



We are a diverse community of faith called by God to love, worship, pray, support, and serve.

Your Vicar's View †

Taste and see that the LORD is good. [Psalm 34.8]

Sara Miles entered an Episcopal church for the first time when she was forty-six years old. In the Prologue to her memoir, *Take this Bread* (New York: Ballantine Books, 2007) she describes that experience as follows:

Eating Jesus, as I did that day to my great astonishment, led me against all my expectations to a faith I'd scorned and to work I'd never imagined. The mysterious sacrament turned out to be not a symbolic wafer at all but actual food – indeed, the bread of life. In that shocking moment of communion, filled with a deep desire to reach for and become part of a body, I realized that what I'd been doing with my life all along was what I was meant to do: feed people. . . . It turned out that the prerequisite for conversion . . . was hunger, the same hunger I had always carried. . . . I wound up not in what church people like to call 'a community of believers' – which tends to be code for 'a like-minded club' – but in something huger and wilder than I had ever expected: the suffering, fractious, and unboundaried body of Christ. (p. xi, xiv, xv)).

Sara Miles reminds us of what an astonishing experience we share when we gather for the Holy Eucharist each week. I think most of us forget this from time to time. We forget about the Christians around the world whose decision to take communion puts their lives in danger; we get distracted by our own worries and plans; we compare ourselves to the people around us. We become *self-centered* rather than *God-centered*.

Indeed, many of us get lulled by the familiarity of the liturgy. But one reason for having our liturgy – as opposed to regularly changing our prayers and the format for our worship as is done in non-liturgical denominations – is to help us be open to what *God* may be doing in our

souls when we are together – rather than being preoccupied with what *we* are doing. We do not come together to be entertained, or to have someone else pray – or sing or speak – *for* us, but to pray, sing, listen and “have supper with God” together. Our liturgy is a shared language through which we acknowledge that no one can be a Christian alone.

Sara Miles also reminds us that through sharing Holy Communion we open our hearts and minds to new ways to feed others. Her own experience led her to establish a food pantry first at her own church, and then in neighborhoods around San Francisco. Our experience has led us to a new project with St. John's – a cookbook that will include our favorite recipes. All proceeds from sale of the cookbooks will go to the Food Bank of WNY, which supplies food pantries and soup kitchens in communities throughout our region. To fund the production of the book, each church will contribute \$1,000 from our Outreach budget; you can also contribute as a “patron” of the cookbook by writing a check to St. Andrew's with “cookbook” on the memo line. We plan to have the cookbook ready for sale by September, and to have it available at Applefest, St. Andrew's Bazaar, St. Andrew's Community Store, and at Diocesan Convention. We plan a gala event to introduce the book in September, joining together for a potluck dinner made from recipes in the cookbook. Watch for a letter in the next few days explaining the details of how to contribute recipes.

With what joy and gratitude we come together to “taste and see” the new wonders that God is working in us!

Judith †

Bricks & Mortar

Your Warden's View



It's a very exciting time at St. Andrew's. We are welcoming new people, making plans, renovating, cleaning, scheduling, meeting and generally buzzing about nicely. That's great and I encourage all of us to continue to grow wherever we are engaged in our parish life.

As we do all of these new and exciting (sometimes scary) things, let us not lose sight of the real "bricks and mortar" that make a church. It's not mined in the Midwest, or manufactured in a cement kiln in the south. The real bricks and mortar that hold us together are the relationships we have: our ongoing relationship with a God who loves us, and the relationships we forge with our brothers and sisters here in Burt and beyond. All solid construction takes time and effort. Take time: time to breathe deeply, time to smile and say

hello, time to sit in a different pew once a year, time to invite someone to sit with you at coffee hour, time to help someone out to their car. In those small and wonderful moments, we live out our opportunity to follow Christ's footsteps.

As Christians we are called to love God above all else, and love one another even as Christ has loved us (John 13.34: *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another*). When figuring out what to do next, let that always be our standard. Let us always pray that today we can be a better brick, more suited to being part of our pathway.

Thank you all for being part of this journey. May we walk together for many years to come.

- Marty Gregg

A Busy Season

Your Deacon's View

This has been a very busy spring. On Saturday, April 30th Bishop Franklin was consecrated and on Sunday May 1st he was seated at St. Paul's Cathedral. There are pictures on the diocesan website of our acolytes who served at the consecration. Four days later I was on my way to Cleveland, Ohio to attend the network meeting for Episcopal Relief and Development as the Diocesan coordinator.

I learned of all the disasters where Episcopal Relief & Development is assisting in the tornado- ravaged areas in Alabama, the southeast, and the Midwest. They are on standby in the Mississippi valley to see what assistance will be needed. This, along with their worldwide projects, is awesome work.

You will be hearing more from me about this, my prison ministry, and my work with the Family Justice Center for victims of domestic violence.

On another note, St. Andrew's has earned \$517.00 to date from the SCRIP cards and TOPS cards. Please let me know in advance what kind of cards you want so I can have them when you need them.

Blessings,
- Deacon Rocky



Money Matters - Treasurer's Report

Financial Status as of April 30, 2011

Total Expenses	\$48,640
Actual Income	\$41,446
Income equals	85.2% of Expenses

- Mike Depew

Sunday School

"It's Electric !"



The feeling that ran through our Sunday School classes this past year resembled the dance craze from the 90's called the "Electric Slide". Everyone is electric with a powerful spirit moving through them. This spirit is not only the Holy Spirit, but also a spirit of joyful friendships filled with love for one another. We are a diverse group, coming from many different school districts. On Sunday, one and all meet and greet each other in great anticipation of bonding once more on our mornings together.

The young class looks forward to their gospel stories and crafts; the middle class has grown in friendships and in their yearning to learn more about Jesus and His journey. The senior class has welcomed each other in their open discussions about the bible and life in general from a teen's point of view.

Throughout the year we have learned and experienced the love that Jesus shares with each of us. There is no limit to Jesus' love. Jesus' love is for everybody.

In Sunday School we have studied Jesus' teaching and we have learned that our relationship with our fellow men, women and children is inseparable from our relationship with God. Love of God and love of our neighbors are two aspects of the same calling. *A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another* (John 13:34).

The children want to be here. They look forward to church and hope that when summer comes we can still come and worship together and keep our friendships strong.

- The Sunday School Staff



Musical Notes



Wow! It seems like just yesterday that I sat down to write my first newsletter article for the year back in August! As I sit here, I find myself amazed that we are already wrapping up our choir year. How time flies when you are busy and having fun!

This past year has been dynamic and fun for the choir at St. Andrew's. As we approach the end of our season, I am very excited to say that your choir has continued to flourish and support the overall mission at St. Andrew's. Through the year, we provided weekly anthems and we participated in additional services and activities by providing meaningful and Spirit-filled music to enhance our worship. And most important, our group has grown in our friendship and faith, by consistently working very hard throughout the year. What a GREAT group of friends we all have become!

I am so pleased to see how the Music Program at St. Andrew's has grown to include the Adult Choir, the Gospel Groove Band, the Brass Ensemble, and the Children's Choir. When I talk with other choir directors about what we have at St. Andrew's, they are absolutely amazed that we are where we are, especially based on the size of our church. God has blessed us in so many ways. We have lots to be thankful for!

To maintain a group like this, it takes a strong sense of commitment and dedication. I am very proud to say that I see these traits in every single one of our choir members. As you hear every Sunday, their work has brought meaningful messages to our Church, with our main focus being on the cross as we prepared and shared our anthems with you.

As we prepare for our "summer vacation," I wish to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to every member of our choir, to Pastor Judith and Deacon Rocky, and to all who supported and encouraged us through the year. Week after week, these folks have come to rehearsal, attended services, and extended themselves to include other activities. Please know that as Choir Director I certainly appreciate your time, talent and effort. I am proud to be associated with this choir and with each of you individually.

On a personal note, as I prepare for the summer, I wish to thank all the members of St. Andrew's for your smiles, friendship, comments and commitment to our choir. Please know that all those things mean a great deal to me. What a great Christian Community!

May God bless all of you through the summer and always!

- Joe Breczka, Jr.

Vestry Highlights

May 11, 2011

Resolved:

- ✓ Authorized title of Fish Fry proceeds (\$1,000) to be given to the Newfane Community Food Pantry
- ✓ Authorized payment of fees for Senior High conference for Seth Gregg
- ✓ Authorized development of a cookbook as a shared project with St. John's
 - To provide \$1,000 in start-up funds
 - To be subsidized by "patron" fees
 - Not to solicit advertising from local vendors
 - Proceeds to benefit the Food Bank of WNY
- ✓ Authorized payment of \$750 to Cutting Edge to remove 4 trees from the front of the church property
- ✓ Authorized professional evaluation of asbestos content in the floor of the sanctuary
 - Martin Gregg will arrange for this inspection
- ✓ Authorized expenditure of \$200 for flowers to be planted on the grounds
- ✓ Authorized use of Memorial Funds to purchase a Deacon's dalmatic to match the chasuble for festive liturgies
- ✓ Authorized use of St. Andrew's undercroft to two groups, pending building use agreement and completion of liability waiver
 - Dottie Ryers' line dancing class on Tuesday evenings in July & August
 - Painting class, formerly taught by Judy Bowers, on Monday evenings
- ✓ Authorized a Gifts Survey of the congregation developed by Natalie Beilein to be distributed in September
 - Martin Gregg will help with designing an online version of the survey
- ✓ Authorized a new Parish Directory. Kathy Massie will lead this project
- ✓ Authorized ending of contributions to Adopt-a-Teen and transfer of those monies to the general outreach fund

Discussion:

- ✓ Bill Buchanan will chair the Building and Grounds Team while Larry Waters is away during June & July.
- ✓ Considered a proposal to purchase membership in NAEIR; decision on this matter was postponed to June, after Vestry members have done more research on the usefulness of the products that are available
- ✓ Parish Nurse Judy Naylor announced preliminary arrangements to have a Red Cross CPR Certification Course at St. Andrew's in September or October
- ✓ Deacon Rocky announced that the SCRIP program will have a profit of \$517 as of 5/15/2011. We are therefore on track to earn over \$1,000 for the year from the program
- ✓ Deacon Rocky attended the national workshop for Episcopal Relief and Development. He will work with both St. Andrew's & St. John's to expand our participation with ER-D
- ✓ The carpet in the entry and the undercroft floor will be cleaned on May 24, 25, & 26
- ✓ The pole and stand currently holding the new Church Banner will be returned to the Legion, who loaned it to the Scout troop several years ago.

Would you like to have your monthly newsletter e-mailed to you rather than having us print it?
(It costs St. Andrew's approximately \$1.08 to print and mail each newsletter)

Why not "**Go Green**" and have us e-mail your copy to you? You will get it sooner, all pictures will be in color, and you will save the church over \$1.00 every month.

Just let Mike know and he will take care of it. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Bazaar Preparation

The first craft meetings for this year's Bazaar will be on:
Mondays, June 6th & 20th at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

Additional dates to be announced later.

Coffee and dessert will be served.

If you have a craft, please bring it. If you would like to do one at home, let Darcy know.

We can always use new ideas.

Please check the church bulletin board for more information.

Remember to keep your calendars open on **Saturday, November 12th** for the Bazaar!

Even though it's early, please be thinking about your donations for the Bazaar. Below are some suggested items:

Country Store

Jams / Jellies / Pickles

Chili Sauce, Salsa, etc.

Dried Herbs / Spices / Flowers

Produce: Squash, Cauliflower,

Broccoli, etc. (fresh that week)

Candy Booth

Sugar

Nuts

Chocolate Bits / Chips

Butter

Brown Sugar

Basket Auction

Think about donating a basket.

Sign up sheet will be at Church in September.

Remember the Bake Sale

Breads / Pies / Cookies / Cakes, etc.

Thank you, Darcy Buchanan

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES for June



Birthdays

1st Matthew Pestinger & Natalie Moreland

2nd Robert Beilein, Sophie & Clara Matton

4th Molly Balk

5th Liz Gilson

7th Nancy Reinhardt & Jim Jones

9th Zachary Roeseler

14th Christine Waters

17th Katherine & Kelly Bochnewetch

20th Chad Gilson & Father Jim Massie

21st Kyle Lyon & Deacon Rocky Dworak

23rd Gary Cheasty & Scott Hedley

24th Bridget Breczka & Bob Heineman

26th Mark Seeloff

28th Jessica Condes

29th Katherine Shaeffer & Doug Wintersteen

30th Paul Villeneuve

Anniversaries



1st Doug & Bonnie Wintersteen

7th Jeffrey & Michelle Munger

9th Jerry & Cindy Harrington

15th Gary & Pat Few

28th Martin & Ann Schulze

29th James & Paula Jones



News and Notes



Altar Flowers – It is our custom for individuals or families to provide the flowers at the altar each Sunday. Please sign up on the Flower Chart in the narthex for any date during the year (except for Advent & Lent)—in thanksgiving, in memory of a loved one, or in observance of a special anniversary or occasion. The cost is \$35; checks should be payable to Pallister House, and given to Mike Depew by the Thursday before the date for which the flowers will be ordered.

SCRIP and TOPS cards – As you plan your spring projects at home and in your garden, please consider purchasing cards for Home Depot or Lowe’s from Deacon Rocky. He will order the cards for you, and they will arrive within 2 weeks; at no cost to you, St. Andrew’s will earn a percentage of your costs. Please consider planning your grocery budget by using TOPS cards that you purchase from Rocky each month; cards are available every Sunday, and Rocky can arrange to have cards available for you on a designated Sunday every month. At no cost to you, St. Andrew’s will earn 5% on your purchases.

St. Andrew’s Community Store needs volunteers, especially on Saturdays. If you can help out one Saturday morning or afternoon a month, or at other times to help sort items or clean, or if you can be a substitute worker, please see Cindy Harrington. Make it a family affair. Earn Community Service hours. Meet new people. Contribute to the community.

Diocesan Summer Camps – St. Andrew’s will pay the full cost of camp for any young person. Any child or youth hoping to attend camp this summer should write a note to the Vestry by **June 8th**.

Benefit for Michael Vogt- Please plan to join the community for some fun, good food, and a great selection of baskets on **June 4th, 2-8 p.m.** at the Wright's Corners Fire Hall

Ordination of Jeff Edmister to the Vocational Diaconate on **Saturday, June 4th at 10:30 a.m.** at Christ Church-Lockport. If you would like to contribute toward a gift for Jeff, please write a check to St. Andrew’s with “Jeff Edmister” on the memo line.

Book Club – will meet at Stacy’s on **Thursday, June 30th at 7 p.m.** The book for discussion will be *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall & Denver Moore. Please consider taking part, even if it’s for the first time. The group is slightly different every month, and you can join in at any time. For more information please speak with Stacy Lampman.

Pentecost Birthday Celebration – On **June 12th**, we will continue our tradition of celebrating our birthdays on the Birthday of the Church. We will have twelve cakes at twelve tables—one for each month of the year, and everyone with a birthday in that month will celebrate together. Please plan to join in this celebration and get to know other people who share your birthday month! If you can bake a cake for your month, please sign up in the narthex. **The service will begin at 10:45.**

Youth Recognition Sunday – June 5th – Every child and youth will have a role in the liturgy if they wish; we will have some special music, and our high-school students will present a skit for the sermon. On this day we celebrate the faithful and creative work of our teachers, students, acolytes, and their mentors. We have been so blessed at St. Andrew’s—please plan to join in the celebration of the abundance of talent and grace that we share!

Summer Sunday Service at 8 a.m. – During July and August we will have an additional service of Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. at St. John’s. This will be a brief, quiet service, without music.



The Day of Pentecost is Sunday June 12th.

Wear Red to church and join in the birthday celebration.

Schedules for June 2011



Acolytes - 10:00 AM arrival time

5th - Youth Recognition Sunday

All youth will have a role in the liturgy for Youth Recognition Sunday and acolytes are asked to take an active part in the service on this Sunday (music, readings, skits, etc.). The Acolytes scheduled for this service will be announced at a date near the end of May. Thank you all for your service and extra time that you have put forth in the past year.

12th - Pentecost Sunday –The service will begin at 10:45

Zachary Roeseler, Chad Gilson, Matthew Vogt

19th - Seth Gregg, Jonathan Pestinger, Mark Vogt Holy Communion from the Reserve

26th - Jake Knott, Melissa Pestinger, Jacob Roeseler

Lay Readers

- 5th Dorothy Cheasty & Stacy Lampman
- 12th Lisa Roeseler & Lynn Schauer-Bewley
- 19th Shirley Litz & Margaret Moran
- 26th Jerry Harrington & Lynn Schauer-Bewley

Altar Guild

Dorothy Cheasty & Sue Villeneuve

Collection Counters

Bob Heineman & Larry Waters

Dates to Remember



- June 2** 7p.m. Combined choir rehearsal at Christ Church for Jeff Edmister 's Ordination
- June 4** 10:30 a.m. Jeff Edmister Ordination to the Vocational Diaconate at Christ Church
- June 4** 2-8 p.m. Benefit for Michael Vogt at Wrights Corners Fire Hall.
- June 5** Youth Recognition Sunday
- June 6 & 20** 10 a.m. Bazaar Craft Meeting
- June 8** 7 p.m. Vestry meeting
- June 10-11** Judith+ and Deacon Rocky will attend the Diocesan Clergy Retreat
- June 12** Pentecost – Wear *red* to church! The Service begins at 10:45
Birthday celebration after the service
- June 19** Father's Day
Youth Recognition Sunday at St. John's – Judith+ will stay at St. John's
Deacon Rocky will officiate at Holy Communion from the Reserve Sacrament
2 p.m. Service of Holy Communion at Newfane Rehabilitation Center
- June 27** 7 p.m. Covenant Team Meeting at St. Andrew's
- June 29-July 13** Judith+ away on vacation

Looking Ahead



July 3 Father James S. Massie will be celebrant and preacher
Deacon Rocky will be away

July 10 Father Abuid Sam will be celebrant and preacher

◆————◆
August 7 **11 a.m.** Summer Picnic Eucharist with St. John's at Krull Park in Olcott

August 10 **7 p.m.** Vestry meeting

August 21 Father Abuid Sam will be celebrant and preacher

August 15-22 Judith+ will be on vacation

August 28 Celebration of Eva Rose's 95th birthday

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September 11 **Homecoming Sunday**

September 14 **7 p.m.** Vestry meeting

September 24 **2nd Annual Niagara Deanery Chili Cook-Off**

September 23-24 Diocesan Youth Retreat for youth in grades 6-8: *Journeys*

September 26 **7 p.m.** Covenant Team Meeting at St. Andrew's

September 29-October 2 Cursillo Weekend



Book Club

Same Kind of Different as Me

by Ron Hall & Denver Moore

Thursday, June 30 at 7 p.m.

Collection for

Newfane Community Food Pantry

~ "Picnic Items" ~

Please contribute whatever you are able **by June 26th**.

If you have any questions contact Judi Naylor at 778-9774 or Sue Villeneuve at 778-5554.

Paper plates & cups, napkins, disposable silverware

cookies, chips, baked beans

mustard, relish, ketchup

juice, bottled water, fruit punch

pasta and any other picnic items



**Preached by The Rev. Sean Mullen
at the Installation of The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin,
XI Bishop of Western New York
at Saint Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo May 1, 2011**

Before this weekend I was connected to Buffalo by a single bottle of wine. I have never been to this city before. I have never visited nearby Niagara Falls. Although I was brought up in New York, as far as I know I have never been to this part of the state before. And the bottle of wine that connected me to Buffalo did not come from the nearby wine-producing region along the shores of Lake Erie. It was a bottle of red, of un-identified (or at least un-memorable) variety. It was consumed, at least in part, by me in the basement kitchen of your new bishop's apartment at the General Seminary when he was my professor there. I feel quite certain that part of the bottle of wine was consumed by him. The wine was made by Bishop Franklin's father-in-law, Carmela's father, Joe, who had obviously imported some of his Old World ways to the New World. I suspect the wine was made in his garage in North Buffalo. It was, if memory serves me, a gallon bottle: the kind with a little round handle up at the neck, what can only be called a jug. And without meaning to be at all unkind to Joe, I seem to recall that the quality of the wine – while not at all unpleasant – was appropriate to its container. Let me put it this way: it had a screw-cap, back in the days when that told you everything you needed to know about a bottle of wine.

I do not know where the grapes for that wine came from. . . . I only know that I drank a goodly portion of the wine with my professor, your bishop, and I believe we enjoyed every drop!

I have since learned that if you want to make *good* wine you must begin in the vineyard; this is where all good wine begins – where the vines are carefully trellised and pruned, and the rain and the sun dispense their gifts of moisture and warmth in just the right measure, and the vines yield luscious, ripe grapes that are ready at harvest time to be pressed, and fermented, and aged, and then bottled, in time.

Good wine begins in the vineyard.

The winery is a different matter. It is here that the winemaker applies his art – in better vintages, to extract the glories of the grapes; and in lesser vintages to compensate for their shortcomings. It's in the winery that the must (the juice from the crushed grapes) is allowed to ferment, the barrels are chosen and prepared, where the maturing wine is monitored and adjusted, blended and finessed. The wine will be dispensed into its bottles, the labels affixed, and the marketing plan for the wine begun in the winery, and lots of other good and important work. But good wine is not really made in a winery.

Good wine is made in the vineyard, because it all begins in the vineyard.

Leaving the vineyard aside for just a moment, these days in the church we often feel beset by problems: by shrinking congregations, shrinking budgets, shrinking prestige, shrinking promise. It is easy to feel as if something is slipping away from us; something that we have loved and thought that we could count on, but which has grown fragile and oddly sort of un-graspable . . . And I want to suggest to you today that these are, by and large, winery problems. They are not at all un-important or insignificant, but they are experienced and dealt with in the confines of the winery. And when they are, it seems as though production comes to a halt, the bottling is shut down, and even the wine maturing in barrels seems imperiled. And the hard part about being a bishop, if you ask me, is that you agree to take a job in the winery – where all this stuff plays out, and where every difficulty, challenge, conflict, and problem comes across your desk and invades your prayers.

Meanwhile, we parish priests know that our work is not in the winery, it is in the vineyard. We walk every day among the vines of our little plots of land. We've seen the vines flourish or wither. We have baptized new vines and buried old, dead ones. We have sometimes done some pruning, but mostly our vines are self-pruning, for better or worse. . . . Some of us have been working with the same vines for a long time, some of us have a long time yet to go in the same vineyard. And we know that we will be working in the vineyard rain or shine, hurricane or hail, blight or bliss. We love our annual visitation from the winery, mind you, but we suspect that our experience of the wine-making process is fundamentally different out in the vineyard than it is in the winery.

Reflecting on all this, some time ago I tried to eliminate a word from my vocabulary. That word is *success*. It can be hard to decide that we don't want to be successful. But search the New Testament for it and you will have a hard time finding the word there. . . . *Fruitfulness*, on the other hand, is very much a New Testament idea. And I contend that fruitfulness will not always look like success. Indeed the suffering, death, and even the resurrection of

Jesus did not look very much like success to the first disciples. But it *was* fruitful. And fruitfulness is what Jesus calls us to, and fruitfulness always brings us back to the vineyard.

It is my joy to celebrate with you the consecration and what used to be called the “enthronement” of your new bishop, because I know what a good laborer he has been in the vineyard – from long before he was ordained or ever dreamt of it, to the days he came to work with me in the vineyard I work in, in Philadelphia, just a few months ago. And I expect that you know this about Bill, too. That you have seen his sensitivity, his care and concern, his delight in walking and talking and just being among the vines of the vineyard. I expect you noticed how fruitful his ministry has been as both a lay person and a priest, and this observation, encouraged by the Holy Spirit, led you to elect him to be your bishop. And as Bill takes up this new ministry, it comes as no surprise to him, I am sure, to hear a reminder from me that good wine is made in the vineyard, where it always begins.

The rest of us need to remember this, too. Because although it is true that tending the vines has become a harder job than it once was, as conditions have become more challenging and the soil always seems to be rocky, we are reminded that the best wines often come from vineyards where the vines have learned to struggle and have sunk their roots deep into the ground to find water and nutrients that are hard to reach. . . . The best wine is made when vineyard and winery are working together to be fruitful in a happy synergy, grateful for the gifts available in each place, eager to encourage one another to do the best we can because what we hope to end up with, after all, is the best wine we can make. . . .

And I can tell you this about your new bishop: he is not confused about this, perhaps because of what he learned from his father-in-law, in his garage in North Buffalo He knows that there are vineyards that need work, repair, that in some places new vines need to be brought in and planted, that vineyard workers need to be taught what to do out there among the rows of vines. He knows that the vines need to be cared for and loved. Because he knows that when you have been given vineyards, you have been given a great gift, because the vineyard is what you need to make wine.

Good wine always begins in the vineyard.

God has never stopped calling us to be fruitful, never stopped calling us to toil in the vineyards he has planted. God has never deprived his people of what we need to make wine – and to make good wine. Even when his children had been driven out of their own vineyards, their own holy city, he called them back from their exile, as we are being called now, with a call that would serve well as a watchword for the ministry of a new bishop: *“Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the people... .. they shall be called, “The Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord.” And you shall be called, “Sought Out, A Vineyard Not Forsaken.”* [Isaiah 62:10-12]

Has the highway to your vineyard been obstructed by stones that leave you stumbling?

Has the ensign of your hope been torn down?

Do you wonder if anyone will ever seek you out?

Are you afraid that you have been forsaken?

Do you wonder if there is any more wine to be made from your vineyard?

Are you wondering if your new bishop knows that good wine is made in the vineyard – must begin in the vineyard?

If any of these questions ring true, then join with me in calling with all confidence on your bishop, our brother, Bill:

Go through, go through the gates with us...

Build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones!

Lift up the ensign of God’s love and hope over your people – over the laborers in the vineyard...

...so that together you may make good wine from the grapes you grow on the vines you tend.

Because you *shall* be called the Holy People,
the Redeemed of the Lord!

And you shall be called “Sought Out!”

And you shall be a Vineyard Not Forsaken!

Thanks be to God!



Join Bishop Franklin's journey as our bishop. Read jerusalem-crossing.com

Bishop Franklin has begun a blog where each week he will share his ideas, thoughts and reflections. He invites you to subscribe to the blog and comment on his posts. You'll find the subscription box on the blog's homepage at www.jerusalem-crossing.com

Children's Pages

The Children's Pages are devoted to learning the Ten Commandments. It includes a devotional that can be read together as a family and then a fun page. Here is this month's edition. Enjoy the time you spend together.



Devotional

“CHILDREN, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do” (Ephesians 6:1).

So the apostle Paul advises the Ephesians, and us today. He doesn't point us to obey the Fifth Commandment “if they're perfect parents who never made a mistake” or “if it's convenient.” He calls us to do it because God calls us to do it.

Paul goes on to point out, “This is the first of the Ten Commandments that ends with a promise. And this is the promise: If you honor your father and mother, ‘you will live a long life, full of blessing’” (Ephesians 6:2–3).

Isn't this just like our loving heavenly Father? Something called a “commandment” or “rule” is actually a promise of blessing. He has created us; he has created the family. He knows how it all works, and that we live the best life we can and each family member is cared for. He set up the family, and he set us each in a family.

What's more, God himself is honored. When we follow the rules for living that he created, the Creator is honored.

May we children honor and obey our parents. May we parents be ones who encourage our children and not frustrate them. Let us fulfill this first commandment with a promise. Let us live out this Fifth Commandment that addresses human relationships.

May God be honored.

Honoring Your Parents



**Fifth Commandment: "Honor your father and mother."
(Exodus 20:12)**

GOD ASKS US to honor our father and mother. Color the pictures below of the different ways that kids like you can honor your mom and dad.

