Tawonezwi; Virgin Islands (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Ambrose Gumbs; Hpa-an (*Myanmar*), The Rt Revd Saw Mark Maung Doe  
*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Donald J. Schranz, Abingdon, MD, received as Priest; Birthday of The Rev Charles J. Reischman, Littleton, CO.; Pray for the attendees at the Annual ECW Retreat this weekend at Toddhall.

## **Saturday, March 23**

Jeremiah 5:20-31 *Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: Will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? (v.22)*

Yesterday my grandson and I went to our beach house to inspect the new sea wall being built along the coast at Flagler Beach. In our area, 19 property owners had major property damage of either dune erosion or home damage from the three hurricanes of the past several years. The 15” tall sea wall is almost completed, ahead of the upcoming turtle nesting season in May and another hurricane season starting in June. We bought our 60 front feet of oceanfront Atlantic property in 1976. Back then, beach property was affordable, and we built a small home soon after. We’ve been blessed to have had many family memories there over this past 42 years. My mother in law, upon seeing the ocean view in the early days, proclaimed, “Isn’t God powerful!”

In Oswald Chambers’ *My Utmost for His Highest*, he describes the “call of the sea.” For me that’s what I’ve have experienced there—God’s special presence in what the Chamber of Commerce describes as “The Peaceful Beach.”

Spirituality is defined as a sense of interconnectedness with all living creatures and creation and an awareness of the purpose and meaning of life. I think we need these quiet places to praise, pray, and meditate with the Almighty.

Psalms 75, 76; Romans 3:19-31; John 7:1-13

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Matabeleland (*Central Africa*), The Rt Revd Cleophas Lunga; Virginia (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Shannon Johnston; The Rt Revd Susan Ellyn Goff; Huron (*Canada*), The Rt Revd Linda Nicholls, The Rt Revd Terrance Arthur Dance

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of Stephanie, wife of The Rev Brant V. Hazlett, Mt. Carmel; Pray for the attendees at the Annual ECW Retreat this weekend at Toddhall.

ST. MATTHEWS: Daniel Teas’ birthday.

*by R. Bruce Keene*

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**Pray for** the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Jenna A., Mary, James T., Julie C., Bill B., Ms. Shayne, Diane B., Steve J., Carol D., Debbie T., Robin L., Margret L., Christopher L., Kim

**Pray for** the Faithful Departed: Barbara Allsup, Ken Barling

**Pray for** those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Barb W., Daniel T., Bob C., and Margaret P.

**Pray for:** The Diocese of Tabora, Anglican Church of Tanzania, The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa, the clergy and people. The Missionary Diocese of Peru, The Rt. Rev. Alejandro Mesco. Fr. Kari Marcelle, the clergy and people of Holy Trinity St. Vincent. Fr. Dave and all clergy, for whom we light the candle on the west side of the Altar