

Diocese of Central PA Assembly Newsletter

Number 5 October 2014

"I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do. Lord, what will you have me

MARK YOUR CALENDARS -

NOVEMBER 1, 2014

"Icons and Sacred Art –
Icons and Personal Devotions"
FALL 2014 ASSEMBLY IN GETTYSBURG

The Central Pennsylvania Daughters of the King will hold a Fall Assembly on November 1, 2014 entitled "Icons and Sacred Art and Icons and Personal Devotions" hosted by The Peacemakers Chapter of the Daughters of the King. The Assembly will be at The Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, 20 W. High Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Please contact Barbara House at bghhouse@aol.com.

"Icons and Sacred Art – Icons and Personal Devotions"

Icons are often called windows to heaven. You are invited to gaze through this window to view a wide variety of icons and sacred art created by Celeste Lauritsen, artist, teacher and iconographer. The actual writing (painting) of an icon can be a prayerful experience. The presentation will be a visual walk through this sacred theological feast for the eyes, and we will see how God can be revealed to us through color, line and story.

For those of us who were not raised in the traditions of the Orthodox churches, an encounter with icons may cause us to ask an important question: "These are beautiful objects, but what do we do with them?" We will explore the uses of icons in prayer and contemplation and we will spend a period practicing one or more approaches ourselves. Your guide will be the Rev. Herbert Sprouse, Rector of The Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace. Fr. Herb is an enthusiastic proponent of the use of icons in our daily lives, and has introduced their devotional uses to many who are discovering icons for the first time.

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"Prayer without work is empty words.
Service without prayer is labor lost."

Executive Officers

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Recording Secretary: <u>Sarah Terhune</u>, All Saints, Hanover<u>,</u> PA

Corresponding Secretary: <u>Barbara House</u>, Prince of Peace, Gettysburg, PA

Retreat Leaders:

Celeste Lauritsen studied art at Barry University in Miami and has been an artist and teacher since the 1970's. She found herself creating mostly Biblical or spiritual art and received a master's degree in Theology from the Washington Theological Union. She currently is a full-time artist and iconographer after retiring from art and religious education for over 25 years. She also teaches icon workshops and has developed iconography retreats. She was honored by being awarded the first annual Ade Bethune Award for Excellence in the Sacred Arts by the Washington Theological Union. Celeste began the Arts for Theology program at the Union while she was a student there and continued working for the Theological Union as the Theology and Arts Coordinator. She is currently a member of the Fine Arts Council at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, a member of CIVA (Christians in the Visual Arts) and the Adams County Arts Council.

The Rev. Herbert Sprouse first encountered the devotional use of icons nearly 15 years ago at the Cambridge house of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, as taught by his spiritual director there. Since that time, icons have provided a central focus for his devotional life. Still, nothing quite prepared him for the experience of the major icon exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2004. The rapid juxtaposition of icons with western artistic treatments of similar subjects revealed the essential differences between them as objects meant for use in spiritual practice. Since that time, he has taught the devotional use of icons in a number of different settings, from parish forums to retreats. He believes that the ways in which icons can be employed for prayer, meditation and devotion are limitless, and unique to each person who practices with them regularly.

What's Going on in Central PA

The Central Pennsylvania Daughters of the King held a Spring Assembly on April 25-26, 2014 entitled "Benedictine Spirituality for the Frazzled" by Jane Tomaine hosted by the Dame Julian of

Norwich Chapter of the Daughters of the King. When time is short, the "to do" list long and the cell phone feels permanently attached to the hand, when life spins out of control or worries consume, we can yearn to fly away on the wings of a dove. In his sixth century monastic Rule St Benedict asks, Is there anyone here who yearns for life and desires to see good days? (Ps 34:13). If your answer is a hearty "I do!" then THE workshop provided us with tools to reclaim the true center of your life in God.

"If people did not love one another, I really don't see what use there would be in having any spring."

— Victor Hugo

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Chaplain's Message . . .

Dear Daughters:

"Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." - Matthew 18:15-20

Many of you ask me if I miss my family, especially around holiday time. Although it's astonishing how many times I've been asked how the British celebrate Thanksgiving. (Hint: we don't). I have no family whatsoever in this country and, yes, I miss them very, very much — most of the time. For there are moments when the Atlantic Ocean is God's great gift to me. I promise: whatever's going on in your family — it's also going on in mine!

"I loved autumn, the one season of the year that God seemed to have put there just for the beauty of it."

— Lee Maynard

This morning I bring you a revelation: families fight.

Matthew is the only Gospel writer who uses the Greek work *ekklesia* – which we translate as "church". Churches are families; churches behave like families. And sometimes people in churches fight – or, at least, I've read about that in books. Scholars suggest Matthew was a rabbi writing his gospel for his tiny church – probably only 30 people – Jews who decided to follow Jesus - somewhere around the year 70AD. And I think they were ferociously bickering.

Conflict is unavoidable – sometimes even healthy. Conflict shows movement; conflict is a symptom of life. If things are happening, changing, developing, transforming – there will be conflict. So today Jesus teaches us how to fight fair – and, in fact, you can take these teachings and use them anywhere – families, marriages, work, school. You see: everything we do in here, is about equipping ourselves for life out there. Today we see that following Jesus means no pretending – no illusions of harmony – and no luxury of revenge. Following this man means hard work.

So – when somebody sins against you – when you're mad with somebody - tell them about it! And notice this: Jesus places the onus on the person who is offended – that's the one who must begin the healing process. Jesus inverts the movement of revenge.

Conflict means anxiety, so we stick our heads in sand. Or it's easier to complain to other people - easier to make phone calls shake heads in parking lots - dress our gossip up as "concerns". And gossip makes us feel significant; judging other people is empowering. Gossip is so seductive - it feels good to take all our own stuff and dump it on somebody else. And then the triangles form. I recently read that people gather together around things that are negative (gossip, conflict) three times more powerfully than we do around things that are positive – such as the teachings of Jesus. Healthy people talk to each other; healthy people do not talk about each other. SO - if you receive gossip - however it's dressed up you must immediately go to the other person and tell them what was said AND who said it. That's what it takes to break the cycle. Never accept secondhand information - but always confront secondhand information. There's a Christian principle. There's a way of centering your life on the teachings of Jesus.

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:14-15

Matthew tells us that direct communication doesn't always work instantly – so call in others, seek the help of the church. It takes faith, hard work, perseverance, true grit! It goes against everything we know and believe and understand – goes against a world where we grab our bags and storm away at the first sign of bother. But we follow Jesus, and we are determined to be different.

You see – disciples are to be mediators – people who live Christ's ministry of reconciliation. How do you handle conflict in your family? In mine we amputate – cut off – exclude – ignore. Sound familiar? But we are called to be different – we are called to be peaceable – called to model this to the world. It means – and this is always the litmus test – that we go beyond the motions – our heart and soul and passion must be in the place of reconciliation.

Of course: sometimes we fail; sometimes people walk away; sometimes conflict is so toxic we have to step out. So Jesus says: treat those who leave like gentiles or tax collectors.

It sounds so harsh – but remember – Jesus spent his days walking with gentiles and tax collectors, calling them to his love. He threw nobody away – no exclusions – no outsiders – no exceptions. And so, when relationships end, when people leave our lives, we have a way to look at them through eyes of faith – with compassion, honoring them as children of God, desiring their happiness and fulfillment. Remember our Baptismal Covenant? We strive to respect the dignity of every human being. And we believe that with the help of God we most certainly can.

Discipleship is tough. Following Jesus is hard. When tempers rise, we have to be the very first to reach out – even when we know we're in the right, even when every bone in our body wants to holler and moan and fight back. Even then – especially then – still we are called stay part of this tricky, difficult, demanding, glorious family. And in this beauty and mess we somehow find God. Here we confront and reconcile, here we heal and are healed, here we forgive and beg forgiveness. And here we can bring light and love into the darkest, emptiest corner of hell – laughter, affection, companionship, joy, and fellowship. And maybe somebody, locked alone in their castle, desperate to be right, might just come here – and see and find and embrace the teachings of Jesus, as if for the

very first time. Find liberation and life and resurrection in these difficult gospel principles – and the strength they give you and me to get up and walk out of those doors and into this world – determined that we will be different.

Peace

Richard
 Chaplain, DOK Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

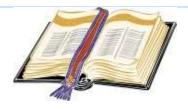
Psalm 16

- ¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- ² I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."
- ³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.
- ⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.
- ⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
- ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.
- ⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.
- ⁸ I keep the Lord always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.
- ¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.
- ¹¹ You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.



Point to Ponder: The Hebrew Bible...

Judaism

- Torah (הרות), Books of the Instruction
- Nevi'im (פיאיבנ), Books of the Prophets
- Ketuvim (מיבותכ), Books of the Writings

The Torah includes Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Nevi'im (Prophets) includes Joshua, Judges, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Kings, and other kings or prophets. Ketuvim (Writings) includes Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Ruth, Song of Songs, Chronicles, Daniel, and other things.

The Christian "Old Testament" is a translation of the Hebrew Bible with some modifications, such as changing the order of the books, and some modified passages to correspond to Christian philosophy and theology.

Christianity

Christians often use the term "Hebrew Bible" to refer to the Old Testament. In the New Testament, specifically, Luke 24:44, the New Testament claims that the Hebrew Bible is broken into: the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.

"I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion."

— Henry David Thoreau

"I am but one"

Many Daughters At Large (DAL) have moments of feeling alone, even when they belong to an active parish, because there is no Chapter, no meetings, no study, and maybe no prayer. Many of these Daughters are not physically able to drive to where a Chapter would welcome them. Some let their membership slide by not paying dues or wearing their pins. If you have e-mail, you have a Sister. (I confess that I stole that line from a lawyer's TV commercial.)

So here are my meager suggestions. Use the internet to contact Sisters from former chapters. Ask about the prayer needs of the church and chapter. We can all pray for the calling of a new Bishop for our Diocese, and the needs and concerns of the place where we do worship. We can ask others who live around us (especially if we live in a retirement home or community) if they'd be interested in getting together once a month for Bible study and discussion, talk to the Chaplin of your facility for help with this. Most of all use your manual to pray the Prayer of the Order and read the Motto daily, then pray for the chapters in this Diocese and this Province and count on us to remember to pray for you.

For His Sake,

Susan Steffen (susancsteffen@gmail.com)



Daughters@Large

If you are a Daughter at Large or know of a Daughter at Large who would like to receive this newsletter and more information from the Assembly and Diocese, or if you are doing something of interest, let us know. Please send your name, location and email to Susan Steffen at susancsteffen@gmail.com or call her at 717-420-5052.

Book Ends....

Hello Daughters, have you read a particularly good book lately? Did it move you spiritually, emotionally, or thoughtfully? Was it just a fun read? Please send in your recommendations for others to read and enjoy. *Current recommendations:*

Please send ideas and articles and other information for publication to Barbara House bghhouse@aol.com or call at 717-334-8554

Roots, by Alex Haley as reviewed by Amazon and Barbara House It begins with a birth in 1750, in an African village; it ends seven generations later at the Arkansas funeral of a black professor whose children are a teacher, a Navy architect, an assistant director of the U.S. Information Agency, and an author. Since the book's writing and the fantastic TV mini-series in the 1970's, many scholars and historians was denied the chronology and facts of Mr. Haley's book of this ancestry. I take exception to their criticism. Even if the book is not historically accurate (and I am not one to say it is or it isn't) it is a telling documentary of the lives of slaves from their time in Africa, to being kidnapped, to being sold and to living generations in captivity. It also tells a story of a family that will do anything to stay together. You can't help but root (pardon my pun) for Chicken George and Kunta Kinte. I had not thought about this story for 40 years and read it (listened on book tape) with relish. So, if you are looking for a great read, Roots, is one. The author is Alex Haley.

The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey by Candice Millard as reviewed by Amazon.

The River of Doubt—it is a black, uncharted tributary of the Amazon that snakes through one of the most treacherous jungles in the world. Indians armed with poison-tipped arrows haunt its shadows; piranhas glide through its waters; boulder-strewn rapids turn the river into a roiling cauldron.

After his humiliating election defeat in 1912, Roosevelt set his sights

"The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD."

Lamentations
3:25-26 (NIV)

on the most punishing physical challenge he could find, the first descent of an unmapped, rapids-choked tributary of the Amazon. Together with his son Kermit and Brazil's most famous explorer, Cândido Mariano da Silva Rondon, Roosevelt accomplished a feat so great that many at the time refused to believe it. In the process, he changed the map of the western hemisphere forever.

Along the way, Roosevelt and his men faced an unbelievable series of hardships, losing their canoes and supplies to punishing whitewater rapids, and enduring starvation, Indian attack, disease, drowning, and a murder within their own ranks. Three men died, and Roosevelt was brought to the brink of suicide. *The River of Doubt* brings alive these extraordinary events in a powerful nonfiction narrative thriller that happens to feature one of the most famous Americans who ever lived.

From the soaring beauty of the Amazon rain forest to the darkest night of Theodore Roosevelt's life, here is Candice Millard's dazzling debut.

If you haven't seen it, recommend Daughters of the King Daily Devotionals at:

http://www.dot-k.com/tag/daughters-of-the-king-daily-devotional/



The Prayer of the Chalic

Father, to thee I raise my whole being, - a vessel emptied of self. Accept, Lord this my emptiness, and so fill me with Thyself - Thy light, Thy Love, Thy Life - that these Thy precious Gifts may radiate through me and overflow the chalice of my heart into the hearts of all with whom I come in contact this day revealing unto them the beauty of Thy Joy and Wholeness and the serenity of Thy Peace

Francis Nuttall

which nothing can destroy.

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