

May 2019 Messenger

FR. MIKE'S CORNER

I've been reading the late Richard John Neuhaus's book, *Death on a Friday Afternoon*. In it he emphasizes Good Friday's central role during Holy Week as Fr. Neuhaus details the Seven Last Words Jesus spoke as He hung from the cross. Our tendency might be to move from one season to another through our Christian calendar without understanding that we carry every season, every event, and every aspect of His life in us both now and for eternity. A move from one season should not negate the last season we passed through or cause us to fail to consider the next season of our liturgical season. After all, He is in us and we are in Him.

This following quote from Neuhaus uncovers something about human nature that is universal: *About the chief of sinners, I don't know, but what I know about sinners I know chiefly about me. We did not mean to do the deed, of course. The things we have done wrong seemed or mostly seemed, small at the time. The word of encouragement withheld, the touch of kindness not given, the visit not made, the trust betrayed, the cutting remark so clever and so cruel, the illicit sexual desire so generously entertained, the angry answer, the surge of resentment at being slighted, the lie we thought we would do no harm. It is such a long and tedious list of little things. Surely not too much should not be made of it, we thought to ourselves. But now it has come to this. It has come to the cross. All the trespasses of all the people of all time have gravitated here, to the killing fields of Calvary.*

Good Friday prods us to pause and think about ourselves in the light of the suffering He endured that Friday afternoon. The veneer of comparisons of ourselves with others whose sin is certainly "much more serious" than ours and the knee jerk habit of self-justification ingrained in all of us must be subordinated to a real fact that we can't avoid. My sin facilitated placing Jesus on the



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- May 9-Men's Club
- May 19-Vestry Meeting
- May 27-Memorial Day
- May 31-Men's Bible Study
- June 6-Men's Club
- June 9-Vestry Meeting
- June 28-Men's Bible Study



cross that Friday afternoon just as much as any other person's sin. The Scriptures testify to each of our complicit guilt. *All we like sheep have gone astray. Everyone has gone their own way and the iniquity of us all was placed on Jesus that one Friday afternoon.* (Isaiah 53)

An old spiritual asks the question, "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"

The answer of everyone who has lived, is now living, or will ever live is, yes! Good Friday is the one-day in the history of the world that forces us to pause and like the prodigal son who was tending the pigs in a far country, come to our senses and just as that

[My sin facilitated placing Jesus on the cross that Friday afternoon just as much as any other person's sin.](#)

young man did, return to our Father and undeservingly receive His forgiveness and restoration as a full-fledged child.

St. Paul speaks to this in 1 Corinthians 4:10 when he wrote that *we always are carrying in our bodies the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.* It may seem counter intuitive to us, but it is absolutely true that our sin consciousness is one of the most liberating truths we can embrace. It is that awareness that ultimately brought us to Jesus as the only legitimate offering that can atone for our sin and reconcile us to God. Not only has Jesus paid for our sin, His death and resurrection has broken the power that sin has to control our personalities, habits, thinking and our entire lives.

For the next few weeks we will continue celebrating Easter in our liturgical calendar, Advent, Lent, the Triduum of Holy Week, and Pentecost are not just calendar events, these seasons represent the entirety and substance of Jesus's presence through the Holy Spirit living in us now and forever. Amen.

Kids in Church

3 year old Reese:

Our Father, Who does art in heaven,

Harold is His name.

Amen.

A little boy was overheard praying:

“Lord, if you can’t make me a better boy, don’t worry about it. I’m having a real good time like I am.

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.

His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied,

‘That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.’

One particular four-year-old prayed,

‘And forgive us our trash baskets

as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.’

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, ‘And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?’

One bright little girl replied,

‘Because people are sleeping.’

ADDRESS CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS

Help us save on postage by receiving the Messenger via e-mail. If you would like to receive your copy of the monthly Messenger by e-mail, please notify the church office at Saint-JohnsPorterville@gmail.com or telephone us at 559/784-6080.

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

Thank you.

**HAPPY
MAY
BIRTHDAY**

4-MARY JANE GOODMAN

5-FRANCES MILLS

6-LINDA CLARK

10-SHIRLEY PERRIN

12-JACK ADAMS

13-RON KAVADAS

25-RON PETERSON

25-FLORENCE FRAZIER

**HAPPY
MAY
ANNIVERSARY**

4-ABEL & NICOLE CONTRERAS

16-WAYNE AND JESSIE LANCE

More Kids in Church

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw an opportunity for a moral lesson.

“If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, ‘Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.’ Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, ‘Ryan, you be Jesus!’

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, ‘Would you like to say the blessing?’

‘I wouldn’t know what to say,’ the girl replied.

‘Just say what you hear Mommy say,’ the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said,

‘Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?’

Renewing our Call to the Great Commission

Plano, Texas—June 17-19

Don’t miss your chance to gather with other Anglican leaders from across North America at Assembly this summer. As we celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the Anglican Church in North America, let’s learn, plan, and pray together about the next decade.

All attendees will receive special commemorative editions of the new 2019 Book of Common Prayer to mark the occasion.

5 plenary sessions and 30 breakout sessions offer something for everyone.

Learn more and register today at

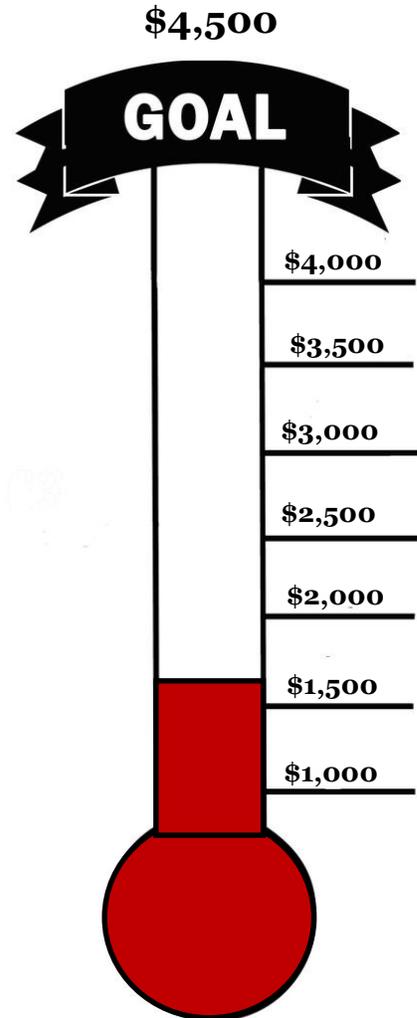
Disciple2019.com

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

4/23/19--\$1,690.00—38% of goal!