

Christ Church

Good News and Notes

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

I Will, With God's Help

This past Monday, August 14th, was the 14th anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood. The anniversary always slips by me until I begin my prayers, in which I remember who is being commemorated on that day in the Church. August 14th is the day we remember Jonathan Myrick Daniels.

Jonathan was an Episcopal seminarian and civil rights activist. On August 20, 1965 a shotgun-wielding construction worker, Tom Coleman, who was also a special county deputy in Haynesville Alabama, assassinated Jonathan as he was leaving a country store in Alabama.

Jonathan was murdered in cold blood while shielding 17-year-old Ruby Sales. His selfless act saved the life of the young black civil rights activist. They were both working in the Civil Rights Movement of Lowndes County in order to integrate public places and to register black voters after the passage of the Voting Rights Act that very summer. He had spent some of the previous weeks held in a jail cell for six days. The Episcopal Church named Jonathan as a Martyr of the Church in 1991.

In his diary, this bright young man from New Hampshire had written:

I lost fear in the black belt [1] when I began to know in my Bones and sinews that I had been truly baptized into the Lord's death and Resurrection, that in the only sense that really matters I am already dead, and my life is hid with Christ in God. I began to lose self-righteousness when I discovered the extent to which my behavior was motivated by worldly desires and by the self-seeking messianism of Yankee deliverance! The point is simply, of course, that one's motives are usually mixed, and one had better know it.

As I contemplated Jonathan's life and death this past Monday, I was heartbroken to think of the events in Charlottesville and the emboldened hatred of the KKK, Nazi's, and all of the others whose souls are blackened and twisted by their hate. It felt as though his life and the lives of all of

those who died so that this country might finally become that to which it has always aspired—a place of liberty, freedom, justice, mercy and equality for ALL was possibly in vain.

I have been wrestling all week with what to say in this week's message—what can I possibly say? Presiding Bishop Michal Curry has asked us to pray and yes, a thousand times yes, may we all pray at this time for all in Charlottesville, for Heather Heyer's family, and all who were injured when a Nazi protestor drove his vehicle wantonly into a crowd.

Heather was among those people who were there to stare down hate and call for justice and, as we say, in our Baptismal covenant, "Renounce the Satan and all of the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God." (BCP page 302).

Those gathered in that crowd were not necessarily Episcopalians, nor had they likely ever heard of our Baptismal Covenant, but that is what they were doing.

I don't know how many times in Baptismal preparation I have had to reach back into history for examples of what it meant to renounce Satan and all of the spiritual forces of wickedness, and it is my great sorrow that I now have a contemporary example.

In times like these, when I don't know what to say to you that hasn't been said, or how to know how I can best be a force for good in such times, our Baptismal Covenant is a wonderful place to start. I can read the power of its words in light of the torch-wielding White supremacist and Nazi's in Charlottesville and clearly understand the meaning of the words I quoted above.

I also vow again in such times as these, as I am renouncing the evil forces of white supremacy and the Nazis and other groups who spread such terror, that I will, "Put my whole trust in God's grace and love (BCP 302) as I actively move to do God's will that calls me to, "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself" and "Strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." (BCP 305).

I don't know many things these days, but I do know that white supremacy is evil, this country has no place for Nazi's and that the people of God, like never before in current history, are called to speak up and out against hatred and marginalization in its many forms.

I encourage you to go to your Book of Common Prayer (BCP) or come by the

church and borrow one, and turn to page 299 where the Baptismal service begins and then go to page 304 where the Renewal of our Baptismal Covenant begins. Wrap yourselves in these vows, think of the small tiny ways you can enact them in your daily lives. Be fearless and relentless in your own self-examination and dare to see those places in your hearts and minds where fear stops you from acting in radical love.

We all know the quotes from the Civil Rights movement of the 50's and 60's, we all know the bloody history of white supremacy and the Nazi movement. Let's all act now against hatred, counter it with love for those who most desperately need it. Jesus tells us, "Be not afraid." I exhort the same. BE not afraid. BE love, BE mercy. Reject casual racism and cruelty and marginalization in its many forms.

In these precarious times, may we live our Baptismal Covenant with all of our hearts and dare to be the Love of Christ in this world as Jonathan Myrick Daniels dared to be in his own time. May his courage and sacrifice of love never be forgotten and may we join with him in the great communion of saints as we eradicate hatred, racism and bigotry once and for all.

Grace and Peace,
Stephanie

[1] Refers to the color of the soil in this region, but was often mistaken for referring to the plight of black people during this time.

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August Ladies Luncheon

The ladies of the church are invited to gather for lunch on Friday, August 25, 2017. We will meet at 12:00pm at Becca's Backwoods Beans. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in fellowship hall. Patti Phelps will be our host. Patti's contact information: frankandpatti@yahoo.com, or (252)495-2444.

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Neighborhood Bible Study

A Neighborhood Bible Study on the Letters (Epistles) of John will begin on Thursday the 28th of September. The Study will be held at the Larry and Denise Seckel's Barn on Vestal Road (404 Vestal Road) and lead by Rev. Martha Honaker. We will gather every other week at 6 pm, and end at 7:45 pm. The study will include teaching, refreshments, discussion and meditation

on the designated scriptures. You are invited to bring your Bible, a friend (doesn't have to be a member of Christ Church) and join in. Any questions or additional information you may call 863-660-0021 or 863-206-2643, or, locally, 336-372-4211. We look forward to you joining us.

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Adult Forum: Episcopal Life—Come and See!

Adult Forum continues this Sunday, August 13, at 9:15, with continued discussion of the Episcopal liturgy, beginning with exploration of the Great Thanksgiving. Welcome to all curious worshippers!

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Summer Challenge Update

Thanks to the parish for *continuing* to respond so generously to the Summer Challenge! The Challenge Team apologizes if our invitational letter and your donation may have crossed in the mail. We'll celebrate the results of the Challenge at the September 3rd Parish Luncheon (see below)!

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Parish Luncheon in Celebration of our Mutual Ministries

Christ Church has so much to be thankful for, and to celebrate our gratitude we are planning a parish luncheon on Sunday, September 3rd following the morning service. This will be a covered dish luncheon so that everyone can participate in this wonderful fellowship event.

In addition to celebrating Rev. Stephanie's one-year anniversary with Christ Church we will have an opportunity to learn what each of our Ministries has accomplished throughout this year. Please join us in this celebration of our commitment to serve the members of our church and the residents of our community.

Since September 3rd falls in the middle of the Labor Day weekend there is a good chance you will have family and friends visiting, so please bring them along for everyone to meet. If every family brings a dish to share there will be plenty of food to go around.

A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the fellowship hall for everyone to record their choice of food to contribute to our luncheon. If you have any questions please contact Eleanor Plummer or Marybeth Lentz.

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Welcoming Visitors & Newcomers to Christ Church

On most Sundays, except during the frosty winter months we have newcomers/visitors joining us for worship. Christ Church has always had the reputation of being a welcoming place. While we have assigned "Greeters" each Sunday, the welcoming is also done by those of us out in the pews.

Many of our visitors are here with family or friends. When you meet someone who is new to the area -- or even not new -- and might be looking for a church family, encourage them to fill out a Visitors Card. These are in the pews, on the podium in the Narthex, or ask an Usher to help you find one.

Following worship is a fun time for more conversation and an invitation to join us downstairs for refreshments. You might want to escort them down. Coffee hour is such a crucial time for our parish family as we greet one another, spend time together, and take care of church business. Please be aware of anyone, newcomers especially, who might be sitting alone during the coffee hour. This is a lonely feeling, so ask them to join you, or join them!

Please send any information you might have about newcomers to the church office. We try to be aware of who these newcomers are especially if they worship with us more than once.

I am the chairperson of this ministry, but am often out of town. I would love to hear from another person who is as excited about Newcomers as I am and able to get involved in this front-line hospitality ministry. Beyond the welcoming, we try to follow up with newcomers and plan fun gatherings several times a year.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or want to help please let me know.

Nancy Wilson
336/528-2729
nancy.dexter@gmail.com

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Diocesan Picnic

- August 19, 2017, 11am- 3pm
- Valle Crucis Conference Center

Join us for our diocesan picnic! The diocese will provide hot dogs (and lemonade) and each parish can bring dishes to share and a dessert for the dessert table. We will have lots of opportunities to play outside, enjoy the

beauty of Valle Crucis Conference Center, hike, etc. Please plan to carpool if possible.

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View the Total Solar Eclipse at Lake Logan

- Sunday, August 20 through Tuesday, August 22
- Lake Logan Conference Center

On August 21, 2017, you can join millions of people across the United States by viewing nature's most wondrous spectacle - a total eclipse of the Sun - right at beautiful Lake Logan.

Learn more here:

<http://www.lakelogan.org/special-events/2017/8/20/total-solar-eclipse>

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Fall Family Fun Fest at Lake Logan

- Saturday, September 30, 2017
- 8:00am to 1:00pm
- Lake Logan Conference Center

Plans are under way for a Family Fall Fest and Community Yard Sale sponsored by Lake Logan Conference Center and Sarge's Animal Rescue Foundation. The event will take place on Saturday, September 30 from 8 AM to 1 PM at Lake Logan with fun for the whole family!

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Women's Fellowship

Friends in Faith meets on Wednesdays at 11:00. We gather as sisters in Christ to praise, pray, study, and share our lives. We are currently studying the book *What Happens When Women Pray* by Evelyn Christensen. Please join us!

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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 let Gary know.

Great thanks & peace, Gary Medley

gapdweller@gmail.com
336.372.7464 or 336.572.2905

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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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Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, August 20

10:30am- Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, August 23

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

11:00am – Christ Church Friends in Faith

Thursday, August 24

3:30pm – Barbara Aycock Celebration of Life

Sunday, August 27

10:30am – Holy Eucharist

6:00pm – Mt. Soul, with the Mullins Sisters

Wednesday, August 30

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

11:00am – Christ Church Friends in Faith

Sunday, September 3

10:00 Holy Eucharist

Monday, September 4

Church Office closed for Labor Day holiday

Tuesday, September 5

5:00pm – Finance Committee

Thursday, September 7

12:30pm - Vestry

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

God bless those who truly need blessings. Draw the sinners to repentance. Bring to light the hidden motives of those who try to continue to do wrong to all assigned to house here at RN.

I would like to send prayers to all people in a struggle. The struggle is real but so is God. I would like to send prayers to my girl-friend that she will get a job and find peace in her life. Pray for my family and friends. Pray for me and my family and for a better life upon my release. -KL

Pray for all the prisoners, families, and all who are lost seeking or not seeking. May all be open to Jesus and accept Him who loves us. I want to talk to my family again and reconcile and have a relationship. -B

Pray for all those men and women serving overseas, fighting for our country. I carry my faith everywhere I walk each day that God allows me to see daylight. And as I live with my prayers each day of my walk, today of everyday that he is allowing me to thank Him for dying on the cross for us. -BB

Please keep my brother safe in L. -GS

Pray for our country, its leaders, and our families. -CB

Pray for everybody today who needs the Lord's grace and love in their lives today and everyday. Pray for the leaders of the country and others. -JJ

I pray for abundant patience and that my brother-in-law be filled with the Holy Spirit and have a major change of heart with sharp decision making. Pray for me, my three sons, and family. Bless RN church, prayer team, guests. Pray for the world and keep God first. Whatever God does is best. May God bless us all. Love always. -SC

Bless all families. -LJ

Pray for me and my family and friends. -G

I want to thank God for the so many blessings that He gives me and my family. I just ask for forgiveness and I ask for strength the one day I strayed I ask to be annulled. I ask that I would be blessed as You see fit. I love and thank You once more. -MK

Uplift my family. Pray for RN Fellowship Church and for the souls that attend. Pray that every demonic plan that Satan has orchestrated against You be broken in Jesus' name. (Job 22:28) Bless you. -JF

Pray for me and mom. -TO

Lord I come to You today to give You prayers for all Your blessings and for keeping my family and enemies on Your hands. Lord, thank You for everything, in the name of Jesus. Amen. -RJ

Each and every day a prayer or more is needed. May God bless all. May God bless us all and all our endeavors. -WN

I pray to God for all my families and friends that You look everyday over them and protect them. -R

Bless and praise You Lord. Thank You for all that You have provided us. Thank You for watching over us. Bless us Lord. Watch -- . Protect and furnish us with the holy light. Watch over our families and our lives. Amen. I would like to pray for communication with my family, friends, and kids. I would also like the church to pray for my situation and for my enemies. -FS

Continue to pray for the way I think and my thoughts. I hope that I can continue until I find the light. Pray for my family and loved ones. -MD

Pray for my family and me. Keep us from all harm and keep us in the Lord's heavenly arms. -EC

Pray for my family and our growth together in the Word. -DJ

Pray for my mother and children. Help me find a way home. -KS

I pray that God's will be done in the name of Jesus.

I pray you, our families, and those here at RN. Amen.

I ask that you would continue to keep our pod Bible study in your prayers. Ask for spiritual wisdom and understanding. -ME

Thank You God for all the blessings and that You make me a vessel to do Your will. Lord God I pray for my nephew for complete healing from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet. Amen. -PP

Thank You Lord for showing me that the weight can be lifted if I believe in God. I come to the light. Sometimes it is dim but it has not burned out. God bless. Amen. -GP

Thank Jehovah for your many blessings, no matter what happens. I cannot complain because I have You. -AS

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

Praise God. Will you please pray for my family and friends. Pray for all the men at RN. Pray for all that could not be in service today. -KJ

Pray for my family, friends, enemies, and me. I am struggling each day with my walk and faith. Pray God restores that fire back in my heart for Him. Amen. -KD

Pray for me and my family and my little brother and kids.

Pray for my family and friends and enemies. Pray for those who are sick, homeless. Pray for everybody in the world; for me. Pray God gives me the strength to keep walking right and I pray that I can feel all of God's love. -SP

Pray for my family and especially for my girlfriend and her health problems. Pray for me and my well-being. -AS

Pray for peace and unity in the body of Christ. Pray that we will walk in the spirit so that we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Lord, I thank You and pray to You for showing up and showing out in our church here at RN. Bless this place with Your presence, in Jesus's name Amen.- CJ

Pray for my two sons, my family, my brothers and sisters in Christ and the ones who are not saved. Bless all the ones who come from the streets to share faith with us. Pray for me and all that I am going through. Your Brother. -DR

Pray for my uncle and his health. He has cancer. -H

The Lord be favorable and grant my petition for clemency. Lord give me peace in this prison with all the prisoners and officers as well as our families. -JS

Praise our God for all God's protection and love, in answering prayers for my family and the nation according to God's will. -HD

Please pray that innocent lives are not lost in an unnecessary war between U.S. and N.K. -MM

Keep my aunts and uncles in your prayers. They have health problems. Pray for my arm and hand to get better. Thank. God bless. -GT

Continue to keep me in Prayer as I give my parole answer to God. Today's message is confirmation. -AR

Wait on the Lord. I would like to thank God for one more day. Thank God because I was in the hole last week, and I could not be in service. I really missed all. I am here this week thanking God for a new roommate. We can talk. God has blest me. Thank You. -JT

I would like to thank God for another day of breath, another day of life to praise God. Pray for my family, friends, enemies, brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, for the lost, the weak, for my aunt, my girlfriend. -JH

Heavenly Lord, I just want to first of all thank You for giving me strength to wake up this morning. Continue to keep a shield of protection around me and my family. Watch over my kids, my kid's mothers and be with me and my wife with our marriage. I ask that we pray for one another and for those out in the world who do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Pray for healing for all that deal with sickness and disease. Be there for one another and be the light that draws other to the Lord.