



## THE CANTERBURY TALES

JUNE 2016



### FR. MARK'S MUSINGS

Even though it often doesn't feel like it (and it isn't official on the calendar for another week) happy summer! We are in the vacation season and if you haven't already done so I'm sure you are planning what you are going to do during your time off this season. I think it is interesting that many times we focus on what we are going to do in our time off. Sometimes we are just as busy while on vacation as we are when we are working. Now how is that relaxing or rejuvenating? Now I realize that what is relaxing to one may be stressful to another, but perhaps a review of the roots of "vacation" might help us prioritize our "time off" this year.

We all know that God took a break and rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. We are commanded to "keep the Sabbath" repeatedly throughout scripture. In these cases it is about setting aside a time and place to acknowledge God in our lives and be refreshed and strengthened by that knowledge. The penalty for failing to keep the Sabbath is death. Not the death of our bodies, but the death of our spirit. That which is not fed and nurtured will always die. In addition Jesus frequently and regularly took time for corporate worship in synagogues as well as time for personal prayer. He needed that time to refresh and renew to help him stay focused on his mission.

The church and most of humanity understands the importance and advantages of taking a little time off but what do we do with that time? How can we be truly refreshed? Well, for me any

time on or in the water is refreshing and relaxing and takes my mind off the pressures of life. But can I say that I am refreshed and strengthened by that? Perhaps. I think it is a matter of perspective. Let's take sailing for example, something I love to do. If my intent and focus is to constantly improve my performance and the performance of the boat then I will most likely find that the fun is dominated by the drive for performance and I will not be rested or renewed. But if my perspective is centered on the wonders of the wind and the water and how God's majesty is presented in so many ways, and that I am grateful for them, then it can be a great way to be refreshed and strengthened. Some people need to be quiet and meditate on God to become closer and appreciative while others would love a walk in the woods or read a good book. But no matter what our particular method is, if it is focused on our gratitude and relationship with God we just might find ourselves refreshed in God's grace and love, and strengthened to do divine work.

All this points to good stewardship, yes, that's right stewardship. It is good management of one of our most precious resources, time. By utilizing some of our precious time for good self care we can then be more fully aware of and attentive to the needs of others and direct an appropriate amount of our resources to those things we love and care about. When we are not well rested we are often stressed and when stressed our focus tends to be more inward. So as part of good stewardship in all areas of our lives, consider your vacation this summer, or whenever you manage to take it, manage it well and make it a time of renewal. A time when you can be reunited or grow in your relationship with God.

In the end the goal is always the same. God's wants us to live a life of joy and love with God and one another. So God, like all good leaders, sets the example right from the beginning by taking time to nurture that incredible divine spirit. If it is not nurtured and cared for it will surely die and God repeatedly calls us to life through love.

Peace always,

*Fr. Mark*





## DEACON'S NEWS AND NOTES

“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.” ~James Dent

By the time you receive this Tale, I will have:

- worn **Orange**, a sign of my commitment to reducing gun violence in our communities, June 2nd
- been at Deacon Formation School for the last weekend, June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>
- served as the deacon at the ordination of Esther, Nancy, Lars and Dan, June 11<sup>th</sup>

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, I will be meeting with Bishop Miller to review and finalize the Deacon Formation Program for this year.

The Executive Council will be meeting June 28<sup>th</sup> to study maintenance concerns regarding Nicholson House and to approve the 2017 budget to be adopted at the diocesan convention.

The theme for this year's convention is: **From every family, language, people, and nation, a kingdom of priests to serve our God. (Canticle 18/Revelation 5:9-10)** It is being held on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Madison Marriott West Hotel & Convention Center, Middleton, WI. **FYI:** I am running for the office of delegate to the General Convention in 2018 which will be held July 5<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> in Austin, TX. Shamelessly I plead: vote for me.

Hip, hip, hooray! This year's Red Nose Campaign raised **31.5+ million dollars** which will provide: meals for children living in a homeless shelter; antibiotics to treat children with pneumonia; eye exams and glasses for children in need; anti-malarial nets to protect mothers and their babies; medical supplies for a doctor's visit on a mobile clinic; vaccinations (6 diseases), nutritional supplements and check-ups for babies; books, supplies and activities to help children keep reading skills sharp during the summer.

I continue with my regular “Fridays at Nicholson House,” the diocesan office, (804 East Juneau) and again invite you to stop in for coffee/tea and a tour.

"June is the month of dreams, I think;  
Gardeners watch their roses, pink.  
Birds leave the nest and try their wings  
And songbirds learn just how to sing.

.....

Recitals seem to be everywhere;  
Dancing and music is in the air.  
June is the month to sing your joy -  
the month of dreams for you to enjoy."- Joan Adams Burchell

Peace and prayers,

*Deacon Marge*





## **NOTES FROM PAUL STOVING, SENIOR WARDEN**

“The good news is that we have all the money we need – The bad news is that it is still in your pockets.”

That’s the setup and the subsequent punch line from an old cartoon about fundraising. Recall that when we approved our budget this year, it was a \$16,900 deficit budget. At the time, you may recall me noting that this was a good thing, as this is a lower deficit than we had budgeted for the previous year, which had been \$26,000, and that for the past few years we have been tending towards a smaller deficit each year.

Nonetheless, it does still mean that our estimated income will be \$16,900 less than our estimated expenses this year. You may also recall me promising at the time that this would also mean that we would need some special appeals to help balance the budget. Well, here we are at the half-way point through the year, and we are right where we estimated that we would be.

Last month, all of you received a letter from the finance committee describing a special appeal to balance the budget. I am happy to tell you that to date we have collected \$2,750 towards this. Thank you. However, while this goes a long way towards helping to pay the bills, it is still not enough and we are still left with a deficit. We still very much need your help.

Please, prayerfully consider helping us meet our goal of eliminating our deficit this year. If you do decide to contribute towards our goal, please identify any offerings towards this as “Special Asking” and put your contribution in the plate, or simply deliver it to us any other way that you would normally contribute. I know that each and every one of you love St. Thomas of Canterbury as much as I do and will do your best to help us out. For this I thank you.

I am hopeful and very much believe that we will find that, indeed, we do have everything we need.

As always, I appreciate your thoughts.

*Paul Stoving*

## **JUNE CELEBRATIONS**

### **BIRTHDAYS**



Bryan Luetngen	June 7
Kathy Nitka	June 8
Tyler Beinlich	June 10
Amanda Slyfield	June 10
William Kienzle	June 12
Alan Labisch	June 14
Brett Reed	June 14
Tyler Fink	June 17
Shawn Reed	June 19
Matthew Allen	June 20
Natalie Kim	June 29

### **ANNIVERSARIES**



Roy & Tammy Wyman	June 21
-------------------	---------