A Publication of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills Anglican Church

The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: Born of the Spirit and Led by Him

Im my article for the June edition of our monthly newsletter, I referred to the importance of growing in the Holy Spirit day by day. Without being born of water and of the Holy Spirit, one cannot enter the king-

dom of God, as our Lord declared to Nicodemus in **St. John** 3:5. Jesus explains "born again" (St. **John** 3:3) as born of water and the Holy Spirit (St. John 3:5). The water Jesus refers to is the water of Holy Baptism, and from the

Church's earliest days, the Holy Spirit has been understood to be bestowed by God on the new believer in Christian Baptism. To this, St. Paul testifies:

> For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one

body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. *I Corinthians 12:13*, KJV

St. Paul in this way indicates that by means of



the Holy Spirit believers are baptized into the Church, the Body of Christ, and given the Holy Spirit to drink, in a manner of speaking. St. John describes this Baptism in terms of being born again, or born from above (the same Greek word *anothen* means "again", "from above", or "from heaven"), and more specifically being born of water and the Spirit. These terms taken together (baptized by one Spirit into one body, made to drink of one Spirit, and being born of water and the Spirit) all describe a

> radically new creation of God when a person is baptized. To underscore the difference between ordinary human birth and birth by the Spirit, the Lord further explained to Nicodemus. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh:

and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (*St. John 3:6*, KJV).

Now this does not imply that a person who is not baptized and not a Christian has no human spirit, but that the spirit, the immortal soul of eve-

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Born of the Spirit and Led by Him

(Continued from page 1) ry human being that communicates with God, is given a new orientation and life by the Holy Spirit. One could even say that before the Holy Spirit gives birth to the human spirit, the latter spirit has no desire to do God's will. But when the Holy Spirit gives birth to the human spirit, that spirit begins to love God; to love others; to desire to pray; to wish to hear, read and study God's word; to find out God's will; and to obey His will fully. A person's priorities change completely, for he is a new creation in Christ:

> Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. *II Corinthians*

5:17, KJV

Being a new creature in Christ, a Christian must be directed by the Holy Spirit. All the moral commands and teachings in the New Testament, as well as the moral laws of the Old, have the purpose of directing God's people away from what is sinful and unacceptable to Him. and turning them to a whole new and holy way of life that is acceptable and pleasing to Him, thus preparing us for eternal life as God's people. So when the Holy Spirit renews, revives, or gives spiritual rebirth to the human spirit, the human spirit receives the wisdom, knowledge, direction, and divine perspective on life, that God intends us to have. God's priorities for our lives outweigh by far the priorities of man's own understanding, which is why these words are so relevant:

> Trust in the LORD with all thine heart: and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eves: fear the LORD. and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Proverbs 3:5-8

Trusting in the Lord with all one's heart, instead of relying on one's own limited, rational understanding, and consulting the Lord for the direction of one's life, fearing the Lord, and departing from evil— these all characterize the Spirit-led life of the Christian.

But there is another aspect of the Spirit-led life of the Christian which Jesus hints at during His conversation with Nicodemus. After stressing the distinction between being born of the flesh and born of the Spirit, the Lord tells Nicodemus not to marvel that He said that people must be born again, and then He adds this description of everyone who is born of the Spirit:

> The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

> > *St. John 3*:8, KJV

The Greek word pneuma means "wind" as well as "spirit". There is a word play here. But what does Jesus mean? The wind blows where it wills, and the ordinary person hears its sound but does not know where it is coming from or where it is going. The same is true, Jesus says, of everyone who is born of the Holy Spirit. Those who do not have the Spirit directing their lives do not know where the Christian comes from or where he is going (from God's perspective). A literal manifestation of this happened in Acts 8 when Philip the Deacon and Evangelist had explained the Gospel to the Ethiopian eunuch and had baptized him: The Spirit of the Lord then caught away Philip and put him down at Azotus (Acts 8:39-40). From there he preached in all the cities he passed through until he came to Caesarea. When we next read of Philip in *Acts 21*, we see (Continues on page 3)

Born of the Spirit and Led by Him

(Continued from page 2) that St. Paul and his companions stayed with him at Caesarea, and Philip has four daughters who prophesy. So the Holy Spirit directed Philip the Deacon to settle in Caesarea. Yet he began his ministry as one of the first seven deacons ordained in Jerusalem to supervise the daily distribution of food to Christian widows in Jerusalem (Acts 6:1-6).

As we reflect on the role we should play in spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and sharing our faith, let us remember to pray for people to be born again, that they may have eternal life, and that the course of their lives in this world may be directed in all things by the Holy Spirit.

> – The Reverend Christopher Parrish

Five Signs of the Born Again Christian

Confession of Jesus Christ as Lord

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God. *I St. John 5:1*

A Changed Life

Everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. *I St. John 2:29*

Compassion

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. *I St. John 4:7; 3:14*

Conflict

Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. *I St. John 5:4*

Conduct

Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God *I St. John 3:9*

Excerpted from 5 Birthmarks of the Born Again Christian by Dr. David Jeremiah https://www.crosswalk.com/slideshows/5-birthmarksof-the-born-again-christian.html

Our Chapel Family Prayer List

desired:

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; Bishop Richard Lipka; 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

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; all who are suffering from COVID-19 and the medical personnel treating them; Jim and Edna Davis; Estelle Wilson: Jova de Rossett: Debbie; Scott; Brittany; James and Tanya Theiler; Dale Quinn; Brian Quinn; Mark Quinn; Lisa; Ben; Marion; Flo; Max: Dan and Kendra Pack; Ernst Hernandez; the Stanko family; Yoshihiko and Hideko Ikegami; Lori Anderson; Ali Hemphill; Lori Hemphill; Pennel Magaw; Tracy Magaw; Mary Frances Reeves; Maryanne Sanchez; Kaitlyn Lindstedt;

Brenda Terry; Elise: Thomas and MaryAlice Dunbar; Mrs. Kitt; Jon Carter; Marilyn; Frank Capone; the family of John Jerrehian; Rose Handwerker: Ann and Frank MacVoy; Gary Winiger; Bishop Ilgenfritz; Dave Shuman; the Zahrt family; Patti Conner: Barbara Busch; the repose of the soul of Tom Dietz; 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 June 30th, and the people of St. Luke's will pray for each need until we are notified that it has been met. Please contact Father Parrish to add or remove names. Thank you!

A Prayer for Our Congregation

O GOD.

Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful, visit, we pray Thee, the Congregation of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills with Thy love and favour; enlighten our minds more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel; graft in our hearts a love of the truth; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same, O blessed Spirit, whom, with the Father and the Son together, we worship and glorify as one God, world without end. Amen.

In Times of Great Sickness and Mortality For Social Justice



O MOST mighty and merciful God. in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto Thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech Thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ALMIGHTY God. who hast created man in Thine own image; Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil, and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice among men and nations, to the glory of Thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Voices of St. Luke's

ear Readers. I recently sent a request to our Chapel Family for answers to the question "What particular lesson has God revealed to you in your quiet time with Him during this Shelter in Place order?". I would like to make Voices of St. Luke's a regular part of our parish newsletter so that we may all learn from one another and build each other up in Christ. Look for a question for August someday soon! Below are the responses I received to this month's question.

> Your sister, Kim Vogel

I think this time of sheltering in place has reminded me of *Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*, and emphasized to me that everything has its time, even if I do not fully understand the meaning and purpose of a particular season of time that is passing by, until maybe a few years afterwards.

Father Chris Parrish

During this time of "Shelter in Place", I have been taking the time for self reflection and improvement. This means taking personal inventory and sorting my priorities. I have some regrets, but realize it does no good to hold on to them. It is more important to acknowledge the regrets

and mistakes made, to accept them, and to learn from them. This is so I may do better in the future and not make the same mistake again. I hope that I may show myself and reflect on to others of my intention to do my very best to be a better person. I know that God is always with me. He, like what my mother and father had done, will pick me up when I fall, and with His grace and blessings will guide me to a better way. Julia McNeely

*W*hile saying Evening Prayer recently, I stopped to consider my request to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us". Who was committing the greatest sin against me if not I myself? And if I wanted to forgive myself, then I knew I also had to change my ways. I had habits to relinquish and habits to form. The process has been uncomfortable, but God has been very faithful and His Holy Spirit keeps reminding me that these changes are necessary to my spiritual growth, so I am keeping at it with His help.

Kim Vogel

Wow. So much has been going on in the world, and our lives, during this shelter in place order. It's not just Covid-19, it's the fact that companies, states, and other institutions have finally awakened to the injustices of our system in the wake of George Floyd's murder in Minnesota and begun to make what are hopefully meaningful reforms. I've found myself frequently being called back to two key texts of Scripture:

> 1. St. Matthew 25:40-"Assuredly I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." The least of these, the most vulnerable in society-for Covid this means those with compromised immune systems, chronic diseases, blood types more likely to suffer major complications of the virus. the elderly, and so on. If I choose to go out without a mask on because it's uncomfortable for me to wear and because I believe myself to be healthy. I am putting the least of these at risk. By the meaning of St. Matthew 25:40, I am literally seeking to infect my Lord and Savior with a disease.

2. *St. Luke* 15:4 – "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if

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Voices of St. Luke's

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he loses one of them, does not leave the ninetynine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?" This has spoken to me in a number of ways, certainly, in the context of understanding why "All Lives Matter" is a really poor response to "Black Lives Matter", which is something I struggled with before. When a loved one comes to you to tell you they are hurting, one does not respond "Everyone hurts", they respond with love

and care for the specific pain. A black colleague at work explained to me how he was taught that the first thing you do when you get in a car is to take your wallet out of your pocket and put it in a cup holder in the car so that if you are stopped, the police can see what you are reaching for so you don't get shot. This shocked me, and initially struck me as paranoia, but when you look at the litany of people of color who have been killed in traffic stops and similar situations you realize it's only paranoia

to me, as I have never been in that demographic. It began to change my understanding.

But there's a second context for me—realizing I always have a large handful of things (perhaps not 100) that I'd like to be doing. This Scripture and the perilous times in which we are living has helped me to realize how I need to focus on the very few things that matter the most. I must leave the 99 and seek the one I have lost/neglected: Focusing on making a positive difference for my loved ones, even if it is in small ways to remind them they are loved!

Deacon Peter Vogel



Parish Postings

Until we may meet face-to-face again, our Chapel Family is meeting via Zoom teleconferencing for Morning Prayer on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Worshipping together at a distance is not quite the same as sharing a pew at the Chapel, but it is still a joy to worship in a group and share a few minutes of fellowship afterward. Please join us, and invite your friends!

Note: If you prefer not to appear on the teleconference, you can still join us by phoning in to the meeting.

If you are new to using Zoom, the first thing to do is download the **free** Zoom app onto your computer, tablet, or phone. Do this well before the meeting.. It only takes a few minutes. Your device should have an internet connection, microphone, and speaker. Your device needs to have a camera if you want to see the group and be seen. Of course, smartphones and most computers already have all of that. On a Mac or PC just go to https://Zoom.us/download to get the app. To get the app on your phone, go to the appropriate app store and download it.

Father Parrish will e-mail a reminder with the meeting link and password a few days before we meet for Morning Prayer. He will also e-mail the bulletin for the weeks we worship via Zoom.

Then when it's time to begin Morning Prayer, click on our meeting link. If the site asks for the meeting password, type it in. Type in your name if it asks. The site may ask if you want to connect to the meeting with video or not. Please do. Then it will ask if you want to connect with computer audio; click that, and you're all set. See you Sunday!



T he Vestry will meet on Sunday, July 19th, at 11:30 AM. The meeting will take place via Zoom following Morning Prayer at 10:00 AM and a period of fellowship. Any interested parishioner is invited to attend (just remain on the teleconference from Morning Prayer).



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Parish Postings

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As we cannot pass the Alms Basin during teleconference worship services, please mail your tithes and offerings to:

St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills 26140 Duval Way Los Altos Hills, California 94022-4413

Thank you!



Our ongoing ministry collecting non-perishable foods for the Downtown Palo Alto Food Closet is particularly important for our neighbors who are financially insecure during the Covid-19 pandemic. If you are able to take grocery donations to the Food Closet, please do. The need is urgent. The Food Closet is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM (Thursday to 6:30 PM). Donors may bring groceries and distribution items to the Food Closet at 425 Hamilton Avenue in Palo Alto on the All Saints' Church campus. Use the side door which is located to the left of the trash area to avoid the line.

If you are unable to deliver donations, you may send a check to the Food Closet in care of All Saints' Church (please make the check payable to All Saints' Church and write *Food Closet* on the memo line):

All Saints' Episcopal Church 555 Waverley Street Palo Alto, California 94301

Thank you!



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Parish Postings

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News from the Chapel Campus:

• Elodia Fernandez Boreham, our Treasurer, reports that she has exchanged our large garbage bin for a smaller one. Since solid waste charges are calculated solely by the size of the garbage bin, this will save St. Luke's money. The recycling and Clean Green bins remain the same as before. Thank you, Elodia!



• Clark Patteson, our Senior Warden, stopped by the Chapel recently and notes that all the windows were washed in June by Cathy's Cleaning (instead of cleaning the Chapel and McNeely Hall as they would usually have done). Thank you, Clark!



• Clark also reports that the new security cameras are working well. On his visit, he noticed that a large pile of wood chips had been dumped at the end of the parking lot. He reviewed the tape and noted the license plate of the people who did the dumping; when he encountered that vehicle while out and about, he asked that the wood chips be spread out on our grounds as mulch, and the people who had mistakenly dumped the chips did as he asked. Thanks again, Clark!



Upcoming Events

St.

Luke's Chapel in the Hills continues closed in compliance with State of California and County of Santa Clara Shelter in Place orders to slow the spread of Covid-19. We continue to meet online, however, and pray you will join us (see *Parish Postings*).

Friday, July 3rd Day of Fasting and Prayer

> Saturday, July 4th Independence Day

Sunday, July 5th The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer via Zoom 10:00 AM

> **Friday, July 10th** Day of Fasting and Prayer

Sunday, July 12th The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Office of Morning Prayer via Zoom 10:00 AM

> **Friday, July 17th** Day of Fasting and Prayer

Sunday, July 19th The Sixth Sunday after Trinity Office of Morning Prayer via Zoom 10:00 AM

> Vestry Meeting via Zoom 11:30 AM

Friday, July 24th Day of Fasting and Prayer

Sunday, July 26th The Seventh Sunday after Trinity Office of Morning Prayer via Zoom 10:00 AM

> **Friday, July 31st** Day of Fasting and Prayer

Sunday, August 2nd The Eighth Sunday after Trinity Office of Morning Prayer via Zoom 10:00 AM

GOD BLESS AMERICA





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.