



THE CURATE



Rector's Corner



My column this month begins with an article by Charles Colson that appeared on his *Breakpoint* website today. It caught my eye because, as many of you know, I grew up in West Virginia in a coal mining family. My grandfather was killed in a mine explosion in 1938 when my father was a senior in high school. I can vouch for the fact that coal mining is a tough life. The points that Colson makes here are worth considering.

Lessons from a Coal Mine *Faith at Work, April 20, 2010*

Last Friday, West Virginia observed a “Day of Honor and Mourning” in remembrance of the 29 men killed at an explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine. In his proclamation, Governor Joe Manchin asked miners and mine operators to “commit to one day focused completely on making their workplace as safe as possible in honor of the [killed] miners.” For our part, we should commit to not taking the people who make our way of life possible for granted. The April 5 explosion that killed 29 miners was only the most recent such tragedy in West Virginia. In January 2006, an explosion in Sago, West Virginia, killed 12 miners. As if to underscore the lesson about the fragility of human life in a coal mine, less than three weeks later, a mine fire in Melville, West Virginia, killed two more miners.

It isn't only West Virginia. Last year, 19 men died in coal mine accidents in the United States. That's tragic, but good in comparison at least to previous records. In some years, the

number has been in the hundreds and even thousands. The threats don't only come from accidents. Coal mining is hazardous for your health in ways that few jobs are. Even when you take into account non-mining-related factors, miners and their families “are much more likely to suffer from an array of chronic, life-threatening health problems.” These include cardiopulmonary disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hypertension, diabetes, and lung and kidney disease.

Any way you look at it, coal mining is dangerous, which is why governor Manchin asked miners and operators to honor the dead by focusing on mine safety. For our part, we should honor them, first of all, by appreciating the risk they take on our behalf. Fifty percent of the electricity in the United States is produced by coal. If you are hearing or reading this, it's likely that you have a coal miner to thank for it. The other way we can honor them is not to see them as victims but as people whose life and work was marked by dignity. As the *Los Angeles Times* puts it, many miners see “coal mining... [as] not merely a profession, but a distinction, almost a public service.”

And in the best Christian model, they find meaning, purpose, and dignity in their work. Miners like Benny Willingham, who died on April 5, found, as the *L.A. Times* put it, “joy, and sustenance in working coal seams.” They have “an abiding faith that God will protect every man who earns his pay underground.” Many of these miners and their families are Christians—they live in the center of the Bible belt. They know that there are no guarantees in life. And this knowledge makes them lean all the more on God. Willingham told his pastor before the accident that “he prayed the Lord

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Rector's Corner Continued

would take his soul if he didn't make it home from his shift in the coal mine." In addition to trust, this faith produces gratitude. As one pastor told mourners, "I'm not angry at the mountain... That mountain has supported my family for 90 years." These are people who deserve our gratitude. More than that, they deserve to be emulated. Their faith and dedication, and good work done to God's glory, are lessons for all of us—no matter what line of work God has called us to.

Alpha Update

The Alpha Course got off to a rip-roaring start on April 12, with a dinner that was five-star restaurant quality. Ten small group leaders and 40 guests enjoyed the meal orchestrated by Mary Kolstad and Muriel and Leo Mizell with the help of their kitchen task force. One of the great benefits of Alpha is the fellowship enjoyed over a good meal. As of today, April 20, the group has completed the first two weeks of a ten-week program. The talks by Nicky Gumbel of Holy Trinity Church, Brompton in London, England have generated some lively fellowship in the small groups. A huge thank you to all of you who have made this program possible.

What's in a Name?

First Things magazine publishes an annual note on newborn names as a cultural indicator. New York City's Health Department released its list of the most-chosen baby names for 2008. Among the 62,070 girls born in 2008, Sophia edged into first place after having tied for first with Isabella in 2007. And, after a year off the list, Madison made it back into the top ten for girls. (A more daring parent might choose one of our more obscure presidents; why not Taft or VanBuren? Or, for that matter, why not Park or Lexington?) Among New York's 65,610 boys, Jayden moved to the top of the list, bumping Daniel into second place.

Overall, boys continued to be named after Biblical figures and saints: Joshua, Michael, Matthew, and Christopher all made the top ten. Interestingly, there appears to be a growing trend

toward traditional names for New York's daughters too: Emma (as in Jane Austen's Emma Woodhouse) has replaced Kayla (as in *Days of Our Lives*).

Another Thank You

As we read *The Curate* each month, we probably don't give much thought to what it takes to put this publication together. Believe me, it takes a lot. We should all thank Martha Polasek for all of the time and effort she puts into bringing us this quality publication each month. She does a great job. As I travel around the Diocese, I hear many compliments about her work. Thank you, Martha and keep up the great work.

Blessings in Christ,
Ted †

Jr. Warden's Report

Curt Winkler



reetings,
I am ever so close to getting all of the Plaques done, so please bear with me. Some anonymous donors have graciously donated some new prayer books for our pews. Let's all go to church on Sundays and use them. I hope all allergy victims feel a little better after the recent rains. I know I do. See you in church!

Treasurer's Report

Norwood Brenneke

	March	Year-to-Date
Beginning Balance	56,835.53	49,461.53
Total Income	16,908.77	62,785.27
Total Expenses	26,120.28	64,622.78
Ending Balance	47,624.02	47,624.02



Altar Guild

Eight people came together to fashion the palm crosses used on Palm Sunday, and the Altar Guild set up for eight services during Holy Week.

Altar Guild members worked together in the unity of the Holy Spirit to adorn the church building with beautiful Easter lilies to celebrate Resurrection Sunday.

As always, we welcome all who would like to join in the Altar Guild ministry.

Jay Dietz offers heartfelt thanks for all the extra time and care each of you gave during this time!

DOK

The DOK met with Fr. Ted on April 8. We received good input and guidance on how DOK can assist our Rector and the Parish. We hope to begin a study soon on Richard Foster's book, Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home and begin celebrating corporate communion once a quarter at our meeting. DOK will meet on Thursday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

Altar Flowers

From the Altar Guild Flower Chairman:
Thank you to all who donated Easter lilies, and thank you to all who helped decorate the church. Easter at St. Philip's was beautiful!

To donate altar flowers during May, June, and July, please contact Francis Williams at 903.729.5743 or call the church office. Checks for altar flower donations should be made out to **St. Philip's Altar Flowers** and mailed to the church office.

St. Mary's Guild

On Monday May 17 at 6 p.m., Marian Raney will host St. Mary's Guild salad supper. This will be our last meeting before the summer break. Regular meetings will resume on the third Monday in September.

ECW

Katherin Wardlaw

We had a great meeting on Tuesday April 13, 2010, with Sarah Minton as our speaker. She is the Executive Director for Palestine Resources for Independent Living in the Crockett and Palestine offices that she started in 2001 after retiring from CPS.

She gave a very animated talk about the Rainbow Room, originally started by Laura Bush. CPS workers can get clothing, shoes, toys, and supplies for children in their care from the Rainbow Room.

Sarah showed us the large duffel bags that each child receives when moved from their home into foster care. Each duffel bag includes new clothes, toys, a stuffed animal, and basic toiletries that the child may need in their new home. Sarah explained that anyone can donate money or gently used baby clothes for these purposes. She also distributed a wish list for the Rainbow Room.

Many of the churches in town donate, but our ECW is the largest single contributor. She added that our own Muriel Mizell started the Palestine Rainbow Room many years ago. Episcopalian Women have been involved in the local effort throughout the room's service to the community. Thank you, Sarah, for a wonderful program!

A spray of beautiful pink azaleas, delicious fresh fruit, cookies, and muffins adorned the reception table. Barbara Kolstad and Jackie Tokarczyk hosted the meeting. The next ECW meeting will be on Tuesday May 11, 2010. Katherin Wardlaw and Jeanette George will host.

ECW Pictures



ECW Pictures



ECW Pictures



Palm Sunday



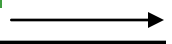
Palm Sunday



Easter Sunday



Flowering of the Cross



Easter Sunday



Easter Sunday



News from Godly Play

Godly Play Lent to Easter

The Lenten season was a great time for learning! I'm sorry I missed the last Curate but I still want you to know what we learned. We discovered the faces of Jesus. The first face was the **Wordless Baby** that the Word came in a wordless baby. The second face was Jesus when He was a twelve years old **Boy in the Temple** astonishing the rabbis and priests by His insight into the scriptures. The third face showed John **Baptizing Jesus**. We took this opportunity to learn about baptism in our church today. The fourth face we found Jesus led by the spirit across the Jordan into the desert to learn what His work was to be. After 40 days and 40 nights, **Jesus Was Tempted** by satan, but because Jesus knew the Word so well, He was able to fight satan and his temptations. The fifth face shows **Jesus Healing** a blind man. Jesus knew His work was to come close to people and help them, especially people other people didn't want to be near. We learned when people came close to Jesus they are able to see things they could never see before and do things they could never do. The sixth face showed **Jesus' Last Supper** with His disciples teaching them that He would always be with them when they shared the bread and wine together. This became the first Eucharist. This was the night He was betrayed, taken and was crucified on the cross, and this was so very sad. The seventh face is **Jesus on the Cross**. But there was another side to this card; when we turned it over, we could see **Jesus is Alive** with his arms out holding the chalice and the wafer. The children learned that when you look at the side of the card with the crucifixion it is sad and dark, but they know that on the other side of the card is Easter. The two sides cannot be separated. They learned that one can't have the good without the bad. **ON EASTER**, we found resurrection eggs. In each egg was a symbol for the children to identify. The kids made some interesting observations I have never



noticed before. There are several things about Easter that are the same as Christmas! The empty egg was a little confusing and so was the egg with the jelly bean. Maybe someone can tell us what they mean.

Cursillo

The Northeast Convocation Cursillo team will have its meeting on Saturday May 29 at 9 a.m. at St. Philip's Church in Palestine. The Palestine Cursillistas will host lunch for the East Texas team.

If anyone is interested in attending Cursillo #228 to be held at Camp Allen on June 17-20, please contact Merry or Bob Blackwell who are both on the June team. We do have some scholarship money available.

Ten Things That Make Prayer Effective

*Selected from The Love Dare
By Stephen & Alex Kendrick*

1. **Praying by Asking, Seeking, and Knocking**
Mt 7:7-8, 11~ "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened...If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"
2. **Praying in Faith**
Mk 11:24~ "Therefore, I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you."
3. **Praying in Secret**
Mt 6:6~ "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."
4. **Praying According to God's Will**
1 Jn 5:14~ "This is the confidence we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."
5. **Praying in Jesus' Name**
Jn 14:13-14~ "Whatever you ask in my name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."

6. Praying in Agreement with Other Believers

Mt 18:19-20~ "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

7. Praying while Fasting

Acts 14:23~ "When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed."

8. Praying from an Obedient Life

1 Jn 3:21-22~ "Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight."

9. Praying while Abiding in Christ and His Word

Jn 15:7~ "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

10. Praying while Delighting in the Lord

Psalm 37:4~ "Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart."

- "Signs of the times" Matthew 16:3
- "Soft answer turns away wrath" Proverbs 15:1
- "Stood by the stuff" (a reference to troops that guarded supplies) 1 Samuel 25:13, 30:24)
- "Strait and narrow" Matthew 7:14
- "Suffer fools gladly" 2 Corinthians 11:19
- "Sweat of your brow" Genesis 3:19
- "The blind leading the blind" Matthew 15:14, Luke 6:39
- "The love of money is the root of all evil" 1 Timothy 6:10
- "The truth shall make you free" John 8:32
- "There's nothing new under the sun" Ecclesiastes 1:9
- "Thorn in the flesh" 2 Corinthians 12:7
- "To everything there is a season" Ecclesiastes 3:1
- "Twinkling of an eye" 1 Corinthians 15:52
- "Wars and rumors of wars" Matthew 24:26, Mark 13:7
- "Weighed in the balances and found wanting" Daniel 5:5
- "What is truth?" John 18:38
- "Where there is no vision, the people perish" Proverbs 29:18

More of the Influence of Christianity on Western Civilization

A Prayer for Our Country



Here are some more phrases from Holy Scripture that have made their way into everyday conversation:

- "Man shall not live by bread alone" Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4
- "More blessed to give than to receive" Acts 20:35
- "My brother's keeper" Genesis 4:9
- "No peace for the wicked" Isaiah 48:22, Isaiah 57:21
- "Out of the mouths of babes" Psalm 8:2
- "Pride goes before a fall" Proverbs 16:19
- "Put your house in order" 2 Kings 20:1, Isaiah 38:1
- "Red sky at morning" Matthew 16:3
- "Salt of the earth" Matthew 5:13



Father, you are the giver of freedom. Please protect America's freedom which was given by You and You alone. You are the foundation upon which the USA was built.

Turn the hearts of your people back to You beginning with me. Soften the hearts of the American people; turn their hearts, minds, and spirits to You, O Lord that they may recognize and repent of their sin, see Jesus, accept Him as their Savior and raise up the greatest revival to you that this world has ever seen.

Turn the hearts of the leaders of our country, the President, the Vice President, Speaker of the House, and all of Congress to acknowledge You, Your power, Your love, and embrace Your son as Savior of their lives. *Amen*





MAY 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Bible Study 10a Euch Rite II	3 6p OT Study <i>6p Alpha</i>	4 6:15p Girl Scouts	5 9 a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study 5:30p Euch/Heal 6:30p Choir	6 <i>5:30p Women's Cursillo Group</i>	7 <i>8:00a Men's Cursillo Group</i>	8
9 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Bible Study 10a Euch Rite II Mother's Day	10 6p OT Study <i>6p Alpha</i>	11 9:30a ECW 6p Vestry Mtg. 6:15p Girl Scouts	12 9a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study 5:30p Euch/Heal 6:30p Choir	13 5:30p DOK Mtg <i>5:30p Women's Cursillo Group</i>	14 <i>8:00a Men's Cursillo Group</i>	15 9a Alpha
16 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Bible Study 10a Euch Rite II	17 6p St. Mary's Guild Salad Supper <i>6p Alpha</i>	18 6:15p Girl Scouts	19 9a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study 5:30p Euch/Heal 6:30p Choir	20 <i>5:30p Women's Cursillo Group</i>	21 <i>8:00a Men's Cursillo Group</i>	22
23 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Bible Study 10a Euch Rite II	24 6p OT Study <i>6p Alpha</i>	25 6:15p Girl Scouts	26 9a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study 5:30p Euch/Heal 6:30p Choir	27 <i>5:30p Women's Cursillo Group</i>	28 <i>8:00a Men's Cursillo Group</i>	29 9a Northeast Convocation Cursillo Team Mtg
30 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Bible Study 10a Euch Rite II	31 Memorial Day <i>Office Closed</i>					



April 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

June 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Anniversaries

- 20 Rollin & Kathleen Smith
- 20 David & Stephanie Sullivan
- 24 Charles & Rosalyn Bennett
- 31 William & Martha Lou Mitchell



- 2 Ron Strominger
- 5 Chris Gouras
- 13 Jill Kolstad
- 14 Mary Knowles
- 15 Sid Walton
- 18 Ann Skelton
- 21 Langdon Elliott
- 24 Merry Blackwell
- 25 Kristen Knippers
- 26 Alec Law
- 28 June Rotter
- 31 William "Duke" Waggoner

CHURCH INFORMATION

ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

Rector Ted Welty
Church Administrator Kelan Eckerman
Organist/Choirmaster Clarissa Delany
Sexton Chris Rogers

Leo Mizell (Senior Warden)
Curt Winkler (Junior Warden)
Norwood Brenneke (Treasurer)
Mark Davis (Vestry Clerk)

Bob Blackwell Kay Chapman
Frank George Jay Dietz
Ann Royall Maffitt Sparky Kolstad
Charlie Nichols Martha Styner

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday -Thursday 9a-5p
Friday 9a-12p
Closed Federal Holidays
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Fax: 903-729-8691

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Curate: ma_polasek@earthlink.net

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