

Episcopal Church of Lincoln County

Volume I, Issue 6

July 29, 2016

"To be a welcoming congregation, inclusive of everyone, inspired by the Holy Spirit and educated to live out our Christian faith."

Rector's Letter to the Congregation



Dear Friends,

As I write, the world is seeming like a very strange and dangerous place. In the last week, we have had shootings, a priest having his throat cut at the altar and plenty of other violence not to mention some strange political conventions in this country. At times like these, we have to remember Jesus words, "Do not be afraid" and his promise of "I am with you".

Jesus and his disciples lived in dangerous times. At the slightest appearance of opposition to Rome, they could be crucified. His followers in the early church could be arrested, beheaded, stoned, burned and could face any number of other unpleasant deaths. Maybe, what should surprise us is that we can wake up each day and feel safe in our homes and communities.

I was just reading stories of the refugees who will be competing in the Olympics. They will compete under the Olympic Committee flag, since they are without a country. Some are from South Sudan, some from Syria and some from other countries. The runners

learned how to run when they had to flee their homes to escape soldiers, who burned their villages, kidnapped children to turn them into soldiers or who killed their parents. I admire these young people who have survived in terrible circumstances. They are training in Kenya with a woman who has won gold at the Olympics. She insists that they all, even though from different tribes and countries, cooperate. The men and women both cook and clean and share in all the chores. The women are not inferior to the men, as was usually their custom. Some of these young people are Christians, some are not. They all have a desire for a better life.

This story made me think of how many things I take for granted. I assume that I will wake up in my own bed. I don't live in fear that soldiers will suddenly appear and destroy life as I know it. We live in one of the safest places in the world, with one of the most stable political systems. We need never to take our lives and what God has placed in our care for granted. We are blessed in many ways. When we see the evil in the world and in our own country, we cannot let it overcome us. We, as Christians, must remember that our lives are in the hands of God and that he

will redeem His world. His will is always for compassion, forgiveness and love. We need to be aware and give thanks for all we have received. We need to remember and pray for all those around the world who have less, but they still have the love and presence of God. We are called to show the love and compassion of God in our lives. We do not need to fear, but we must know that life is stronger than death and God will prevail.

Yours in Christ,
Judy



Please help keeping the ECLC newsletter going by sending photos and articles to Kelly Robbins: kmrobins86@hotmail.com

We have decided for the time-being to publish the newsletter quarterly, as John Rutherford reliably sends out e-mail blasts.



Angel Athlete (Cartoon by Inherit the Mirth)

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What's all the hype about the Episcopal Church?

This is why you should consider it.

Flower Pot Pottery Class



Christmas in July Sale

Thank you to everyone that had anything or everything to do with the Christmas in July Bazaar on Saturday! The tally is over \$7000.00 and will grow with more toffee to sell.

Special Guest: As Josie and the crew opened the garage for begin the garage sale, they discovered a skunk? The situation was handled without anyone getting "skunked". Thank you J.B. for the trap.

Meetings in August:

Vestry: Monday, August 22 in Parish Hall at 5:30 pm

Wednesdays: Holy Eucharist at 5:30; Choir Practice at 6:30

Thursday: Prayer Shawl Group at 3:30 and Christian Formation Class in Parish Hall at 6:00 pm

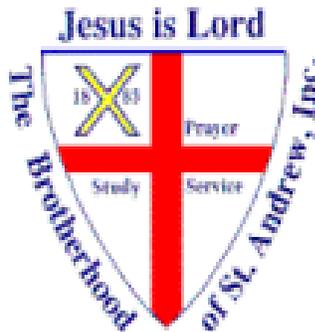
Third Sundays: Contribution to Discretionary Fund, Soldiers Smiles, Food Bank and The Lopez Fundraising Breakfast at 9:00.



Daughters of the King

Our chapter of Daughters of the King will be represented by Deacon Laurie Benavides and Brenda Restivo at the August 5, 2016 tea at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Silver City.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew



Yummy Breakfast on Sunday, August 7, 2016 following the 8:00 am service at Holy Mount. The Brotherhood offers this ministry monthly to help fund special projects and items needed for our church. We thank all who continue to support their efforts and hope you can attend!

Community Supper

The Episcopal Church of Lincoln County will sponsor our monthly community supper on Monday, August 8 beginning at 5:30 pm. Please remember that preparation for the supper is Sunday, August 7 at 2:00 pm in the parish hall. This will be our 40th community supper since this ministry began in our parish!



HIGH MOUNTAIN YOUTH PROJECT

At the July 12th Board of Directors Meeting, High Mountain Youth Project (HMYP) board members welcomed Mr. David Northington who spoke to the board about conducting a "Capital Campaign" to raise funds. Mr. Northington was the first director of Ladybird Johnson's Wildflower Foundation where he built the staff from 4 to 54 people in a period of 13 years. He then became an equity partner in one of the top ten capital campaign fundraising companies for non-profits in the country.

Mr. Northington explained the difference between Annual Operating Funds and Major Gift Fundraising. He said that most of our Operating Funds will come from small, individual gifts in the \$100 range and we will need as many friends as we can get in this range. Meanwhile, when ready to begin a Capital Drive, the organization should establish a goal and look for one "Lead Gift" of 25% of that goal. He suggested that 10% of our givers will give the majority of our money and 90% will donate in the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Roy Benavides has been facilitating the Christian Formation Sessions using material from the Kergma Program. The topic is

"The Bible and Theology." This group meets each Thursday night from 6:00 pm to 7:15 in the parish hall of Holy Mount.

Please Remember the Hungry

Please bring offerings of food to the Church of the Holy Mount Parish Hall or drop them off at the Food Bank. Recommended items: peanut butter, canned ham, canned soup, jelly, canned fruit (large), Hamburger Helper, Spaghetti Sauce with meat, canned chicken, canned chili, ravioli with meat, pork and Beans, dry pasta, Bulk Salt and Pepper, Toilet Paper

Ultreya!

The next Ultreya will be held at the home of Leon and Nancy Kranz, 208 McBride, Ruidoso, NM. On Friday, August 19. New Cursillistas recently joined the "old" members at the home of Roy and Laurie Benavides to celebrate together a successful Cursillo.



Calling all Volunteers!

High Mountain Youth Project are seeking volunteers to help staff our drop-in center, opening in the near future. Since you will be working with youth, a criminal background check will be necessary. Volunteers are needed for assisting with homework, providing an evening meal, lending an empathetic ear, and just being there to supervise between the hours of 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Please see Deacon Laurie or Kelly Robbins for details.

Prayer of St. Francis de Sales

Be at Peace

Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life;

rather look to them with full hope as they arise.

God, whose very own you are, will deliver you from out of them.

He has kept you hitherto, and He will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in his arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow;

the same everlasting Father who cares for you today

will take care of you then and everyday.

He will either shield you from suffering, or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imagination.

Holy Mount Schedule

Eucharistic Minister/Lector

August 2016

| Date | Time | Eucharist Minister | Eucharist Min/Lector | Lector |
|------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 8/3 | 5:30p | Pat Delhotal | | |
| 8/7 | 8:00 a 10:30a | Bob Whiteley Mike Buechter | Josie Powell | |
| 8/10 | 5:30p | Sandy Thomas | | |
| 8/14 | 8:00 a 10:30a | Gary Jackson Ron Aigner | Lori Featherstone | |
| 8/17 | 5:30p | Imelda Horne | | |
| 8/21 | 8:00 a 10:30a | Sal Lopez Imelda Horne | Doug Conley Sandy Thomas | |
| 8/24 | 5:30p | Mary Aigner | | |
| 8/28 | 8:00a 10:30a | Tony Martin Sandy Thomas | Brenda Restivo | |
| 8/31 | 5:30p | Gary Jackson | | |
| 9/4 | 8:00a 10:30 | Ron Annala Josie Powell | Mike Buechter | |

IT'S TIME WE TALK POLITICS IN A WAY THAN MODELS THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS RATHER THAN MOCKS THEM

Here are seven things to remember about politics:

1. Both political parties go to church: There's a Christian Left and, perhaps even less well-known, there's a secular Right. Larry T. Decker is a lobbyist and head of the Secular Coalition for America. He's an 'unaffiliated Christian,' but his entire job is devoted to keeping religion out of the U. S. government. Party lines are drawn in chalk, and they're not hard to cross. The Church must be engaged in politics, but it must not be defined by the arbitrary lines in politics.
2. Political talk radio and cable "news" only want ratings: When media personalities tell you they are on a moral crusade, they are lying to you. These personalities get rich by instilling fear and paranoia in their listeners. If we give our favorite political ideologues more time than we give Jesus, we are following the wrong master. There are unbiased, logical and accurate news sources out there. But it's up to you to be a good steward of information—to fact-check for yourself, take ideology with a grain of salt and make decisions based on facts rather than gossip.
3. Those who argue over politics don't love their country more than others. We need to rise above the vitriol and learn to love our neighbors the way God commanded us. We need to love our atheist neighbor who wants to keep creationism out of schools; our Democrat neighbor who wants to keep gay marriage and abortion legal, our Republican neighbor who celebrates death penalty statistics and gun ownership; and yes, even the presidential candidate from the other side.
4. If you're mocking your governing leaders on Facebook, the Holy Spirit is grieved. Thinking your party's platform is unflawed is a mistake: The social policies of your party were constructed by imperfect politicians fueled by ambition. It's nearsighted to canonize them—and it will make you obsolete in a few years. Every four years, the parties adopt a current, updated platform at their respective conventions. And while they stay on general tracks, every four years the platform evolves to meet the needs of a growing, modernized and changing party. The Republican party of today doesn't look like it did 10 years ago. We need to know when to change our views to meet a changing culture—and when to stand by them.
5. Scripture tells us to pray for our governing leaders (2 Timothy 1:1-4) and to respect those in authority (Romans 13:1-7): Translation: if you're mocking your governing leaders on Facebook, the Holy Spirit is grieved. We should spend more time honoring our leaders and less time vilifying them. This doesn't mean praying the President will be impeached; it doesn't mean praying your candidate will win. God commands us to pray for our leaders—for their wisdom, for their hearts and for them to be led by Him.
6. Don't be paranoid: The country is not going to be destroyed if your candidate loses. As 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." Stand up and demonstrate what God has given you. America has functioned—albeit, at varying levels of success—for years under the direction of alternating Democrat and Republican control, and at every flip, the other side thought it was the end of the world. It's not. And if we're a Church that believes God is in control, we have to believe that He is the one in control of the end times—not whoever's in office now, and not whoever succeeds them.
7. Stop saying "This is the most important election in the history of our nation" IT's not. The most important election in the history of our nation was when Abraham Lincoln was elected president. Before that, we thought it was OK to own people. Every generation thinks it's living in the most important moment in history. We're not, our parents were not and our children probably won't be. And that's OK.

Editor's note: This article has been updated from an original version posted in September 2012.