

Christ Church

Good News and Notes

*** Please note that all new items for this edition are in red**

Through the Eyes of Love

"All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

This coming Sunday we will hear more of what is called Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples. This long, sweeping monologue from Jesus points repeatedly to the fact that if we want to know God we have only to look at the life, love, and multiple acts of compassion and mercy that defined Jesus' earthly life.

If we know Jesus, then we know God and we know that what is desired of us is that we love one another and the world the same way Jesus did; the same way God does.

As I reflect on the way that Christians have failed this simple commandment through time---time and time again---I am tempted to write a lament, a Psalm of deep sadness to our failure to know and love God and love one another as Jesus taught us.

But on this day, with images from Manchester swirling in my mind and heart, I am resisting such dark thoughts because once again, in the midst of a human or humans acting with evil intent, what surfaced more clearly than the evil was the goodness and courage of the human family.

This bomber meant to start a fire of rage, seeking to divide us along religious and political lines, but instead the citizens of Manchester came together across deep diversity and LOVE spoke much, much louder than hate.

As I said in last Sunday's sermon, we learn to love best by accepting how God loves us first and asks us to spread that love like a wildfire that consumes the world with it's joy and wholeness.

So this week I want to remember and reflect on God's love for us, a limitless love that Jesus so beautifully demonstrated and was reflected fully in the outpouring of love in and for Manchester in the midst of this weeks horrible tragedy.

I want to leave you with the words of one of my favorite modern Irish bards and poets, John O' Donohue. What follows is called "The Eyes of Jesus" from his book, *To Bless the Space Between Us* and I simply find it wonderful to think on and I hope you will too...

The Eyes of Jesus

*I imagine the eyes of Jesus
were harvest brown,
The light of their gazing
suffused with the seasons:
A gaze that is perfect sister
to the kindness that dwells
in his beautiful hands.*

*They eyes of Jesus gaze on us,
stirring the heart's clay
the confidence of seasons
that never lose their way to harvest.*

*This gaze knows the signature
Of our heartbeat, the first glimmer
From the dawn that dreamed our minds,*

*The crevices where thoughts grow
Long before the longing in the bone
Sends them toward the mind's eye,*

*The artistry of the emptiness
That knows to slow the hunger
Of outside things until they weave
Into the twilight side of the heart,*

*A gaze full of all that is still future
Looking out for us to glimpse
The jeweled light in winter stone,*

*Quickening the eyes that look at us
To see through to where words
Are blind to say what we would love,*

*Forever falling softly on our faces,
His gaze plies the soul with light,
Laying down a luminous layer*

Beneath our brief and brittle days

*Until the appointed dawn comes
Assured and harvest deft*

*To unravel the last black knot
And we are back home in the house
That we have never left.*

We are loved and made for loving in return. May we always see one another, in good times and in bad, through the eyes of Jesus.
Grace and Peace, Stephanie+

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OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR JUNE

In the past we've had a great time getting out of doors together experiencing the beauty of this wondrous area. These activities are being coordinated by Nancy Wilson. Please email or call Nancy with any questions and to let her know that you want to go. They are open to family and friends. Of course the weather will be a factor for both of these and they will be cancelled/postponed if the weather does not cooperate for a fun, safe day. nancy.dexter@gmail.com 336/528-2729

June 2 Friday - Grayson Highlands Hike - 9:00AM until ?

We will carpool to Grayson Highlands State Park and meet at the parking area at Massie Gap. As a group we will walk up into the Wilburn Ridge area where it is typical to see herds of the Highland ponies that are managed in the park. Depending upon interest and hiking ability of the group from there we can split into 2 groups with a group of more serious hikers group continuing south on the Appalachian Trail towards Rhododendrum Gap and Mt Rogers (out and back with turn around available at any point). A second group can make a moderate loop going north out of Wilburn Ridge on the Appalachian Trail and looping back on the AT spur trail back to the parking lot. This hiking option is approximately 2 miles.

You will need a day pack and snacks/lunch and drinks. Entrance fee for the park is \$7/car.

June 23 Friday - New River Float Trip - 10:00AM until ?

We will carpool to Riverside Outfitters which is located on the South Fork of the New River at Kings Creek Bridge beyond Piney Creek School. This is a nice section of the river with a few gentle rapids and it is shallow enough to stand up in. Riverside offers tube (\$12) and kayak (sit upon- \$22) rentals and will provide the shuttle for a trip that will be approximately 2 hours depending upon water level. Riverside has a Food Truck this year where you

can buy sandwiches and drinks. We can buy food or bring food for a picnic following the float. We did this several years ago and ended up planning 2 trips since so many people wanted to go. We had a blast.

With Gratitude

I wanted to offer a note of deep thanksgiving for the love and generosity that has been on display in the tender events of this week. As the parish has said goodbye to two beloved members, Sara and Bette, the Parish Care Team, the altar servers, readers, and countless others have come out to support and participate in worship and all of the loving activities of providing food, care and participation at each event.

The timeless Anglican Priest, G.K. Chesterton has said that "*Gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.*" In a time of loss, God's unassailable joy is shining through all of you. Thank you.

Blessings, Stephanie+

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Adult Forum @ 9:15 Sundays



New Series: Episcopal 102: How Liturgy Shapes Our Daily Lives SUNDAY'S at 9:15am.

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 as we explore "How Liturgy Shapes Our Daily Lives".

Liturgy is how we live and move and have our being in the world. Come and learn with this deep and uplifting exploration on how we can "do" liturgy in our everyday lives.

Food and Fellowship Ministry Updates

We extend our gratitude to Cynthia Grant, Allan Joyce, and Gary Medley who volunteered to host a luncheon on September 24th and to Sheila Pfaender who will host a luncheon in early November. We still have July and August available for those of you who are thinking about sharing your culinary talents with us. We look forward to providing the accompaniments for your chosen entree.

Our parish picnic is scheduled for **Sunday, June 11th** and will be held on the beautiful grounds of Christ Church. Everyone has an opportunity to participate by signing up on the sheet located on the table in the undercroft. Please mark your calendars so you won't miss out on this opportunity for fun and fellowship.

Mountain Soul
May 28th @ 6:00pm



Hank, Pattie, and The Current
(Raleigh, NC)

Two of North Carolina's veteran bluegrass musicians join forces with some of the Triangle area's most versatile musicians to create modern, American, acoustic music featuring the full range of their talents as composers and arrangers. The band is on tour regionally and nationally in 2016 in support of their new, self titled album on Robust Records.

The band makes use of traditional bluegrass instrumentation in a nontraditional way to present original music to the listener that goes beyond the limits of the idiom. The arrangements take on a new level of maturation that follows in the footsteps of Bela Fleck, Mark O'Connor, Chris Thile, Sam Bush, Edgar Meyer, and Tony Rice. Hank, Pattie & The Current want to pick up where seminal crossover groups like The Punch Brothers, Strength In Numbers and the ever changing Bluegrass Allstars call home. The music is vocal and instrumental, allowing the band to experiment with arrangements and tailor the compositions to become vehicles for exploration. Hank Smith plays banjo, Pattie Hopkins Kinlaw plays fiddle and sings. The band is rounded out with Ben Parker on guitar on vocals, Robert Thornhill on mandolin and vocals and E. Scott Warren on bass.

About Hank Smith & Pattie Hopkins Kinlaw

Hank Smith and Pattie Hopkins Kinlaw have been playing together in various capacities for the last eight years in various ensembles including The Kickin Grass Band and Morning After Music. This is the first time the two will tour as a duo without the assistance of a larger ensemble. The music they create on and off stage sounds as though it came from one mind. The duo approach improvisation with lightning fast thought and reaction and compose intricate, as well as dulcet melody, vocal harmony and lockstep rhythm. For them, music is an endless playground of texture, tone and space that allows for pure joy in playing and a straightforward maturity one would expect from musicians twice their ages.

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Collecting Books for Summer Backpack Program

Delta Kappa Gamma Delta Chapter (a society of women educators) of Allegheny County will be collecting gently used and new children's books for the summer backpack program for the Solid Rock Food Closet. We will also accept crayons, coloring books, children's magazines, puzzle books, pencils and chapter books. The ages of the children who participate in this program are **5 to 14**. Allegheny County's Solid Rock Food Closet serves

approximately 300 children during the summer. All donations are very much appreciated. One of our collection points will be Sparta Elementary School or the Chamber of Commerce in Sparta. If you have questions please contact me.

Thank you
Susie Miller
First Vice President
Gamma Delta Chapter

Email: susie.mrsmiller@gmail.com

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Women's Fellowship

Friends in Faith will meet on **Wednesday's** at 11:00am following 10:00am Holy Eucharist.

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Announcements in Good News & Notes: To ensure timely and accurate communication within the parish, if you have an announcement to be included in Good News & Notes, Bulletin, or Prayers of the People, please write it out exactly as you would like it to be stated and either email it to Christina (ccepiscopal@skybest.com) or leave it on her desk. The deadline for submissions is 10:00am on Wednesday to be included in Thursday's email.

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For any building or property issues please contact; Phil Donaldson, Chris Huysman or Willie Plummer with your concern.

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For Urgent Prayer Request- Contact Gary Medley. Please be sure to get permission to share any details for the Prayers. Also, if you like to be listed as an Urgent Prayer Partner, please contact.

Great thanks & peace,
Gary Medley
gapdweller@gmail.com
336 372 7464
336 572 2905

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**Sparta Memorial Day Parade
2pm on Monday May 29th
After ceremony at courthouse**

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Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, May 28

9:15am-Adult Formation Episcopal 102

10:30am- Holy Eucharist

6:00PM- Mountain Soul- Hank, Pattie, and The Current

Monday, May 29

Office Closed

Wednesday, May 31

10:00am- Holy Eucharist

11:00am – Christ Church Friends in Faith

Sunday, June 4

9:15am- Adult Formation Episcopal 102

10:00am- Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, June 6

4:00pm- Finance Meeting

Wednesday, June 7

10:00am- Holy Eucharist

11:00am – Christ Church Friends in Faith

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**Prayer requests from the staff and prisoners
River North Correctional Center, Independence, VA**

River North Prayer Request from 2017-05-19 Services

Pray for my family.-CR

Pray for peace and love throughout the pod.-SS

Thank You Jesus.-GS

Pray for my family and for everyone who needs strength. To be saved and healed. Amen. Thank You.

I pray that the saints in the RN church will call to the Lord crying out that the manifestation of the spirit would be shown. -JF

Pray for all the men and women serving overseas fighting for our country. Pray that I may find the peace that I seek.-CD

Pray for all who attended and partake in the Lord's love. Pray for my mom as she gets her new apartment and that she may be able to keep a roof over her head. Help me have the strength to make the right choices when given the chance.-JS

Jesus I love You with all my heart and soul. Please bless the whole world and my family.-LD

Pray for all the sinners at RN.

Pray that my brothers be encouraged and comforted in the Lord.

Pray for me and my family.

Love! - ES

Pray for our victory.-JS

Pray for my family and friend in the pod. Pray for everyone at RN.-J

Join me in giving thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all His goodness to all of us. I need the Lord to touch my family. It is in shambles.-EC

Pray for my special friend that we will come back together soon. Pray for our families and loved ones. -CF

Pray that my wife and I will come back together soon. Pray for our families.-JF

Pray for the lost souls in the prison that the love of Jesus would become manifest to all that are doing time.

Pray for me and my three sons and my family. Pray for the world, RN church and the guests. Keep God first. Whatever God does is best. May God bless us all. Love always.-SC

Pray for our service men and women and all the lost in need of God's love.-BB

Pray that all the wrongs will be made right in time.-RL

Pray that He protects, preserve, safeguard and shelter our heart, mind, body, and soul in the name of Jesus.

Worship the Lord Jesus for the grace given to us from Him through His precious blood, the redemption of sin. We serve a holy and victorious God. Amen. -MB

Please pray for me, my family, for good health, wisdom, and for me to be returned home to my family safely and soon.-EH

I ask the church to pray for our family, my friends, and that God will protect them in every area of their life.-FS

I want to thank God for God's continuing blessing me through all life's problems even when I do not think God is there walking with me. Pray for continued blessings for my family and friends.-MD

Thank you all for your prayers. Please continue to pray for my family and me.-EC

We learn to remember Almighty God's name.

Pray for – that the Lord's will work in his heart, give him grace, and that his truck will be powered by Jesus and that it will hold up. Pray for all the little children at St. Jude's and for those that have nothing. Pray for families.-RL

Pray for my family and everyone that needs the Lords sustainability. Let God come into those people's lives that matter the most. Be with the judges that preside over my habeas corpus. Pray for the people that suffer daily. -MW

Pray for our country which seems more divided today than 30-40 years ago about social and political issues. Pray for our leaders that each of them on the right and the left to do what is best for the whole country and not just their party.

Pray for me and my family and kids to be ok.-CR

Dear lord, we pray for the church. We ask that You guide us. Pray for --.
Help him come back to our pod. Thank You God.

I would like to ask for prayers for the men who spent last weekend on their three day KAIROS walk that the love of Christ will draw them closer to Him. Amen.

I would like to prayer for deliverance, to make parole this year and to pray and thank God for my daily bread. In the Name of Jesus.

Pray for all our families and safe travel and guidance in the right direction to take all our lives in the right direction.

Pray for my uncle. He has cancer and is having a hard time.-H

Pray for those that are looking for spiritual truth that they will find it.-MM

Pray for my family, my two sons, my brothers and sisters in Christ; for the ones who are not saved; for me that the Lord will show me the way in my situations. Amen. -DR

The breath, peace, and joy of the Lord be given in my legal situation. I ask the Lord for God's favor in reducing my time, and will give me peace. I ask for the quickening of the manifestation of my healing.-JS

God is good, and my heart is full of praise and thanksgiving.-HD

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in God. -AR

Keep my family, aunts and uncles who are sick in your prayers. Pray for me that I get my appeal granted and can get back into court.-GT

I would like to thank God for Jesus. Thank God for the people who are sent to be here to be with us brothers. I ask God to bless us all in the name of Jesus.-JT

Thank God everyday for the things God has done.

Pray for my family. Pray for the orphans, widows, sick, shut-ins, the poor, the homeless, and the sick little kids. God gives us the strength to forgive. Amen.-KD

Lord, watch over my brothers and sisters in Christ and that You touch each heart to allow us to love one another. Keep our chaplain and his family in prayer and bless his ministry.-CJ

Pray for me, my family, friends, and the people at RN.

Pray for all my friends and family. Pray that my friend has a good visit with his kids. -GP

God Your timing is perfect. Help me to be obedient to Your Word that I may be a father to my sons and daughters. Amen.-PP

Lord I come to You today to ask You for forgiveness and let me humble myself. I pray for all of us in church today and for our love ones and their needs in the name of Jesus. Amen. -RJ

Orar por la salud de cada persna y que reconoscamos que Dios tiene el control de toda. Amen.