



Your Rector's Reflections - "What Does "Christian" Mean to You?"

On the Third Sunday of Easter (April 22) we heard an account of Paul's powerful conversion experience from the Acts of the Apostles (9:1-19). But there was a phrase at the beginning of the story which is often overshadowed by the miraculous encounter of Paul with Jesus. Paul, you'll remember, was on his way to Damascus "so that if he found any who **belonged to [or were followers of] the Way**, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem." (emphasis mine)

We are told about the beginning of the use of the word "Christian" in Acts 11:26: "...it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians.'" But before this label took hold, the most common terms were "disciples" or "followers of the Way."

I have to confess that I wish we could recover the old labels. Today we use the word "Christian" not only as a noun, but also as an adjective which can refer even to people whom we don't know to be a follower of the Way of Jesus: "She was a good Christian lady," we might say of someone who has died, meaning that she was loving or kind or generous. On the other hand, when asked in a recent "person on the street" survey about the first thing that came to mind when the word "Christian" was mentioned, a majority of people said things like "judgmental" or "hypocritical" rather than anything virtuous.

What the first group of folks mean by Christian, I think, is "Christ-like" – and indeed people who are not intentionally following the Way of Jesus can be Christ-like, following that Way without be-

ing able to name it. What the people surveyed mean, I think, is "members of an organization which claims to follow Jesus but instead looks down on others and judges their failings and misdeeds, even while doing similar things themselves."

Christianity is not a thing, not a set of rules to be followed, nor even primarily a set of truths to be believed. To be a Christian means



to be a follower, a student under discipline (disciple), of a Person: our Lord Jesus, crucified and risen. We can't sit back and say, "I am a Christian because I go to church, because I say the Creed, because I read the Bible." We are Christians because we have been baptized into his death, filled with the Holy Spirit to guide us in how to follow the Way, and seek to be Christ-like – particularly as we forgive those who have wronged us, share the Good News of God's loving presence in the world with everyone we may meet, reach out to serve the hurting, poor, oppressed, and needy, and keep on following even if it means suffering for us.

In order to grow in our ability to do these things, we seek a close relationship with

the living Christ: by listening to and speaking with God (prayer), by regular worship in the community of faith, by learning the story of God's love for us in the Scriptures, and by keeping fellowship with other disciples. At Christ the King there are many opportunities to learn and grow to be more Christ-like, more consistent followers of the Way of Jesus. One thing mature disciples know is that the journey is lifelong, that they have not "arrived" at a place where more effort is not required (that would be heaven), and that the Spirit is speaking in new ways to the Church in this and every age.

This is what "Christian" means to me: a Saviour to proclaim, a Lord to follow, an Example to emulate, a God to love in response for the amazing grace I have received. What does it mean to you?

Your priest, pastor, and friend

Fr. Steve +

Bishop Said to Visit May 6th

We are blessed to have Bishop John Said make an Episcopal visitation with us on Sunday, May 6th at our 9:30 a.m. service. We are very excited about his presence with us and will celebrate the sacraments of baptism and confirmation on this morning.

If you'd like to be Baptized or Confirmed or Received (the primary ways of joining the Episcopal Church) or if you would like to Reaffirm your commitment to Christ, this is the perfect opportunity to do so. Please make your wishes known to one of the clergy as soon as possible.

Senior Warden's Corner

Recently we lost a couple very dear to our hearts. JD and Peggy...loved by everyone and touched by many. I have always believed God has reasons for why he puts people in certain places. Christ the King church needed JD and Peggy; God gave them to us and they followed His calling. There are probably very few people who were not touched by these wonderful people.

A few years ago, Bill and I made the very difficult decision to leave Christ the King and attend another church. We were gone about 2 years. It was a lonely time for us because we missed our church family so much. A few people stayed in touch but over time there were fewer and fewer. I remember the night I received a phone call from JD and Peggy. It was then that they said, "It is time to come back". I was very uncertain of that first Sunday but we were there and have never considered leaving again for a moment. We were home to stay and so happy to be there. I am so appreciative of JD and Peggy being a part of our lives and caring about us as they did and do.

On their last Sunday with us, Peggy and her family moved to the front row of the church. As JD walked with the procession coming into church I watched him as he looked at the people in their pews. It was as if he were trying to memorize their faces.

If leaving Christ the King is difficult for us to experience then imagine the sorrow JD and Peggy are feeling. They are leaving a place of comfort and love and following God's calling again. Perhaps their new church needs them more than we do right now and that's okay.

JD and Peggy have special gifts that God has given them. While they shared those gifts with us it became time for them to take the Lord's gifts elsewhere. I believe they will share those gifts as they did with us and touch more people's lives as God would want them to do. Will we miss them? Absolutely! But I can't help but smile when I think of what the people in Waycross, Georgia will be receiving.



Parish Picnic at the Hardens

About 12:30 p.m. on May 6th, we'll gather at the Hardens for a feast of hot dogs, hamburgers, and all the fixins'. There'll be great fellowship, some lawn games, swimming, and boating for the adventuresome among us. Please bring a lawn chair, your own beverages, and a side dish to go with the burgers and dogs! This is always a wonderful event, so please make plans to join us!!! The Hardens live at **1720 Hoffner Ave.** (about 3.2 miles west of Semoran on Hoffner) Their phone number



The Spirit Has Come!

On Sunday, May 27th, the Church throughout the world celebrates the Feast of Pentecost – the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit onto the gathered followers of Jesus and, through their witness, to countless disciples through

the ages and now to us! We will celebrate this day, one of the seven Principal Feasts of the Church's calendar, with a colorful and joyous celebration. **Don't forget to WEAR RED – the color of the Spirit's fire – to church on that day!** And plans are in the works for a special fellowship event after church – stay tuned for that!

Faith Alive! is Coming in September, but.... the preparations have already begun!

Ed Wojchick is the General Chair for our Faith Alive! parish weekend, and Diane Wadley will serve as Follow-up Chair. There are many other opportunities to help make this weekend a truly powerful and meaningful one here at CTK, including offering your home for a small gathering on Saturday morning and/or to house some of the visiting team members, providing food or transportation, or being a part of the 24-hour Prayer Vigil held before the weekend begins. So put **September 21-23** on your calendars now for the Faith Alive! weekend, and offer to help in any way you can when the requests go out soon!



Announcements for the good of the Parish cont'd

Interfaith Hospitality Network



God has used the partnership of **Christ the King, First Church of God, and Azalea Park United Methodist** churches in some amazing ways. The Interfaith Hospitality Network is just one example of the current way we are working together. For a week, about every six weeks, we host up to four families who are making the transition from homeless to self-supporting. Between the three churches, we provide meals, overnight supervision, help with homework, and recreational activities throughout the week.

Our next Host Week is **April 29th—May 5th**. CTK will prepare dinner on Tuesday, May 1st and host from 7:00-9:00 pm. On Wednesday the families will have dinner with us during P.O.W. CTK will host that night and also provide overnight supervision and breakfast. On Sunday, we will help with laundry.

We need members to help us help those less fortunate than ourselves. We also need donations of breakfast and lunch items. Examples of such items are cereals, breakfast bars, milk, juice, lunch-meats, bread, juice, water, paper products and a first aid kit. Please sign up on the bulletin board at church or speak with one of the members of the IHN committee about how you will help. It is the 'Christian thing to do.



- 05. Fran Delano
- 06. Jade Baker
 - Mary Haddad
- 10. Doris Wiley
 - John Przeclawski
 - Lizette Montano
- 12. Scott Walters
- 19. Julie Abshire
 - Alonzo Valentine
- 20. Alexander Withman
- 23. Kevin Ogle
- 24. Peggy Lang
 - Tommy Walters
 - Sharon Bass

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 05 Jennifer & Ted Hunter
- 22 Rosie & Nick Tamney
- 23 Hilda & John Waage
 - Rita & George Cunningham
- 29 Barbara & Ralph Jones



Camp Wingmann Summer Camp

A Fun Place to Grow in Christ. The theme is "Jesus Sessions are multi-per camper, which Sessions run from Registration dead-prior to each camp located in Avon



for Kids to know and theme for this summer "Jesus Saves". The six sessions are multi-grade and costs \$295 includes a T-shirt. June 3rd-July 20th. Line is two weeks session. The camp is located in Avon Park, Florida. For

more information please call (863) 453.4800 or, toll free: 866.526.3380 or, fax (863) 453.4449, or, email cwsummer@strato.net. The web address is www.campwingmann.org

Scholarship Fund

It has been said "it takes a village to raise a child." We believe that it is our responsibility as a church family to help the young people in our midst grow up in a Christian community and be challenged to own their faith. One way young people do this is through experiences in camps, retreats, and trips. Unfortunately, these costs money. Often it is a difficult burden for a family to bear the expense of the activities in which their youth would like to participate.

To this end, we are asking those in our "village" (our church family) who would like to make a contribution to a scholarship fund to please do so. Just mark "scholarship" on the memo line of your check. You can be assured that when a young person needs financial assistance to participate in an event, it will be provided for them.

Congratulations to John Schoomaker!

John will graduate from Edgewater High School as Valedictorian!

Way to go!!!

CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS (borrowed from the internet)

1. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come here Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
2. The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
3. "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house.' Don't forget your husbands."
4. The peace-making meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to conflict.
5. Don't let worry kill you off--let the Church help.
6. Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
7. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
8. Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
9. Barbara remains in the hospital. She is having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.
10. The rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir sing "Break Forth into Joy."
11. Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
12. The Lutheran men's group will meet at 6 p.m. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, and dessert will be served for a small feel.
13. Please place your donation in the envelope along with deceased person you want remembered.
14. The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.
15. Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5 p.m. --prayer and medication to follow.
16. This evening at 7 p.m. there will be a hymn-sing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
17. Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door.

Christ the King Episcopal Church

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Sunday Schedule

8:00am—Holy Eucharist
9:30am— Holy Eucharist w choir
11:00am-Fellowship
11:30am-Holy Eucharist (Spanish)

