



# The Hillside Messenger

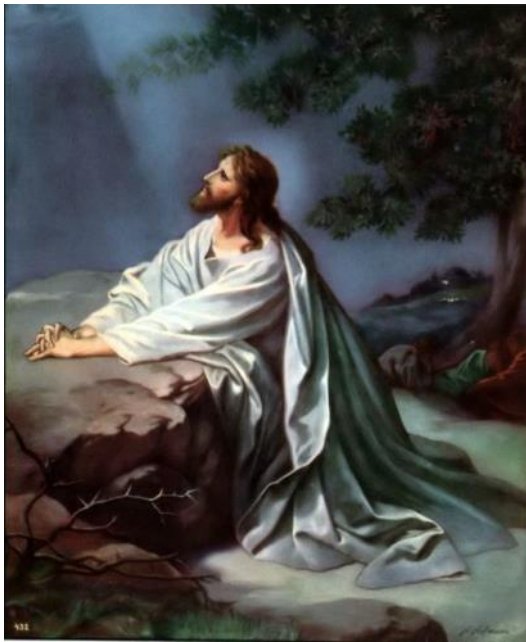
## A Message from the Rector: The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Faithfulness

**The** seventh fruit of the Holy Spirit as listed in *Galatians 5:22-23* is faith (KJV) or faithfulness (NKJV, ASV, RSV, NRSV, NASB, NIV, ESV, and others). The Greek word *pistis* can be translated either as “faith” or “faithfulness”, but the context seems to require “faithfulness” as most translations subsequent to the King James Version express it. Further to this, it is self-evident that faith is essential for a person to be saved eternally through the Lord Jesus Christ. There is also a spiritual gift of faith listed as one of the spiritual gifts or *charisms* in *I Corinthians 12:4-11*. This is the kind of faith required for healings and miracles as well as for great spiritual exploits. Distinct from this and yet related to it is the fruit of faithfulness. Synonyms for this virtue are

fidelity, trustworthiness, and loyalty. An example of where this meaning is clearly used is *Revelation 2:10*, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I shall give thee the crown of life.” This verse is often printed on Confirmation

as “the faithful witness” in *Revelation 1:5*, the Greek word for “witness” being *martys* from which we derive our English word “martyr”.

If we consider martyrdom as the extreme example of faithfulness as a Christian, then it is quite clear that apathy and sloth have nothing to do with faithfulness. Faithfulness has to do with constancy and zeal for the Lord, for the Christian faith, and for the Gospel. Faithfulness is loyal faith expressed in a spiritual life of love for God and for one’s neighbor. It is reflected in daily prayer and Bible study; growing obedience to God; times of quiet in the presence of the Lord; regular church attendance; and regular gifts of one’s resources to the Church in terms of money, time, service, and fellowship.



certificates as a reminder to the recipients to continue to be loyal to Christ and constant in faith and trustworthiness to the end of their lives. Our greatest example of faithfulness is the Lord Jesus Christ, who is described

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## *The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Faithfulness*

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We all want to be found faithful at work, arriving punctually, completing our work in the allocated time, and not wasting our employer's time or money. No one likes to be told, as I was abruptly told by a South African Infantry Sergeant Major when he looked at my target after rifle shooting practice, "You're just wasting government money!"

Since we are Christians, we must be faithful

faithful in my way of life as a Christian, even if the Lord Jesus were to come today or if I should go to be with Him today?"

The Parable of the Talents (*St. Matthew 25:14-30*) emphasizes the need for faithfulness through the commendation of the servants who wisely used, or invested, the money entrusted to them by their master and the rejection of the servant who failed to make any use of the money entrusted to his care. In terms

which people could easily understand, Jesus tells this story to underscore the necessity of faithfulness in using the gifts entrusted by the Lord to His disciples. The unprofitable servant's fear of his master is not allowed as a reason for his unfaithfulness and laziness. The Lord requires our faithful service according to our

ability. The servant who received two talents and made a profit of another two talents was approved for his faithful service and wise use of what had been given to him. He was not compared to the servant who had received and done more. God requires of each one of us a faithful use of whatever gift or gifts His Holy Spirit has distributed to us (*I Corinthians 12:11*): we are not expected to use any spiritual gifts He has not given us.

Our attitude toward and use of the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, also are a test of our faithfulness. Are we more concerned to pick and choose from the Bible what it suits us to believe, or do we accept its power as God's Word, the supreme guide for living, according to *II Timothy 3:16*? For example, some theologians teach that the gifts of healing and prophecy were only for the first century AD, while the Church was being established. While St. Paul admits that not all Christians have these gifts (*I Corinthians 12:29-30*), nowhere does he teach that any of the spiritual gifts has ceased to be given or used. Faithfulness in sharing and teaching the Bible and the Christian faith as Anglican Christianity has received it necessarily means that we share and teach the whole of God's Word. This includes the moral law of the Old Testament and its fundamental revelation of all that God requires of His people as shown in the Law, the Prophets, the Writings and the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament. Faithfulness to the Bible means that we regard the Bible as "containing all things necessary to salvation" (Article VI of *The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion*). This being so, we must not live in ignorance of the Bible's

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***"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.***

***"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!***

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to Christ in all that we do, whether it be work, recreation, or church attendance. Continually, we must look to the example of the Lord Jesus Christ as the "faithful witness" and measure our attitude and conduct in all of life, but especially in our times of trial, in terms of His example. Faithfulness is applicable to all of our worship and life in the presence of God. One question that will help us in our self-examination is, "Will God find me

## *The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Faithfulness*

(Continued from page 2)  
teachings and commands, for to do so means we are living in ignorance of Christ (St. Jerome). Therefore we must read and study the Bible not only individually, but also in communion with the Church as we hear it and read it in the liturgy (Pope Benedict XVI). We must be faithful in both our individual study of Holy Scripture and also our corporate worship in which we gather, amongst other purposes, “to hear God’s most holy Word” (Exhortation to the General Confession from the Orders for Daily Morning and Evening Prayer, *Book of Common Prayer*, 1928).

But faithfulness embraces not only reading and studying God’s Word but also “inwardly digesting it” (Cranmer), that is, internalizing it and obeying it. If we fail “to follow the blessed steps of Christ’s most holy life” (Collect for the Second Sunday after Easter, *Book of Common Prayer*, 1928), what good has our Bible study done for us?

Faithfulness to Christ, to the Bible, and to the Gospel also entails faithfulness to the Church’s traditions as we have received them in Anglicanism. Growing older does not mean that we can jettison the Church. Unless we are incapacitated or away on vacation, we should aim to worship God in com-

pany with our fellow parishioners every Sunday or as often as possible. We should be faithful in giving of our financial resources to the Lord and in serving God faithfully in the ministries to which He has called us.

A point that has been neglected in the life of the Church is to share with others the whole Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the whole faith. The Church does this through catechesis, the course of preparation for Holy Baptism or Confirmation. Too often, this vital process of transmitting the faith to a younger generation has been left to the clergy of the Church. Every Christian parent has a responsibility both to model and to teach the Christian way of life to his or her children. Too little of this teaching of the faith has happened in many Christian homes, the result being that as the children grow up, it becomes easier for them to misunderstand and reject Christianity in favor of the sins and attractions of modern culture. In this way, we contribute to the growing Biblical illiteracy of the modern world and young Christians grow up with uncertainty about the central truths and doctrines of the Christian faith.

It is apparent that faithfulness covers many aspects of the Christian life, both individual and corporate. Yet the most important is faithfulness in our love for God and

one another as called for by the Two Great Commandments given us by the Lord Jesus Christ (*St. Matthew 22:37-39*) but found also in the Old Testament (*Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18*). I end with a prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556) which illustrates Christian faithfulness and perseverance:

Teach us, good  
Lord, to  
serve Thee as  
Thou de-  
servest;  
To give, and not  
to count the  
cost,  
To fight, and not  
to heed the  
wounds,  
To toil, and not  
to seek for  
rest,  
To labor, and not  
to ask for any  
reward,  
Save that of  
knowing that  
we do Thy  
will.

Will you continue to be faithful as a soldier of Christ in your spiritual warfare against the hosts of evil in our world today? Will you continue to love and follow Jesus Christ as Lord? Finally, will you faithfully do battle against sin and evil as you undertook to do at your Baptism or Confirmation? May God assist us all as we nurture His gift of faithfulness in our daily lives!

– The Reverend  
Christopher Parrish

## Pray for US

The 65th annual National Day of Prayer, May 5, 2016, will have profound significance for our country. It is an unprecedented opportunity to see the Lord's healing and renewing power made manifest as we call on citizens to humbly come before His throne.

The theme for 2016 is Wake Up America, emphasizing the need for individuals, corporately and individually, to return to

the God of our Fathers in reverence for His Holy Name. To further highlight this theme, *Isaiah 58:1a* has been chosen as the Scripture for this year: "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet."

For the May 5th observances, Dr. Tony Evans, the 2016 Honorary Chairman, wrote a special prayer (below) to be simultaneously read throughout the nation at noon (ET). This recitation will create a huge wave of prayer, flowing from one coast to the other, illustrating the unity of God's people and acknowledging His dominion over the circumstances facing us.



Dear heavenly Father, we come to You today as a humble people desperate for Your supernatural intervention on behalf of our beloved nation. First, we thank You for all the blessings You have bestowed on our land, blessings that have allowed us to bring so much good and benefit to not only our own citizens but also to the rest of the world. The very ideals upon which this country was founded were based on biblical truths, no matter how some try to rewrite history to deny that very fact today.

This is why our hearts are so broken over how You continue to be marginalized and dismissed by both our people and our institutions. We are also saddened by the fact that Your people have contributed greatly to the spiritual apathy that now engulfs us. Our satisfaction in remaining religious without being fully committed to living out the truths of Your Word has caused us to become co-conspirators with the forces of evil that are destroying us as a society.

It is for this reason that we personally and collectively repent of our carnality and recommit ourselves to becoming visible and verbal disciples of Jesus Christ. Enable us, by Your Spirit, to no longer be secret agent Christians but rather to publicly declare and live out Your truth in a spirit of love so that You feel welcome in our country once again.

Thank You for Your promise to hear our prayers when we call to You with hearts of repentance and obedience, which is how we are appealing to You today, Father. On behalf of Your church, we affirm afresh the priority You are to us that You would fill every dimension of our lives as we seek to bring You glory through the advancement of Your kingdom in our personal lives, our family lives, and in the lives of our churches and our government leaders. We confidently invite heaven's intervention into all the affairs of our nation and we praise You in advance for Your answer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Stirred by God

**If** you have read this series from the beginning, you will recall that it all began with Father Parrish's December 2015 article "Stirred to Wakefulness" in which he spoke about how a Christmas pudding illustrated the work of God in our lives, likening a woman making Christmas pudding by stirring all the ingredients together to the work of the Holy Spirit on the wills of His faithful people to lead them to fervency of devotion and obedience to the Lord.

This illustration was inspired by the Collect for the Sunday next before Advent:

Stir up, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the wills of Thy faithful people; that they, plentifully bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by Thee be plentifully rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Like many good prayers, this collect is empowered by Holy Scripture. As God declares in *Isaiah 55:11*, His Word will not return to Him empty but will accomplish what He desires and achieve the purpose for which He sent it. This collect references *Philippians 2:13*, here taken from the Amplified



***Now may the God of peace,  
who through the blood of the eternal covenant  
brought back from the dead  
our Lord Jesus,  
that great Shepherd of the sheep,  
equip you with everything good for doing His will,  
and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him,  
through Jesus Christ,  
to whom be glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.***

**Hebrews 13:20-21, NIV**

Version:

For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the abil-

ity to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure.

I like the Amplified Version's footnote to this verse: "God supports the believer, but it is the believer's responsibility to do what he has been called by God to do." God stirs us up to desire to do His will. He even goes so far as to supply us with His power to accomplish the task He sets us, but we must step up in faith, agreeing to work with Him and for Him, to do it. We **must** act.

Every believer has some vital work to do for God<sup>1</sup>. Scripture assures us that the Holy Spirit has given each of us gifts<sup>2</sup> with which we are to build up the Body of Christ for His glory<sup>3</sup>. Do each

of us know what our gifts are? How has God called us to use them to magnify His holy Name? God has already stirred up in us the sincere wish to do what He asks. He has given us the ability to accomplish it. Let us all say, "Yes, Lord," and get to work!

– Kim Vogel

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### Footnotes

1. *Ephesians 2:10*
  2. *Romans 12:6-8*;  
*I Corinthians 12:8-11*
  3. *St. John 15:8*;  
*Romans 15:17*;  
*I Corinthians 12:7*;  
*I Corinthians 14:12*;  
*Ephesians 3:20-21*;  
*I St. Peter 4:11*
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## Parish Postings

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord will be celebrated on Thursday, May 5th, with Holy Communion at 7:00 PM.



St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills has now been received and welcomed as the newest Forward in Faith parish, and our contact details are now listed on the Forward in Faith website:

<http://www.fifna.org/parish/st-lukes-chapel-hills/>

Sunday, May 8th, is Forward in Faith Sunday. Father Parrish will share more information about this organization on that day.



Please bring your mother to church with you on Mothers' Day, Sunday,

May 8th. In addition to the blessing of worshipping together, sharing your love of God is a wonderful way to honor and thank God for the mother He gave you!



As of Wednesday, April 6, 2016, St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills is now a parish of the Anglican Convocation of the West (COW), a part of the Missionary Diocese of All Saints (MDAS) of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). Our provincial, diocesan, and convocational pastors are:

**ACNA Primate**  
The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach

**MDAS Ordinary**  
The Right Rev. William Ilgenfritz

**COW Vicar-General**  
The Right Rev. Winfield Mott  
(whose term will end with his retirement August 31, 2016)

**COW Vicar-General**  
The Rev. Canon Michael Penfield  
(whose term will begin September 1, 2016)



The Vestry has chosen to raise funds for the America Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure as the second quarter Community Missions Project. If you wish to donate to this project, please make a note of your contribution on your check memo line or offertory envelope. Thank you!



If you have a key to the Chapel, please let Father Parrish know by e-mail as soon as possible. He is making a list of all who have keys. If anyone has a key to the Chapel which they no longer need, please turn it in to Father Parrish right away. Thank you!

ChristopherParrish7@gmail.com



## *Upcoming Events*

### **Thursday, May 5th**

The Feast of the Ascension

*Holy Communion*

7:00 PM

### **Sunday, May 8th**

The Sunday after Ascension

Forward in Faith Sunday

Mothers' Day

*Bible Study: Romans*

9:15 AM

*Office of Daily Morning Prayer*

10:00 AM

*Holy Communion*

noon

### **Sunday, May 15th**

The Feast of Pentecost, commonly called Whitsunday

*Bible Study: Romans*

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM

*Vestry Meeting*

immediately following the worship service

### **Saturday, May 21st**

*Joanna's Circle*

9:30 AM

### **Sunday, May 22nd**

Trinity Sunday

*Bible Study: Romans*

9:15 AM

*Office of Daily Morning Prayer*

10:00 AM

*Holy Communion*

noon

### **Sunday, May 29th**

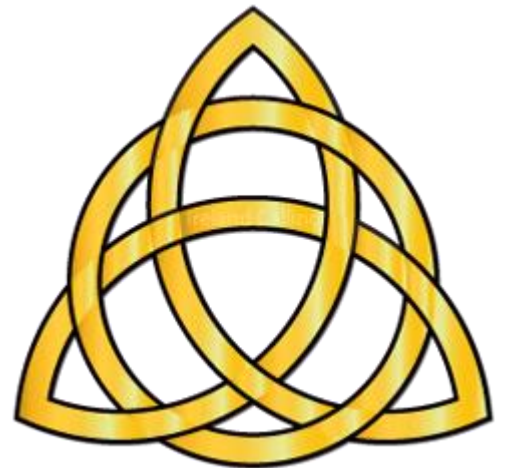
The First Sunday after Trinity

*Bible Study: Romans*

9:15 AM

*Holy Communion*

10:00 AM





# The Hillside Messenger

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

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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 Sunday of each month**

Holy Communion with Healing Service  
10:00 AM

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

Office of Daily Morning Prayer  
10:00 AM

Said Holy Communion  
noon

### **Third and fifth Sunday each month and Feast Days**

Holy Communion  
10:00 AM