



# The Hillside Messenger

## A Message from the Rector:

### The Unity of the Faith: Ephesians 4:1-16

**O**ur Lord Jesus Christ prayed for the Church's unity before He suffered death on a cross to redeem the world (*St. John 17:9-11, 20-23*). In the fourth chapter of his *Epistle to the Ephesians*,

bond of peace (*Ephesians 4:3*). In this appeal he calls them to show to the utmost extent the virtues of lowliness, meekness, and longsuffering, forbearing one another in love. Before emphasizing for Christians there is one Body and one Spirit, one

has given through the Holy Spirit to His Church in the Lord Jesus Christ. In doing so, St. Paul is not setting aside Christian doctrines as a means or source of unity in favor of practicing the Christian virtues, nor is he exalting doctrine over be-



St. Paul, imprisoned for his testimony to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus, appeals to the Christians of Ephesus to live lives worthy of their vocation (*Ephesians 4:1*) and to preserve the unity given by God's Spirit in the

hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all (*Ephesians 4:4-6*), St. Paul is here concerned to address Christian behavior as a means of keeping, or guarding, the unity God

has given through the Holy Spirit to His Church in the Lord Jesus Christ. In doing so, St. Paul is not setting aside Christian doctrines as a means or source of unity in favor of practicing the Christian virtues, nor is he exalting doctrine over be-

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## *The Unity of the Faith: Ephesians 4:1-16*

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moral standards of their vocation to follow Christ. The practice of Christian virtues assists believers to be diligent in keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (*Ephesians 4:3*). These intentions are combined in the part of A Prayer for all Conditions of Men that concerns the Church:

More especially we pray for Thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life.

Excerpted from  
“A Prayer for all  
Conditions of  
Men”, p. 32,  
*The Book of  
Common Prayer*,  
1928

In reflecting *Ephesians 4:3*, this excerpt of the prayer opts to interpret the unity of the Spirit as “unity of spirit”, which is permissible since it is unclear whether, in the original language of *Ephesians 4:3*, *pneumatōs* is the good influence governing Christian behavior or the Holy Spirit.

In the seventeenth century, when this prayer was composed (most probably by the Rev. Dr. Peter Gunning, Master of St. John’s College, Cambridge<sup>1</sup>) the Church of England was losing the unity it had kept since the Reformation, and in the rest of the world, the visible Church’s disunity was obvious. This radical problem calls for ongoing prayer that the Holy Spirit may so guide and govern the universal Church (rather than the unruly ambitions and ideologies of men leading it into disunity) that all Christians be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of purpose, living righteously and at peace with one another.

There is unity that God has given to the Church Catholic (that is, universal) but Christians will only fully experience it when they conduct their lives in ways that express their noble vocation, such as humility, meekness, patience, and love. When by God’s grace we consistently and continually show the fruit of the Holy Spirit (*Galatians 5:22-23*) in our lives and are eager to maintain the unity given by the Spirit, we as the Church will experience the unity the Lord Jesus Christ prayed that we might have.

Yet the Church’s unity is not simply achieved by the right behavior. Each of us must also see that unity is God’s gift to the Church, and we must

not be so blinded by our sinful nature that we forget the manifold graces of unity God has already given to the Church. St. Paul puts at the top of the list one Body. Elsewhere in this same Epistle, St. Paul clearly refers to the love Christ bears for the Church as His Body (*Ephesians 5:29-30*). All Christians are members of this spiritual Body of Christ, and He is its Head (*Ephesians 5:24*), being the Savior of the Body (*Ephesians 5:23*): to Him all members of the Church are subject (*Ephesians 5:24*).

Just as Christians are united because they are all members of the spiritual Body of Christ, having been washed in the waters of baptism and professing faith in the one Lord who redeemed them by His death on the cross, so one Holy Spirit was poured out for all to drink and given to all who believe in Christ. One Holy Spirit indwells all Christians, leading them in all the truth (*St. John 16:13*). The Holy Spirit does not guide Christians in the truth that He has given only to one Christian leader. Rather, He guides us in all the truth that He has given to the whole Church in the written word of God; in the Ecumenical Councils of the Church; in the writings of the Church Fathers; and in the wisdom and knowledge that He gives

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1 Pages 18-19, Massey Hamilton Shepherd, Jr.: *The Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1950.

## The Unity of the Faith: Ephesians 4:1-16

(Continued from page 2)

to the bishops and leaders of the Church today. Therefore we should not jump to conclusions about the truth of any doctrine, but through prayer, meditation, and careful reflection listen first to the written word of God; then to the traditions, Councils, and writings of the Church where they do not conflict with Holy Scripture; next to the spiritual leaders who are set in authority over us; and also to the Holy Spirit speaking within us.

One hope of our calling (*Ephesians 4:4*) is yet another God-given grace of unity. All Christians have the hope of resurrection, the hope of eternal life in communion with the Lord Jesus Christ. In *Romans 5*, St. Paul speaks of rejoicing in the “hope of the glory of God” (*Romans 5:2*) and shows that tribulations are cause for rejoicing since tribulation produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character, hope, and this hope does not make us ashamed since the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (*Romans 5:3-5*). The writer of the *Epistle to the Hebrews* urges us to hold fast to the profession of our hope without wavering, for the One who promised is faithful (*Hebrews 10:23*).

Adding to these graces of unity, St. Paul sets out what might have been a very early creed:

One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

*Ephesians 4:5-6*,  
KJV

The Church has one Lord, one Master, one King. Many may hold high office, but there is only one Lord Jesus

what is meant here by faith, the act of faith or the deposit of faith. There can be no meaningful unity of acts of faith if there is no central deposit of faith, and the Church is the guardian of the deposit of faith. That is why none of us is free to change the doctrines of the Christian faith, for they are not ours to change but only to safeguard and pass on to the next generation. In keeping with this, St. Jude in his Epistle calls on Christians “to build themselves

### The Path of Spiritual Growth



### Moving Toward Maturity in Christ

Christ who has ultimate authority over the Church. All believers must obey Him first before all others. Where there is a conflict of authority, even in the Church, between what Christ commands and what a given leader commands, Christ must be obeyed.

Besides this, God has ordained one faith and one baptism, not a different faith and a new baptism every time a person moves from one denomination of Christendom to another. Some will ask

up in their most holy faith” (*St. Jude 20*). If faith were merely an act or a feeling, it would make no sense for Christians to build themselves up in it. Their faith is most holy because it is the deposit of faith given by Christ to the apostles, who entrusted it to the rest of the Church, and it remains most holy because it is safeguarded by being recorded in the writings of the New Tes-

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## *The Unity of the Faith: Ephesians 4:1-16*

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tament, which were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Finally, there is one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all (*Ephesians 4:6*). The unity of the Church derives ultimately from God the Father through the Blessed Trinity. What is the Lord saying to us through these verses? It is that in order to experience the unity God wants the Church to enjoy, we must first live the life that Christ calls us to live on earth, being eager to keep that unity as given by the Spirit of God and expressing it in the peace that God calls us to have in relationship with Him and with one another. Then we shall become more aware of the profound graces of unity God has already given us, graces which flow ultimately from the unity of God the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

But how is the Church to move towards the full awareness and experience of unity in Christ? God will build up the Body of Christ through equipping the

people of God for ministry (*Ephesians 4:12*), and the purpose of this edification is that all Christians reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and attain maturity in Christ (*Ephesians 4:13*), so that Christians are no longer like waves tossed by the wind, deceived by false doctrines arising from the minds of sinful men who use their cunning to exploit the faithful



(*Ephesians 4:14*). This edification is administered to the Church through Christ's gifts given in the ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (*Ephesians 4:11*). Let us pay attention to how our spiritual leaders are being used of the Lord to bring us to the unity of the faith. The preaching and teaching ministry of the Church's ordained leaders is very important in bring-

ing all people to the unity of the faith. So also are the ministries of every believer who shares the Gospel with others (functioning as an evangelist); every believer who serves effectively as a pastor even to a small group; who teaches the faith in some capacity; or who brings prophetic encouragement to others.

The goal towards which we should be working is to reach maturity in Christ and the unity of the faith. Speaking the truth in love, we are growing up into Christ in all things (*Ephesians 4:15*), and this is also happening when each member of the Body of Christ functions properly and effectively so as to contribute to the proper growth of the whole Body (*Ephesians 4:16*).

– *The Reverend Christopher Parrish*

## *Annual Meeting Set for February 10th*

**P**lease join your Chapel Family for our Annual Parish Meeting! We will hear reports from church officers and ministry leaders, consider the proposed 2019 Operating Budget, and elect Vestry officers. This is all important parish business, and your input is needed.

**Sunday, February 10th**

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

*Potluck Luncheon*

immediately following worship

*Annual Parish Meeting*

# ANNUAL MEETING



## *Honoring Those Who Protect and Serve*

When I woke up on the 21st of January, I turned on the news as I do every morning. I was saddened to hear of another police officer killed in the line of duty. The news left me with a heavy heart. Every time I hear of incidences like this, I am very disturbed by the loss of an individual who was doing what he was called to do to help and defend others from the evil of those who wish to do wrong and “get away with it”.

Whether you call them police officers, law enforcement officers, or peace officers, these men and women are there to do one job: They protect us from those who wish to do us harm. The duty of a police officer is a calling. It is similar to that of those who are called to military service. I have read books that even relate it to being like a priest’s call to serve God.

Like military personnel, police officers take an oath to defend and protect the Constitution as well as the public at large. They, too, are working by the “grace of God”. I think the job of law enforcement officer is under-appreciated, and I don’t believe the general public really have a true understanding of

what the police have to do each day. Police officers are truly on the firing line each time they go on a call. The job entails many things good and bad; it is sometimes funny or heartwarming and sometimes just plain awful and disgusting. They never know what to expect. They are called to make split-second decisions in life-or-death situations. You can also look at it as a simple human

before hugging and kissing their family goodbye expects to return home again to see their loved ones at the end of their shift. They, like everyone else, deserve the fulfillment of that expectation. But, unfortunately, because of the actions of others who wish to cause harm to the general public or “escape from the law” to avoid the consequences of their bad behavior, sometimes officers die in the line of duty.

In my over 44 years of experience in law enforcement, I have seen the good and bad of the public as well as the law enforcement community. I have met some really great police officers, and I have met some who were not so great. Generally, most police officers are good, but it seems we only hear about the “bad” ones in the news.

This imbalance tends to paint all law enforcement officers with the same brush, and it makes the job even harder. The police need to be appreciated and supported in doing the job they have been called to do.

I have been thinking about this a lot lately. Those who have committed crimes, I feel, are lost. They have lost their way and are separated from

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being made to make super-human decisions. They see the best and the worst of the public at large.

A friend of mine once told me he believed that the police are over-paid. I respect his opinion because that is what he believes. I, however, honestly disagree with his assessment. Each day, every man and woman who puts on that uniform and displays that badge

## *Honoring Those Who Protect and Serve*

*(Continued from page 6)*

God. I can't help but think they have forgotten about God and putting God as the center in their lives. If they had God in their lives, they would surely think twice before doing wrong.

Police officers are not the enemy. They too are human. They have personal feelings but cannot get personally involved, because they must remain professionally detached in order to do their jobs effectively. They actually are many things. On a personal level, they are sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, fathers, and mothers. I believe you can also see them as

messengers for God. Professionally, they may be called upon to act as doctors, psychologists, mediators, negotiators, marriage counselors, defenders, and protectors of the weak and downtrodden. Most of all, they are friends. They help others and protect us from those

who wish to do us harm. Sometimes they protect us from ourselves.

So, the next time you get pulled over for a simple traffic stop, I would ask that you remain calm and simply do what is asked of you. You may or may not receive a citation but look at it as a gentle

appreciated and that their calling is not in vain.

We recently celebrated Police Officer Appreciation Day on the ninth of January, but every day that an officer puts on that badge we should give them a great big thank you of appreciation. God bless and keep them all!

Keep them safe so that they can do the same for us.

— Julia McNeely

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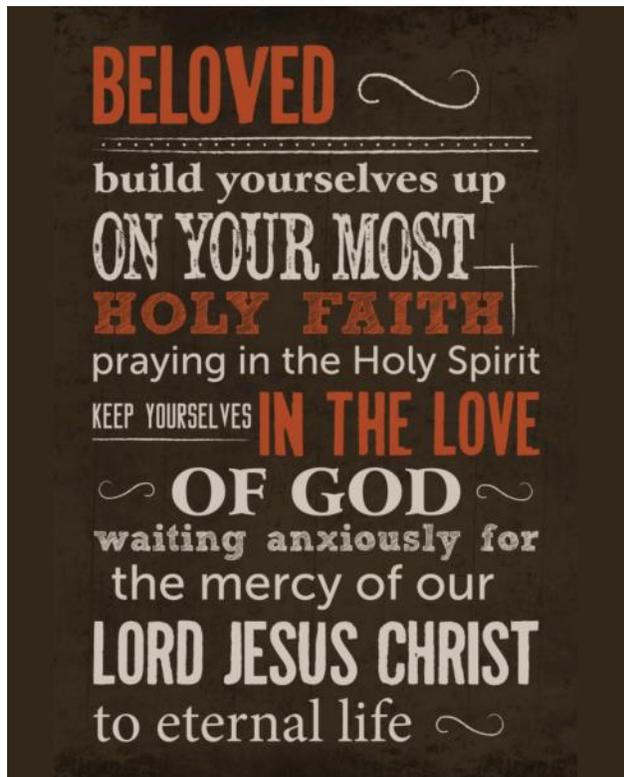
***Loving God,  
we commend to Thy gracious care and keeping  
all the men and women in law enforcement  
in our neighborhoods, cities,  
and on our highways.  
Defend them day by day  
with Thy heavenly grace;  
protect their families;  
strengthen them in their trials;  
give them courage  
to face the perils which beset them;  
and grant them a sense of Thy abiding presence  
wherever they may be;  
through Jesus Christ  
our Lord and Saviour.  
Amen.***

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reminder of something that you may have forgotten to do. Or, when you see a police officer on the street or sidewalk, thank that officer (if it is convenient and that will not interfere with the duties at hand). Let him or her know that what they do as God's messengers is

## Our Chapel Family Prayer List

**O** God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that Thou wouldest be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for Thy holy Church universal; that it may be so



guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness:

Archbishop Foley Beach;  
Bishop Bill Ilgenfritz;

Canon Michael Penfield;  
Father Chris Parrish;  
Deacon Peter Vogel; and  
Deacon Linda Bracken;

also all those who serve as Thy ministers in governing our nation and state, particularly:

President  
Donald Trump; and  
Governor  
Gavin Newsom;

as well as all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; especially those for whom our prayers are desired:

the soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, police officers, firefighters, and pilots who protect us every day;

our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world;

all refugees;

Jim and Edna Davis;

Estelle Wilson;

Joya de Rossett;

Sharon De Souza;

Debbie;

Scott;

Brittany;

James and Tanya Theiler;

Christian McKagan and his parents;

Dale Quinn;

Lisa;

Ben;

Marion;

Max;

Dorian;

Dan and Kendra Pack;

Ernst Hernandez;  
the Stanko family;  
Yoshihiko and Hideko Ikegami;

Elizabeth Ann and her husband;

Stephen;

Lori Anderson;

Ali Hemphill;

Lori Hemphill;

Pennel Magaw;

Tracy Magaw;

Lourdes Fernandes;

Mary Frances Reeves;

Maryanne Sanchez;

Kaitlyn Lindstedt;

Pamela;

Debbie Battersby;

Claudia;

Brenda Terry;

safety on the highways for all who commute, especially during rush hour;

the life

and continuing longevity of St. Luke's

Chapel in the Hills; and

for all those

who are in our hearts,

that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

*Please note:* This prayer list was current as of January 25th. Please contact Father Parrish to make corrections.

## Parish Postings

The Annual Meeting of the Members of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills has been scheduled for Sunday, February 10th (please see page 5). The meeting will follow a 10:00 AM Holy Communion service and a potluck luncheon. Please make every effort to attend! *Please note:* There will be **no** noon Holy Communion service this day.



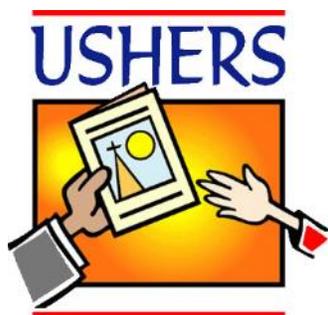
Please join us for our annual Pancake Luncheon on Sunday, March 3rd, immediately following the 10:00 AM Holy Communion service. A sign-up sheet for this special event is available at the fellowship table.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th. A Penitential Office and Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes will be celebrated at 7:00 PM.



Ushers are needed for our 10:00 AM service on Sundays. Your responsibilities will include greeting visitors, giving congregants their bulletins as they come in, and collecting the offering during offertory. If you would like to sign up for this ministry, contact Father Parrish. Thank you!



Martha's List of Parish Ministries asks that every member of the Chapel Family prayerfully consider how God wishes them to serve this year,

If you have served as a ministerial chairperson in the past year, please

update your ministerial folders (in the boxes labeled *Martha's List of Parish Ministries* which are under the card table in McNeely Hall). Remember that Martha only asks chairpersons to serve from one Annual Parish Meeting to the next (although any chairperson who wishes to continue serving in that role is welcome to do so!), so keeping these ministerial folders up-to-date is crucial for making transitions between leaders easier.

Perhaps you have not yet joined one of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills' ministries. If so, please ask God how He would like for you to serve Him, His Church, and those in our community who do not yet know Him. Chances are that one of our current Parish Ministries will align with His answer, but if not please speak to Father Parrish about instituting a new ministry.

If you have any questions, please speak to Father Parrish, Julia McNeely, or Kim Vogel. Thank you!



## *Upcoming Events*

### **Sunday, February 3rd**

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

*Holy Communion with Healing Service*

10:00 AM

### **Sunday, February 10th**

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*Bible Study*

***The Gospel according to St. John 1:1-18***

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

*Potluck Luncheon*

immediately following the worship service

*Annual Parish Meeting*

### **Thursday, February 14th**

St. Valentine's Day

### **Sunday, February 17th**

Septuagesima

*Bible Study*

***The Gospel according to St. John 1:19-51***

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

### **Sunday, February 24th**

Sexagesima

*Bible Study*

***The Gospel according to St. John 2***

9:15 AM

*Office of Morning Prayer*

10:00 AM

*Holy Communion*

12:00 PM

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## *Upcoming Events*

*(Continued from page 10)*

**Sunday, March 3rd**  
Quinquagesima

*Bible Study*  
***The Gospel according to St. John 3***  
9:15 AM

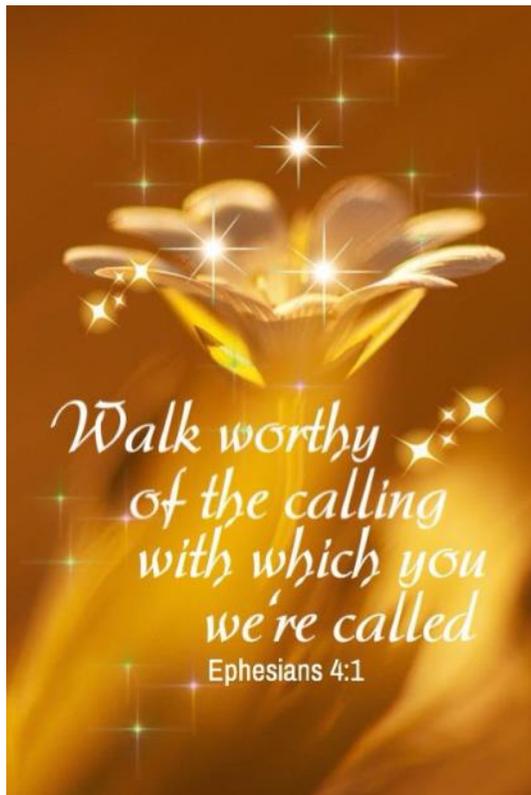
*Holy Communion with Healing Service*  
10:00 AM

*Pancake Luncheon*  
immediately following the worship service

**Tuesday, March 5th**  
Shrove Tuesday

**Wednesday, March 6th**  
Ash Wednesday

*A Penitential Office with Holy Communion/  
and Imposition of Ashes*  
7:00 PM





# The Hillside Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF  
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS  
ANGLICAN CHURCH

A PARISH OF  
THE CONVOCATION OF THE WEST,  
PART OF THE  
MISSIONARY DIOCESE OF  
ALL SAINTS IN  
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA

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«AddressBlock»

## Worship Schedule

# St.

Luke's Chapel in the Hills is a traditional Anglican parish which uses the 1928 edition *Book of Common Prayer*. We invite you to join us for worship soon!

***"A place  
where the Bible is taught."***



*Biblical in teaching.  
Liturgical in worship.  
Loving in practice.*

### **First, third, and fifth Sundays of each month**

Holy Communion  
(with Healing Service on First Sunday)  
10:00 AM

### **Second and fourth Sundays each month**

Office of Daily Morning Prayer  
10:00 AM

Said Holy Communion  
noon

Please note that both services on Feast Days occurring on these Sundays will be Holy Communion.