

# July 2019 Messenger

## FR. MIKE'S CORNER

As Anglican Christians our liturgical calendar calls this post-Pentecost season, "Ordinary Time". Still a bit of a "rookie" to the Anglican tradition, I continue to learn about this very rich and historic tradition. It is easy to ignore such "minor issues", but it is far from trivial to realize that we do not merely live in God's created world. We also live in times and seasons established by God's sovereign will. As we consider His creation, we see evidence of a power and genius that transcends any possibility that this universe occurred by random chance. When we mark our times and seasons, we are acknowledging God the Son's entry into history to redeem all that is lost because of sin's entry into His creation.

I read this just this very recently:

*Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ. The goal, toward which all of history is directed, is represented by the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. "Ordinary" Time might well refer to living out our "ordinary" lives as Christians. But, since we follow the risen Lord of the Universe, there's nothing "ordinary" about it!*



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- July 4- Independence Day
- July 7-ACW Meeting
- July 11-Men's Club
- July 14-Vestry Meeting
- July 26-Men's Bible Study

## Fr. Mike's Corner (cont.)



There is much more to this season than just the above quote, but I think that is a pretty good amount to chew on for starters.

I also need to call your attention to two articles enclosed in this month's edition of *The Messenger*.

What Happened to Our Kids? Is a quote from a book written by Dr. Ravi Zacharias. He was one of the plenary speakers at the ACNA's (Anglican Church of North America) General Convention held in Cisco, Texas last week. The other article I want to reference is from a commentary addressing some of the outrageous new reactions by abortion advocates due to the addition of more Supreme Court Justices who are perceived to be more conservative in their views of our Constitution. This

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commentary was authored by two men who do research and write for the Coulson Center.

I encourage you to actually read these articles and take note of other items in this July edition of *The Messenger*.

Keep cool and God bless you.

Fr. Mike

**“Will God ever ask you to do something you are not able to do? The answer is yes—all the time! It must be that way, for God's glory and kingdom. If we function according to our ability alone, we get the glory; if we function according to the power of the Spirit within us, God gets the glory. He wants to reveal Himself to a watching world.”**

**Henry T. Blackaby**

## What Happened to Our Kids?

“In the 1950’s kids lost their innocence.

They were liberated from their parents by well-paying jobs, cars and lyrics in music that gave rise to a new term—the generation gap.

In the 1960’s kids lost their authority.

It was a decade of protest — church, state and parents were all called into question and found wanting. Their authority was rejected, yet nothing ever replaced it.

In the 1970’s kids lost their love. It was the decade of me-ism dominated by hyphenated words beginning with self.

Self-image, Self-esteem, Self-assertion. . . It made for a lonely world. Kids learned everything there was to know about sex and forgot everything there was to know about love, and no one had the nerve to tell them there was a difference.

In the 1980’s kids lost their hope.

Stripped of innocence, authority and love and plagued by the horror of a nuclear nightmare, large and growing numbers of this generation stopped believing in the future.

In the 1990’s kids lost their power to reason. Less and less were they taught the very basics of language, truth and logic and they grew up with the irrationality of a postmodern world.

In the new millennium, kids woke up and found out that somewhere in the midst of all this change, they had lost their imagination. Violence and perversion entertained them till none could talk of killing innocents since none was innocent anymore.”

**-Ravi Zacharias, Recapture the Wonder**

### ADDRESS CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS

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If you have a new address or a correction, please let us know.

Thank you.

# Break Point: Illinois' Grotesque "Reproductive Health Act"

HAPPY

JULY

BIRTHDAY

3-Melanie Huerta

8-Steve Brown

16-Janis Huerta

17-Mary Evelyn  
Burns

20-Susan Williams

21-Adele Bowker

24-Tom Luce

## Nothing to do with Health

By: John Stonestreet & Roberto Rivera

Category: Christian Worldview

I've mentioned a few times that the possibility that *Roe v. Wade* might be in play, overturned, or at least rolled back, has prompted a significant uptick in state action on abortion. Some states are moving to limit abortion, hoping to be the source of the case that will be considered by the Supreme Court. Other states are racing to ensure that unrestricted abortion remains available within their borders.

In other words, the possible demise of *Roe* in no way signals the end of this decades-long struggle against abortion. The struggle has only shifted from the federal courts and Congress to the states.

Already this has led to radically extreme pro-abortion bills being passed in various states. Gone are protestations and hand-wringing that abortion is a "tragic necessity." Instead, abortion is increasingly treated as a positive good. In fact, a few states seem to be in a competition for who can pass the most radical laws.

The leader in this grotesque competition at the moment: Illinois.

Last week, the Illinois legislature approved the so-called "Reproductive Health Act" and sent it to the governor for his signature. I use the descriptive "so-called" because in it reproductive health" means abortion. That's it. Nothing else. Full stop.

There's nothing in the bill about the state's rising maternal mortality rate or the disparity in health and mortality disproportionately affecting African-American women, who are six times more likely to die in childbirth than their white counterparts. No, instead the Act is solely focused on making it beyond easy for Illinois women to get an abortion in that state. In fact, it's not too much of a stretch to say that the only place Illinois can go from this "Reproductive

## Break Point (cont.)

Health Act” is to make abortion mandatory.

The Act opens by stating that “Every individual has a fundamental right to make autonomous decisions about the individual’s own reproductive health, including the fundamental right to use or refuse reproductive health care.”

The right to “refuse reproductive health care”? What does that even mean? Are women in Illinois forced to use contraceptives or go to the doctor? Of course not. This is only the first example of how this bill is filled to the brim with loose and dangerous language.

Two paragraphs later, the Act states it bluntly, “A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of this State.” That means a man who kills a pregnant woman could only be charged with one homicide, not two. Or that a man who intentionally punches a pregnant woman in the stomach and causes a miscarriage would only be charged with assault on the woman. How the loss of the child would be described and handled isn’t clear. The only thing that’s clear is that this kind of devastating language has been used in past times to legally justify history’s greatest horrors.

And it gets worse. The Act arguably opens the door for non-physicians to perform abortions. Its definition of “health care professional” includes “advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or person acting under the supervision of one of the above.”

It’s not clear who “a person acting under the supervision of one of the above” might be, but it brings to mind the punchline from those commercials “No, I’m not a doctor, but I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express.” So what does “acting under supervision” mean? Does the supervisor have to be in the same room? In the same building? The same county? The workers responsible for mis-administering anesthesia in Philadelphia were under the supervision of Kermit Gosnell, and we all know how tragically that worked out.

When this provision is combined with the Act’s explicit exemption of abortion from the state’s Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center Act, it becomes clear, as one opponent put it, that this Act “goes much further and does much more” than just preserve the right to abortion in a possible post-*Roe* world. In essence, as one of its supporters stated, it advances the idea that “there is nothing more intrinsic to freedom than bodily autonomy.”

When you start with that bad idea, there’s nowhere to go but down, and there will be many, many victims strewn along the way.

# Roof Repair Update

After moving pans around in the sanctuary to catch the water from our leaky roof every rainy season, the Vestry decided that we must either fix the roof or purchase a set of new pans as the leak progressively increased.

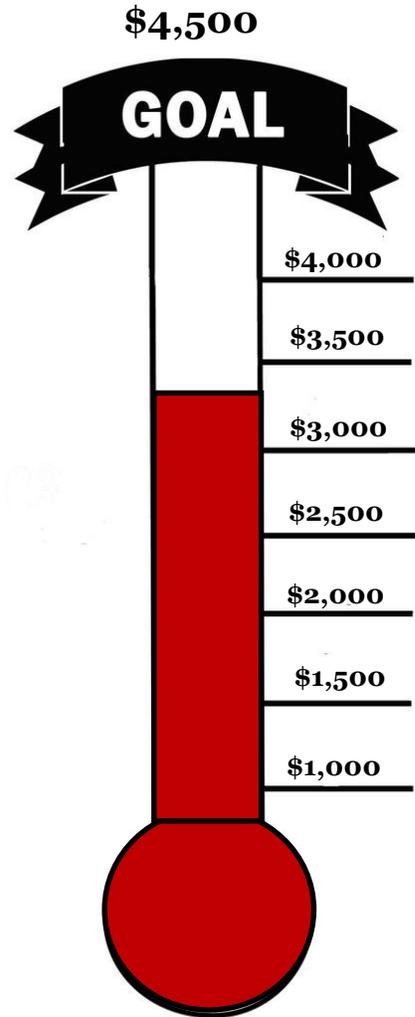
The repair entailed reconstructing part of the roof and re-shingling the repaired portion. We had to spend \$4,500 out of the general fund for the repair. We are asking for contributions to replenish the general fund, which is budgeted for our monthly operating expenses rather than unexpected maintenance and repairs.

If you are able to help us reimburse our general fund for this project please make your check out to St. John's Anglican Church and note in the "memo" portion of the check that your offering is for "Roof Repair". Your offering is tax deductible and will help us pay for this much needed repair. You can either place your offering in the collection plate or mail it to **St. John's Anglican Church, 308 North D Street, Porterville, CA 93257.**

Thank you for your consideration and help.

For the Vestry,

Fr. Mike



**Update-Roof Repair Donations received to date**

**6/30/19—\$3,353.00—74.5% of goal!**

## **Service Schedule for July 2019**

7/7/19

Celebrant: Fr. Michael Law  
LEM: Casey Bennett  
Lay Reader: Suzanne Law  
Organist: Fred Knutson  
Ushers: Tom & Jackie Newkirk  
Altar Guild: Team 1  
Counters: Jack & Judy Adams

7/21/19

Celebrant: Fr. Michael Law  
LEM: Casey Bennett  
Lay Reader: Lyn Trask  
Organist: Nina Dikin  
Ushers: Steve & Vicki Brown  
Altar Guild: Team 3  
Counters: Tom & Jackie Newkirk

7/14/19

Celebrant: Fr. Michael Law  
LEM: Lynda Cordova  
Lay Reader: Marti Bennett  
Organist: Fred Knutson  
Ushers: Jack & Judy Adams  
Altar Guild: Team 2  
Counters: Steve & Vicki Brown

7/28/19

Celebrant: Fr. Michael Law  
LEM: Lynda Cordova  
Lay Reader: Casey Bennett  
Organist: Fred Knutson  
Ushers: Jack & Judy Adams  
Altar Guild: Team 4  
Counters: Jack & Judy Adams