

THE CANTERBURY TALES

MAY 2016



FR. MARK'S MUSINGS

At last, a taste of spring and warmer weather. I am grateful. But what comes with warmer weather is a lot of hard work! All of a sudden there are yards to rake and mow, weeds to try to control, gardens to plant, and outside building maintenance on homes and church buildings alike. But for some reason this does not seem like a major burden to do all this additional work. Perhaps it is because we are so grateful just to be outside and enjoy the fresh air. Or perhaps it is because with jobs like this there is the sense of instant gratification. (I rarely get to see the outcome of my efforts so I love mowing the lawn. It gives me a sense of accomplishment.)

There is another thing that all these types of jobs have in common. Whether we are working on the church, our homes, our cars, or even ourselves in the form of outdoors exercise, we are doing stewardship. We often think of stewardship as that money that we give to the church, and that is part of it, but only a part. Merriam Webster defines stewardship as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care". I think that is a good definition. As a species we have been entrusted with the care and management of the wildlife and agricultural life of this planet. We have been entrusted with the care and nurturing of all human beings. As individuals we are entrusted to much smaller pieces of this incredible creation, like the gardens around the church, or the building, or the maintenance of the pews or roof or driveway. Good stewardship means maintaining that property for the maximum benefit of the community we serve.

And what about the stewardship of prayer? Intercessory prayer is giving up of some of our precious time that we have been entrusted with to pray to God for the welfare of others. Good stewards make prayer a regular part of their daily life. Indeed we have all been given a great responsibility and entrusted with many gifts. Could we be accused of hoarding? Or are we generous with those resources and gifts so that all God's creation may benefit. We are all stewards. Good stewardship asks one major question. Who do we love? And just like all that spring hard work is actually welcome and we enjoy it, so is good stewardship because it is in the giving that we receive and it is in the giving that we find true joy.

As we close out the Easter season I ask you all to be good stewards, not just for the sake of St. Thomas of Canterbury, but for the sake of God, the church, and the world. Alleluia.

Peace always,

Fr. Mark





DEACON'S NEWS AND NOTES

"I am not afraid of storms for I am learning how to sail my ship." -**Louisa May Alcott** "

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.

By the time you receive this Tale, I will have been at Deacon Formation School. The last two DFS weekends are early in the month: May 7th/8th; June 4th/5th.

The Executive Council meeting is May 21st. Any individual is welcome to attend an Executive Council meeting. I have found it helpful in understanding the governance process of the Episcopal Church. Minutes from each Executive Council meeting are posted on the diocesan website.

Because of my time at The Cathedral Church of All Saints, Canon Dr. Joseph A. Kucharski and I became special acquaintances. I have been invited to the May 24th solemn evensong and reception honoring his retirement from Nashotah House where he served as professor of church music and director of chapel music for decades.

REMINDER: The members of adult formation are presenting a "Book Talk":

June 4th at Good Shepherd, Sun Prairie, with The Rev'd Charles Henery author of [Yankee Bishops, Apostles in the New Republic 1783-1873 \(Studies in Episcopal and Anglican Theology\)](#) from 10:00-12:00 (talk and questions) and a light lunch at 1:00. Reservations are recommended.

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 7th and 8th at the Madison Marriott West Hotel & Convention Center, Middleton, WI. On Friday, October 7th, the following workshops are being offered:

- Multicultural Ministry - presented by Anthony Guillen, Latino / Hispanic Ministry officer from the Episcopal Church Center
- Who are our Neighbors?
- Living into our Neighborhood - real life experience

- Time with the Bishop of Milwaukee
- Diocesan Budget / Parish Assessments 2017
- Racial Reconciliation
- Global Reconciliation - Sustainable Development Goals / Grants
- Altar Guild annual meeting and workshop

There is no fee for attending the workshops, nor for participating in the Eucharistic service.

On a more personal basis:

- my favorite Beer Garden at Humboldt Park opens May 5th
- the ladies at Nicholson House and I will have our periodic lunch "meeting" May 11th
- I am ready for Red Nose Day on May 26th No, though tempted, I did not get a red nose, but did get the red and black wrist bands.

As a FYI: Red Nose Day is a campaign dedicated to helping children and *having fun*. Proceeds benefit children and young people in the US and some of the poorest communities in the world. At its launch in 1988, Red Nose Day was something of a British institution. But Red Nose Day has raised \$1 billion **globally** in the last 25 years.

In 2015, the inaugural Red Nose Day here in the USA, we raised \$23 million changing the lives of children all over the USA and around the world.

Goals this year are to 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

On second thought, I am going to get a RED NOSE!

Happy Red Nose Day and Happy Memorial Day.

Patriotism consists not in waving the flag, but in striving that our country shall be righteous as well as strong. -**James Bryce**

Peace and prayers,

Deacon Marge



'SOUL OF A PEOPLE': MUSIC FROM THE ARAB WORLD AND ARMENIA

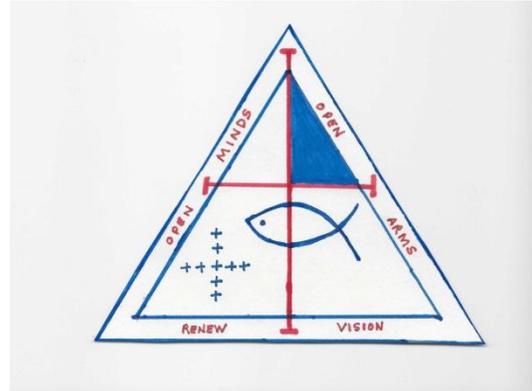
Sunday, May 22nd, 2016 @ 2:00 pm
St. John's Chapel, DeKoven Center
600 21st St., Racine, WI
\$10 (\$5 seniors and students)

This concert celebrates the heritage of traditional music from the Levant and Armenia, performed in historic St. John's Chapel by the Philadelphia-based Khoury/Chami Duo and Racine vocalist Nicholas Barootian.

Hanna Khoury, a violin virtuoso in Western and Oriental traditions, has performed with Yo-Yo Ma, Youssou N'Dour, and Fairouz and under the direction of Daniel Barenboim. Khoury directs the Philadelphia Arab Music Ensemble and is a doctoral candidate in Ethnomusicology. **Hicham Chami** (qanun) has organized concert tours in the U.S. and Canada, and is founder of the Arabesque Music Ensemble and Heartland Seminar on Arabic Music. He is a doctoral candidate in Ethnomusicology, and presents academic papers worldwide. Baritone **Nicholas Barootian**, a church musician, has performed with the Florentine Opera Company in Milwaukee. He is founder of the Belle Ensemble, a Racine-based vocal chamber music group.

This concert will be most appreciated by an audience of middle-school age and above. Advance tickets will be sold at St. Mesrob Church on May 15. On-call tickets may be reserved by calling [847-830-8277](tel:847-830-8277); door sales as space permits--seating is limited. Payment by cash or check payable to the Arabesque Foundation.





VISION TEAM UPDATE

Happy Easter!! Happy Mother's Day!! May God bless all mothers and mother's to be.

Isaiah 66:13 As one whom a mother comforts, so I will comfort you

Proverbs 1:8-9 Listen, my son to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teachings. They are a garland of grace to adorn your head and a chain to adore your neck

Finally, perhaps spring has sprung and is here to stay! We can plant flowers, vegetables and fruits and enjoy the beauty and bounty of God's creation. Through His gifts, we receive food for our bodies and sustenance for our souls. Our cup overflows as we continue to rejoice in His glorious resurrection and eagerly await the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday.

We hope you have kept an "eye" on our bulletin board in the narthex with updates as to where the Vision team finds ourselves as we continue to travel along on our pathway of renewal. Please continue to watch as the board grows with new life and excitement for St. Thomas of Canterbury as we are all on this incredible journey together. The path we discern by listening to God's voice and hearing His wishes for us will enable us to use our resources and reach out to our community and fill some of its needs. It will also deepen our relationship with Christ here at St. Thomas.

We recently asked you all to please take a "leaf" of faith and pray with us and for us as we continue to discern God's plan for our parish through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are very excited about the number of parishioners who took leaves and signed up for growing in prayer!! It is abundantly clear that Christ is alive and present at St. Thomas of Canterbury!!

After your Vision team meets every two weeks, we will be asking you to continue to grow in prayer with us by taking a new “leaf” of faith with a new specific prayer request. Please add the new leaf with the one(s) you have already taken. Perhaps you might even make your own tree of prayer at home. This will remind you to “pray without ceasing”. We will keep those of you who gave us your email addresses updated via that venue as well. As always, feel free to approach or contact any Vision team member with questions or ideas!! If you have not taken a “leaf “of faith, please consider doing so. It is never too late to join and grow in prayer. With prayer, miracles happen and nothing is impossible. Matthew 19:26 “with God all things are possible”.

Faithfully in Christ,
Your Vision Team,

Fr. Mark Moore
Tammy Wyman
Joan Lamson
Gayle Radavich
Randy Schraw
Erika Stoving
Jessie Hein
Lisa Chmielewski
Noelle Gelhaart





SUMMER SCHEDULE

Our Summer Service schedule begins on Sunday, May 29th with one service at 9AM. As that is the 5th Sunday in the month, we'll continue our pattern of holding Morning Prayer. After that, we're doing something a little different this year. Because we get so many visitors and newcomers who try us out in the summer, we want to be as welcoming as possible. Separately, Fr Mark and other people have noticed visitors leaving partway through the service when they have visited on a Rite I Sunday over the past couple summers. To those not raised with our liturgy, it's a challenging enough task to follow along, without also trying to decipher the language of Rite I. In an effort to be more comfortable and accessible to anyone who may be looking for a new church home, we are making Rite II our primary worship service this summer. However, we don't want to throw out the old in pursuit of the new! We truly value our members who are most comfortable worshipping using Rite I. You are an important part of STOC, and we want you to feel welcome and comfortable as well. As a way of reconciling the needs of both groups, Worship Committee recommended to Fr Mark that we celebrating Rite I on the 3rd Sunday of each month- June 19th, July 17th, and August 21st. We will keep the summer schedule through Labor Day weekend, and will resume with two services on September 11th.



SUNDRIES

As summer vacations begin, please consider bringing home the extra unopened sundries hotels provide. St.James Episcopal distributes these to the needy on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. This is a great ministry at no cost to you. A box will be placed in the coat room labeled Sundries for any donations.

WE VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We all know that STOC wouldn't run as smoothly as it does, and many things would be left undone if it weren't for our dedicated volunteers. This month, we'd like to spotlight the Ushers. They are an integral part of our worship every week. Their smiling faces are often the first we see at every service. From handing out bulletins to taking the headcount for Communion and collecting the Offering, they are an integral part of each and every service. Many thanks to Bob Stewart, Dennis McKnight, John Allen, Karen Leszcynski, Fred Pedersen, Dave Mecikalski, Matt Done, Jesse Hein, Mark Lamson, Josh Cram, and Ross Worzalla.



RED DOOR CLOTHES

Catherine and I volunteered at Red Door Clothes this week. Red Door Clothes is a ministry provided by Trinity Episcopal Church and St. James Episcopal Church. St. James houses this ministry on their 2nd floor and Trinity provides many of the volunteers it takes to run the free clothing bank. As a volunteer today Catherine and I sorted incoming clothing and helped stock the floor with merchandise. We also had the opportunity to learn how to process clients through the checkout line. Clients who request clothing included families with children, the working poor and the destitute who have nowhere else to go. As fast as we could get the new summer merchandise sorted and put out on the selection floor, it went to a new home. Recipients were grateful for this ministry. If you would like a rewarding volunteer opportunity Red Door is open the 1st and 3rd Sat of the month from 8:30am to 10:30 am. Please Google Red Door Clothes for more information and a link to Trinity's Sign Up Genius for volunteers.

If you would like to donate clothes. Red Door is in need of all men's clothes and shoes. Women's clothing especially sizes 14/16, 1x, 2x and 3x, But all sizes are accepted. Children's and Juniors clothes and shoes. They also accept belts, purses, towels and sheets. Please label any donations Red Door Clothes and put them in the coat room.

If you would like more information, please contact Donna Celsor.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

On Sunday, May 1, the Children's Choir joined our renowned Adult Choir at the 10:00 service. Joyful music filled our rafters with songs such as *Let the River Flow*, *We Believe* and *Go Ye Out*. What a blessing we have with our musicians and vocalists!



MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS



Laurie Larson	May 5
Kelsey Wigand	May 6
Steven Brunelli	May 7
Brilly Jonathan	May 9
Tom Kasper	May 12
Josh Cram	May 13
Tamara Wyman	May 15
Marilyn Babel	May 16
Lauren Nitka	May 21
Gail Pedersen	May 22
Claudia Stewart	May 22
Catherine Celsor	May 25
Al Miller	May 27

ANNIVERSARIES



Robert & Marilyn Babel	May 1
Scott & Cheryl Carstens	May 1
Fred & Gail Pedersen	May 9
Kevin & Kathy Nitka	May 12
Mary Seppala	May 12
Bernie Sommer	May 13
Peter & Karen Leszcynski	May 14
John & Linda Cram	May 22

BOOK CORNER



As the warm days approach and we start moving outside to do gardening, sports or just sitting on the front porch, deck or sunroom, I'd like to offer the following devotional that fits very well with the spring season. *Devotions from the Front Porch* by Stacey Edwards offers short daily devotionals on topics such as Bird Watching, Sunday Afternoon Naps and Wind Chimes to name a few. Each day references scripture and aligns it with everyday activities, then ends with a prayer to edge your day with. This would be a very good addition to your prayer bookshelf.

