

The Rainbow



July 2020

Walking Life's Journey *By Elizabeth Clement*

I've been thinking about walking as a theme lately. One main reason, I suppose, is that frequent walks in the City Park have energized and centered me and brought an element of peace to my soul. The green pastures, still waters, even the paths of righteousness from David's Psalm all come to life at the park on a sunny afternoon.

Then recently, while cleaning out a drawer full of old Christmas cards and letters, I found a sermon by our beloved brother-in-law and uncle, the Rev. Hill Riddle. It is entitled *Walking the Way of the Cross*. The sermon was given on Palm Sunday (2000), so Hill emphasized Jesus' walk during Holy Week when He set His face toward Jerusalem and the Cross. Hill made additional references that explain how walking can become a kind of sacred activity and a tool for meditation and prayer.

It was in the context of walking from one village to another with His disciples that Jesus carried out His ministry. As He walked, He called His disciples and taught them. He got to know people in the villages of Palestine, shared meals with them, answered (and asked) questions, and healed many. Often, we describe our lives as a journey – a daily walk.

The labyrinth is “a prayer tool for walking the spiritual journey.” One of the earliest labyrinths used in this way was created at Chartres Cathedral (about 60 miles southwest of Paris) in the 13th century. At that time, walking the path may have symbolized a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It is meant to be “a walking meditation.” Following the winding path of the labyrinth is a different experience for everyone I am sure, but for some it represents having the presence of the Holy One with us in a special way as we walk life's journey. There is a labyrinth design in the tiles of the floor in our own Rowley Hall.



In our actual journey of life there are difficulties and struggles but we do not walk alone. There are fellow travelers to help us. There are friends and family members and our church family. And the troubles can take on new meaning as we “walk in newness of life” in Christ. (Romans 6:4)

There is a well-known story in the gospel of Luke, chapter 12, about a walk that happened on the road to Emmaus. On what would have been Easter day, two of Jesus' followers were walking to Emmaus (a village about seven miles from Jerusalem). At some point Jesus “drew near and walked with them.” This would have been so exciting, but they did not recognize Him. When they got close to Emmaus, Jesus seemed to be going on. Since it was getting late, the disciples asked the stranger to stay with them and eat. When He sat down at the dinner table with them, blessed and broke the bread, and gave it to them, “their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.” This story of surprise and recognition demonstrates the importance of keeping our eyes and our hearts open when we go for a walk!

In 1855, composer Josef Rheinberger was inspired by this story to write the beautiful *Abendlied* which can be found at https://youtu.be/TGc_HGwdxk. It is sung in German, but the sweetness of that unexpected post-resurrection conversation along the road and the evening meal shared by beloved friends – is evident.

So, walking or moving along life's path is necessary. It can improve our health. It can be difficult. It can be sacred.

We are not alone. There are fellow pilgrims on the journey, and the presence of our Good Shepherd. And there might be surprises along the way so keep your eyes and your heart open.

German text: *Blieb' bei uns, denn es will Abend warden; Und der Tag hat sich geneiget, sich geneiget O bleib' bei uns, denn es will Abend warden*

English translation: *Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.*

(The Rev. Hill Riddle served as rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in New Orleans from 1984-2013, and at Episcopal churches in Ashland and Roanoke, Virginia, prior to that time.)



Where in the world is Father Chad Slater?

By Mimi Merritt

COVID-19 may have dashed his carefully constructed plans for a sabbatical this summer, but with Pastoral Intern Paul Barker in place to tend the Christ Episcopal flock, Father Chad found a new adventure to embark upon with his family.

Many of us learned about June 17 on Facebook, the day he posted this status:

“My sabbatical is not going as planned—not by a long shot—but I’m okay with that. If the coronavirus had not appeared right now my family and I would be touring the Great Pyramid and sightseeing in Cairo today, having already spent a week in the UK and touring Paris. South Africa would have been our destination this weekend. That’s not happening this year, but I have hopes it will next summer. I still wanted to accomplish two things for this three-month sabbatical—making family memories and working on my project on ministry in Appalachia (two things I’m passionate about). We are starting off the summer with memory making. Today we took off on a grand road trip across the country—something I’ve always wanted to do. We will be practicing social distancing in our travels, avoiding indoor places, and fumigating our hotel rooms with Lysol every night. I’m looking forward to what we might see and the stories we will tell later. We’ll be back when we get back, no real itinerary, just going west. I ask for your prayers for safe travel. See you on the road; stay well!”



They started off on the northern route, where the prairies turn in to the plains. Just a day or so into their journey, Father Chad posted:

“Driving through the Midwest:

Me: What was your favorite thing you saw today?

Ben: A wheat field.

Me:...Why?

Ben: Because it was the only thing besides corn and windmills we saw.”

The Slaters visited the World’s only Corn Palace, in Mitchell, South Dakota, before seeing in Chamberlain, South Dakota, the majestic “Dignity of Earth & Sky,” a 50-foot high stainless steel statue of a native woman by South

Dakota artist laureate Dale Claude Lamphere. The statue, which honors the Native Nations of the Great Plains, features a starquilt made of 128 diamonds.



And then, came this post on June 19:

“I really am blessed. A couple days ago I posted that we were traveling west—destination unknown (with a few places in mind). I never thought I would get so many invitations to visit old friends. I lost count at 18 separate individuals who offered up everything from their home, to their kitchen, to their tour guide skills to us. I wish we could visit all of you who have been so kind to reach out to us. It’s done my heart a world of good. Rest assured that if we happen by your town we will be calling on you. Thank you. I love you all. You are a blessing.”

Next up was Badlands, where Father Chad shared a picture of himself, “A masked hombre in the Badlands.”

From the Badlands, it was on to Mt. Rushmore National Memorial, The Wild Bill Bar in Deadwood South Dakota, where Wild Bill Hickok was shot, to Devil’s Tower National Monument, to the Site of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, and to Yellowstone National Park.



And then it was on to Moab, Utah, for Canyon Lands National Park, dinosaur footprints and petroglyphs at Poison Spider Trail, and Arches National Park, which Father Chad described as “One of the most beautiful places I’ve ever seen.” After Utah, the Slaters were on to Texas and Oklahoma and Colorado, “to amber waves of grain, to views of future dinners, to Dodge City, Kansas.”

And always, safe in their masks.



My First Month

by Pastoral Intern Paul Barker

June was our first month worshipping together and back to in-person services. It was wonderful! Over the past few months, I discovered what I had missed about live worship: seeing my friends in Christ, the music, the Word read aloud, the beautiful space and the feeling I get, touched by the Spirit, when all this comes together at Communion. Sunday morning looks a little different; we wear masks, we sit in every other pew and practice social distancing, and yes, I must make sure the phone camera is ready to record live. But when Terry begins to play, that all goes to the side and the joy begins.

We are blessed to be averaging about 20 folks in church with another 135 plus viewers through our live stream. Thank you to all who serve and attend on Sundays and to those who tune in from home. Remember, you do not need to have a Facebook account to view live. Just go to <https://www.facebook.com/christchurchbluefield/> at service time, 10 a.m., light a candle if you like, and join in!

I have met many of you in person, over the phone or via zoom. I am so grateful to know you all and I thank you for your kindness. If there is a difficult neighbor among us, they must be hiding, because you have all been great! I look forward to meeting more members as the summer moves along.

With July upon us, I pray for everyone's continued health and safety, and for those who are ailing, I pray for your healing. I pray for our country and for our civic and medical leaders and workers. And for those times when we feel this health crisis is controlling us, I ask Christ to walk even closer with us than he already is. I hope that all of us at Christ Church will continue to be a beacon of God's love and caring in the world.

Peace, Paul



Summer Fun *Submitted by Linda Ammar*



Jocelyn and Madelyn Simon hiked the trails at Little Beaver State Park. They particularly liked the yellow butterflies!

Episcopal Church Women to be Collecting Donations this July for the Church Periodical Club

Submitted by Mary Catherine Williams

Church Periodical Club is an Episcopal Church Women's project. Its ministry is to supply books, magazines, tapes, videos, and computer programs FREE to those who cannot otherwise obtain them, and to raise the money to do this.

We will be collecting donations for this project until the end of July. Please send your contribution to the church, earmarked "CPC." Last year we collected from May 5 to June 6, and we received a total of \$483.63 in contributions. Let's make it \$500 or more this year.

Church Periodical Club is changing the world one book at a time...

OUR MISSION

The Church Periodical Club is an independent, affiliated organization of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, dedicated to the worldwide Ministry of the Printed Word and to the Promotion of Christian Mission. It is the only organization in the Episcopal Church dedicated solely to providing free literature and related materials, both religious and secular, to people all over the world who need and request them and who have no other source for obtaining them. Prayer Books, books for seminarians, educational materials, medical textbooks, agricultural manuals and books for those in local and global mission are some of the publications The Church Periodical Club supplies. The Church Periodical Club operates at all levels of the Church - national, provincial, diocesan and parish. The goal is to make the CPC program a concern of the whole Church. That goal includes having an active and enthusiastic CPC representative in every parish and diocese. The Church Periodical Club is funded by voluntary contributions from all levels of the Church by people in the pews. CPC is supported by the prayerful concern, time, talents, labor and money of those who believe in the Ministry of the Printed Word.



Our prayer

Bless O Lord, The Church Periodical Club, that it may be an instrument for the spread of your Word throughout the world. Grant to its officers wisdom and patience, to its members perseverance and the spirit of sharing that asks no return. Bring more to take part in its mission and ministry. Bless our gifts and those who receive them, to the enrichment of individual lives, that we all may be servants of the risen Lord. Amen.

Prayer List:

Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Mike McLeod, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Bob Moore, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, the Riddle Family

MINUTES OF VESTRY MEETING

JUNE 16, 2020

Present via www.zoom.com Paul Barker, Becky Beckett, Senior Warden, Tom Coughlan, Junior Warden
Linda Ammar, Elizabeth Clement via phone, Frank Dragotto,
Delia Kersey via phone Donald Kersey, Peter Richardson

Becky Beckett called the meeting to order and Paul provided the devotion.

Heating/Cooling Project Report

Peter Richardson reported on the Heating/Cooling Project, indicating that the system is now operational. David Kersey has finished the carpentry work in the undercroft. The area behind the organ needs to be covered and this work is expected to be completed in two to three weeks. The price for the proposed screen for the unit on Tazewell Street is several times more than what was expected so Peter is looking at different suppliers/vendors to get other estimates on the cost of the screen. Tom Coughlan stated that he is in the process of finding someone to complete the painting.

Treasurer's Report

Frank Dragotto stated that the Balance of Accounts for the church shows \$2,801,425.08, \$81,000 over last month. This is due to a Small Business Administration loan the church received for \$17,200 and a stock market surge yielding \$71,000.

The Profit and Loss statement shows total income of \$44,787. Expenses of \$19,528 for the month indicate we are \$7000 to the good. Becky questioned whether or not we would have a gas bill in the future and Donald stated that the heating/cooling units are running 24/7 but the thermostat is only turned on in the morning on Sundays.

Tom made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Delia seconded the motion. The treasurer's report was approved.

Paul's Report

Paul stated that things have gotten off to a good start. During his first week activity picked up at the church: flowers were planted, contractors were visible and Emma returned to work. The services at the church have gone well and live streaming continues to be in place. Paul's schedule will be as follows:

Sunday – worship service and he will be in the office for several hours after the worship service
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday – he will be in the office all day

Paul discussed several ideas. A request from the Bishop on how we can better communicate technologically with the congregation has led Paul to research several methods by which our email system would change – Mailchimp and Constant Contact being two of the options discussed. Through these methods, communication would be more efficient; our email system would be updated and the coordinating of donations is also possible. Paul stated the target date for implementation is July 1st. Paul has called and met many people and is trying to determine what form “in person” visits will take. He meets with Father Russ regularly and is considering a Bible Study through www.zoom.com as well as a small chapel service.

Senior Warden's Report

Becky said plates have been ordered for the St. Mary's cross in the Columbarium and everything will be engraved with the same script.

Paper work has been done on the request to extend Chad's grant until December 2021.

An email from the Bishop indicates that he is leary about having live church and has mandated that the priest wear a mask at all times during the church service.

The vestry decided not to have a meeting during July and will meet again on August 19th.

Junior Warden's Report

Tom Coughlan stated that AEP will cut down a tree through which electrical wires pass on the east side. This will be done at no cost to the church. There is a pile of rock at the top of the driveway which needs to be disposed of. One bid of \$22,000 to fix the roof above the nursery has been received and Tom is looking at other options to reduce the cost.

Committee Reports

Evangelism – Delia Kersey had no report

Outreach – Donald Kersey stated that the Food Pantry will be held on June 17 with a limited number of volunteers. He said there have not been many people at Food Pantry the last several months. Don stated that the Lutheran Church has backed out of the Community Picnic scheduled for July 23rd. The vestry decided to cancel the picnic and may reschedule at a later date. Linda Ammar will call the band to cancel.

Parish Life - Linda Ammar discussed the possibility of cancelling the church picnic in September and the vestry decided to hold off on this decision for a few weeks.

New Business

Paul asked if the church owned a portable defibrillator and fire extinguishers. It was agreed that both items were needed and Paul will look into the purchase of each.

Delia Kersey made a motion to adjourn and Tom Coughlan seconded the motion. Paul led us in prayer before dismissal.



MONTHLY MINISTRY REPORT

JUNE 2020

UNION MISSION

Craig Hammond reported that with Episcopal financial support at the Union Mission, 83 BBQ dinners were prepared, packaged and served by the Mission staff. These meals included BBQ on a bun, coleslaw, baked beans and dessert with a beverage. Distribution took place over the two days of June 10 and June 11, Wednesday and Thursday.

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry continues to serve the community although attendance has been down for the last few months. Nine people from the community received grocery bags on Food Pantry day in June. Thanks to Betty Nash and Charlie Blevins, Donald Kersey, Peter Taylor, and Paul for their commitment to this most important outreach program.

July 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist	6	7	8 3:30 Union Mission	9	10	11
12 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Morning Prayer Bagging for Food Pantry after Church	13	14	15	16 9:00 Food Pantry	17	18
19 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist	20	21	22	23	24	25 James the Apostle
26 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Morning Prayer	27	28	29	30	31	

The following people have graciously offered to donate flowers for the month of January:

July 5, 2020	John and Delia Kersey
July 12, 2020	The Marra & Fortune Families
July 19, 2020	Mike & Kay Sudduth
July 26, 2020	Bruce, Dee & Will Puckett

Altar Guild for July:

Linda Ammar and Elizabeth Clement

CORRECTIONS:

In the June Rainbow, we incorrectly stated that the power washing was done by William Allen. It was done by John Allen. Our apologies John. Also in the June Rainbow, in an article about Frankie Wilkinson graduating from Graham High School, we spelled Wilkinson incorrectly. Congratulations to Frankie on his graduation. We sincerely regret spelling your name wrong.

Birthdays:

July 1 Wendy Harris	July 13 Bonnie Taylor	July 20 Phillip Morgan
July 2 William Clement	July 15 Bill Davis	July 22 Jennifer Slater
July 3 Erin Elam Simon	July 17 David Hardin	July 23 Kray Davis Luxbacher
July 9 Louisa Sowers	July 18 Don Harris	July 25 Becky Steorts
July 10 Catherine Wimmer-Anderson	July 18 Caroline Wilkinson	July 26 Joe Allen
July 11 Ben Faulkner	July 19 Tripper Thomas	July 28 Shirley Ofsa
July 13 Peter Richardson	July 20 John Beckett	July 28 Mike Sudduth

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 DUHRING STREET
BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA 24701

To our friends and family:



July 2020

Editor in Chief: David M. Kersey
Editor: Susanne Pulse (susannepulse@gmail.com)
Copy Editor: Mimi Merritt
Contributors: Linda Ammar, Bea Paine, Mimi Merritt
Graphic Design: Susanne Pulse