

Grace filled Voices

By Pastor Kathleen Adams

October 21, 2014

The Prayer-Filled Church

We learn from the Book of Acts and St. Paul's Epistles that prayer "for the saints" was vitally important for the well-being and growth of the young Christian Church. Numerous times, in his letters to the Churches under his care and oversight, Paul says that he is praying for them. For example, ".....I mention you always in my prayers...." he tells the Church in Roman. And to the Church in Philippi he says, "...In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy..."

Paul was responsible for the founding and establishing the Churches throughout Asia Minor, Greece and Rome in the years after Jesus death and resurrection. The Christian Church was founded in prayer. We see that in early days of the Church in Jerusalem. In the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2: 42, St. Luke records, ".....And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

So the model for being the Church is laid down in the Scriptures. Not only did Paul pray for them, but he also exhorts those new churches to prayer: Romans 12: 12, "Be joyful in hope, patience in affliction, faithful in prayer" and again in Ephesians 6: 18, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." and again in Colossians 4:2, "Devote yourselves to prayer...."

In the final book of the Bible, The Revelation of Jesus

Christ chapter 8: 4-5, St. John describes the worship in heaven, "Another angel, who had the golden censer, came and stood on the golden altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of the all God's people on the golden altar in front of the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand."

I learn from this little study of Scripture that prayer is vital, not only to our life as the Church, the Body of Christ; but also to our worship of God. "Prayer is central to our calling as a Church," Bishop John Guernsey teaches.

So it is here at Grace. The Vestry has committed to a cycle of prayer for each and every member of our Church daily. Many of you have joined in that commitment to pray. In addition, every Sunday morning, a team of inter-

cessors come to pray throughout the Church for each person that will be coming into the Church. There are small groups that are in prayer for one another every week. Friday evenings there is a prayer service in the Chapel. Wednesday morning at 10 am Holy Communion and prayers are offered.



We are called to be a Prayer-Filled Church; or another way of stating it; being Prayer-filled is causing us to be The Church.

Jesus prayed to The Father for us. We learn in John, Chapter 17 that he prayed for the disciples and not only them, but all who would believe in Christ through their teaching. We are the ones who believe because of the teaching of the apostles. Jesus prayed then and still is interceding for us now. We are the Church because of Jesus' prayer.

As Bishop Guernsey teaches in his video, The Prayer Driven Church, "Prayer changes things, prayer changes people, prayer changes situations, prayer changes churches, prayer changes nations." We have seen this in our own common life as a church. People are healed when they go to the prayer ministers during Communion. Life situations improve as folks ask the prayer ministers to pray.

We have learned that the Church is to be a place of physical and emotional healing and well as release

from all sorts of bondages. In prayer, a group led by St. Anne's, along with other denominations established the Christian Healing Center. Since then many of our folks have been involved in that prayer ministry and still are.

As we move into this next season of our common life as the Church of Jesus Christ at Grace Anglican, I sense that we are called more and more to prayer. Prayer for one another, prayer for our cities and country, prayer for the world, prayer for the poor, the sick, the disabled, the unemployed, the persecuted.....'cause prayer changes things!

We encourage you to be devoted in your prayers for one another and for the Church, and to take advantage of the many opportunities for prayer that are offered here at Grace Anglican: a Prayer-Filled Church.

Sunday Servers

October 26, 2014	Proper 25	9:30 a.m. Service
First Reader	Exodus 22:21-27	Doug Hall
Psalm Reader	Psalm 1	Frances Slaughter
Second Reader	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Trish Stewart
Intercessor		Bill Laitinen
Lay Euch. Ministers		Myrna and John Lipnicke
Acolytes		Bill Laitinen
Welcomers		Myrna Lipnicke, John Gerhart
Ushers		Ray Seibold, Jim Livingston
Vestry Person of Day		Jan Simon
Healing Ministers		Kay and Alfred Focke, Donna Sandner, Kari Campbell
Counters		Cline Handy Helen Reid

This Week at Grace

October 21, -October 28, 2014

Tues. October 21

11:30 a.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. "How Should We Then Live?"

Wed. October 22

10:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist Service in chapel**
2:00 p.m. "How Should We Then Live?"
3:00p.m. **Stand Up For Kids**
4:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

Thurs. October 23

10:30 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship at Grace
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist—CHC
3:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal

Fri. October 24

Fr. Joe's Day Off
9:30 a.m. Friday Bulletin Folders
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer in chapel

Sat. October 25

8:15 a.m. Cursillo 4th Day and Ultreya
Presbyterian Church of The Master, 26051 Marguerite Pkwy, Mission Viejo, CA
8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Sun. October 26

Proper 25-20th Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 a.m. Nursery opens
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service
9:30 a.m. Children's Church
11:a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Mon. October 27

Fr. Joe's Study Day
Senior Book Lunch—"Killing Patton" by Bill O Reilly

Tues. October 28

11:30 a.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. "How Should We Then Live?"

Grace Anglican Church 760-730-9900

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Bible Readings for October 26, 2014

Exodus 22:1-27

Psalm 1

I Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year A)

Seniors Book Lunch

2 & 4th Mondays

All interested persons are invited to bring a bag lunch and meet at Grace with other literary minded people to discuss the current book, "Killing Patton" by Bill O'Reilly on Monday, October 27th.

The 7:30 a.m. Quiet Service is back.

For those who want a quiet worship experience come to the spoken service at Grace at 7:30 a.m. on Sundays. We know there are people who are unable to come to the 9:30 service.

Senior Women's Bible Study

Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Anglican. They are working their way through the entire Bible. They are on the Gospel of Luke. All Senior Women are invited to join. Call Judy Collins for more information.