



Two Paths in Life

By The Rev. George H. Greer

"As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was." Mark 1:29-30

Helen Keller, a person who knew her share of life's pain and frustration, once observed: all the world is full of suffering; it is also full of overcoming it.

From the Old Testament we get perhaps the most famous sufferer of them all, Job. His story includes speeches by his so-called friends who argue that he suffers because of his sins. Some friends they are! Indeed, to this day, the phrase Job's comforters refers to people who, in their attempt to make us feel better, just makes matters worse.

There is plenty of suffering in the Gospel's as well. According to St. Mark, everyone in Peter's hometown of Capernaum has some kind of affliction, and they are all at his doorstep! They believe that Jesus can heal them. (MK 1:29-39)

Note that Jesus does not lecture these folks or try to explain why they have been afflicted. He simply heals them. This is the approach Jesus takes with almost all the needy people that he encounters. He does not say to the hungry, work harder and you can provide your own food. He does not say to the poor, you need to develop some personal initiative and pick yourself up economically. He does not say to the sick person, you shouldn't have smoked two packs of cigarettes a day.

February 2023

Sundays

8:00a.m.	HE Rt. I
9:15a.m.	Adult Christian Ed.
10:30a.m.	H.E. Rt. II
10:30a.m.	Children's Chapel

Wednesdays

10:30a.m.	Healing Service
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Coming Up

Feb. 6	St. Elizabeth's Guild	12:00p.m.
Feb. 14	Book Club	10:00a.m.
Feb. 16	Meals on Wheels	10:00a.m.
Feb. 18	Vestry Retreat / Meeting	9a.m.
	St. Andrew's Parish Hall	
Feb. 21	Mardi Gras	6:00p.m.
	Pancake Supper	
Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday	
	7a.m. 10:30a.m. and 7p.m.	
Feb. 27	Lifeline Screening	Parish Hall



Two Paths in Life

Continued from page 1.

The world is, as Helen Keller observed, full of suffering. It is also full of people who spend a lot of time explaining that suffering or figuring out who is to blame. Unfortunately, there are far too few people who go about the business of what Keller calls overcoming that suffering.

So, we have a choice to make. When we encounter suffering, we can take the approach that says, let us see if we can figure out why this is happening to you or what can I do to ease your pain? If you were the one suffering, which of the two would you want?

HYMN STORY

The Rev. Richard Donovan

Just As I Am

#693

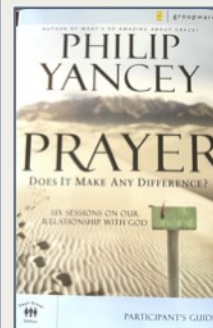
Are you ever frustrated that you can't do more for Jesus? That you don't have anything special to offer?

Charlotte Elliott, the author of the hymn, "Just as I Am," certainly felt that way. She had been a brilliant and vivacious woman until an illness left her an invalid. Her situation left her quite depressed. She felt that she no longer had anything to offer — nothing to give.

But a pastor, Dr. Caesar Malan, came to visit her. Noting her despair, he encouraged her to give Christ her life — to come to Christ just as she was. That comment started a turnaround for her. While she remained an invalid, she began to search for ways to make her life meaningful.

And Dr. Malan's words stayed with her — "Come to Christ just as you are." Several years later, she wrote this hymn, which has become a favorite around the world. While she wrote more than a hundred hymns, this one in particular has affected more lives than she ever could have imagined.

So if you ever wonder what you can do to make your life meaningful, just put it in Christ's hands and go where he leads. Christ has a way of using ordinary people to do extraordinary things.



Adult Christian Ed during the season of Lent

9:15a.m. – 10a.m.
Conference Room

Philip Yancey probes the very heartbeat of our relationship with God: prayer. What is prayer? Does it change God's mind or ours or both? This book is an invitation to communicate with God the Father who invites us into an eternal partnership through prayer.

Polls reveal that 90 percent of people pray. Yet prayer, which should be the most nourishing and uplifting time of the believer's day, can also be frustrating, confusing, and fraught with mystery.

Writing as a fellow pilgrim, bestselling author Philip Yancey probes such questions as:

- Is God listening?
- Why should God care about me?
- If God knows everything, what's the point of prayer?
- Why do answers to prayer seem so inconsistent?
- Why does God sometimes seem close and sometimes seem far away?
- How can I make prayer more satisfying?

In this powerful read, Yancey tackles the tough questions and, in the process, comes up with a fresh new approach to this timeless topic.

"I have learned to pray as a privilege, not a duty," he says, and he invites you to join him on this all-important journey.

Book description comes from Amazon.com

A copy of my most recent Wednesday Reflection for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany of our Lord. Delivered during the Healing Service on Wednesday, January 25, 2023.



Epiphany IV
Year A

We speak of people who have it all as being blessed. We have no doubt that talent and resources and success are signs

of God's favor. Although we may give thanks for the small blessings that come our way, we mostly think of ourselves as being unfortunate. Sometimes we wonder why God has afflicted us. Did we do something wrong? Or is there a lesson here?

Trust Jesus to turn everything upside down. He gives his listeners a list of the people he considers blessed, and it doesn't read at all like ours. He ends with a promise of great reward in heaven, but that small comfort at best. Does he mean that the more we suffer in this life, the happier we'll be in the next?

Not at all! He's homing in on the common human habit of taking credit when things go well. People who achieve great success in business, for example, may thank God, but they also credit themselves for working hard and being a bit smarter than others. They don't think of themselves as needing a helping hand from anyone.

Those of us who have lost our independence have no such illusions. We know how much we depend on other people to meet our most basic needs. Our prayer is often just, "Help me! Please dear Lord, help me." We pray that we can make it through the day.

We ask God to keep our spirits up, to help us deal patiently and cheerfully with the situation in which we find ourselves.

That is a blessing indeed! God's favorite kind of people know well that every breath they draw is God's gift. They know their need for the wisdom that only God can give, for loving and forgiving hearts. They pray often because they know the depth of their need to stay in close touch with God, to relax in the palm of God's divine hands. Amen.

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."



January Men's Club meeting.

Music at St. Andrew's

Friends with Harps

Sunday, February 19

At 2p.m.

Carol Ludwig and Carole Mask will present a program of harp music on Sunday, February 19 at 2p.m. Carol is a resident of Rocky Mount and has played her harp at St. Andrew's on several occasions. Her friend, Carole Mask is from Abingdon, VA and like Carol, came to the harp as a "mature student" and frequently plays at churches in the Abingdon area.

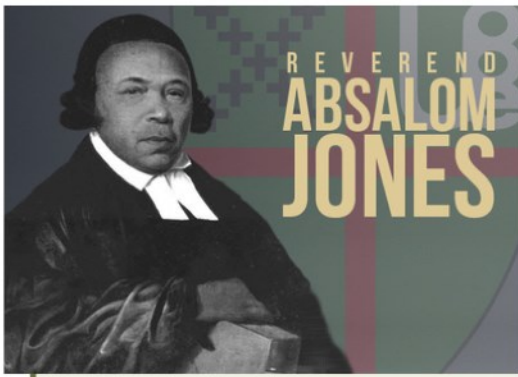
Carol Ludwig and Carole Mask met as student of Anne Sullivan, professional harpist and teacher from Pennsylvania. Anne's goal is to help adult

students find their "Harp Happiness" and she encourages her students to share their harp music. Carol and Carole have taken that to heart and are thankful for the opportunity to share their music with friends of St. Andrew's and the greater community of Rocky Mount.

Carol's musical journey started with childhood piano lessons and continued, with numerous starts and stops for work and education, with flute and piccolo in marching bands, a couple of years of organ lessons, and numerous stints as choir accompanist and church organist at various locations in the U.S. and at Osan Air Base in South Korea. After she retired from the U.S. Air Force and then from 10 years as an attorney, she began studying the harp. It has been a great adventure and joy to study with wonderful teachers, to meet

friends, and to share harp music.

Combining family influences and medicine and music, Carole worked as a small animal veterinarian for 40 years while continuing with music as her avocation. She sang in community and church choirs, accompanied other musicians on piano, and played guitar, recorder, penny whistle, and tenor banjo. She fell in love with the harp as a "mature student" and plays in churches and with Anne Sullivan's Harp Mastery group. As part of a year of advanced study with the "Gold Circle" Carole presented her program 15 times on Zoom meetings due to COVID restrictions. She finds much joy in playing with other harpists.



Saints Alive

Absalom Jones

Feb. 13

Absalom Jones was born a house slave in 1746 in Delaware. He taught himself to read out of the New Testament, among other books. When sixteen, he was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia. There he attended a night school for Blacks, operated by Quakers. At twenty, he married another slave, and purchased her freedom with his earnings.

Jones bought his own freedom in 1784. At St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, he served as lay minister for its Black membership. The active evangelism of Jones and that of his friend, Richard Allen, greatly increased Black membership at St. George's. The alarmed vestry decided to segregate Blacks into an upstairs gallery, without notifying them. During a Sunday service when ushers attempted to remove them, the Blacks indignantly walked out in a body.

In 1787, Black Christians organized the Free African Society, the first organized Afro-American society, and Absalom Jones and Richard Allen were elected overseers. Members of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need. The Society established communication with similar Black groups in other cities. In 1792, the Society began to build a church, which was dedicated on July 17, 1794.

The African Church applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania on the following conditions: 1, that they be received as an organized body; 2, that they have control over their local affairs; 3, that Absalom Jones be licensed as layreader, and, if qualified, be ordained as minister. In October 1794 it was admitted as St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Bishop White ordained Jones as deacon in 1795 and as priest on September 21, 1802.

Jones was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery, and warned the oppressors to "clean their hands of slaves." To him, God was the Father, who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed." But it was his constant visiting and mild manner that made him beloved by his own flock and by the community. St. Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument.



Let us pray: Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

February 2023

Sunday



8:00am HE Rite 1
9:15am Adult Christian Ed.
10:30am HE Rite II
10:30am Children's Chapel

Monday

6
St. Elizabeth's Guild
12pm
TRAC 7-9pm

Tuesday

7
Food Pantry 9-11am

Wednesday

1
Food Pantry 9-10:30am

Thursday

2
Food Pantry 9-11am
TRCC 4:30-6:30pm

Friday

3

Saturday

4
Men's Club Breakfast
8am

12
8:00am HE Rite 1
9:15am Adult Christian Ed.
10:30am HE Rite II
10:30am Children's Chapel

13
TRAC 7-9pm

14
Food Pantry 9-11am
Book Club 10am
Finance Meeting 6pm
Lion's Club 6:30pm

15
Food Pantry 9-10:30am

16
Food Pantry 9-11am
Meals on Wheels 10am
TRCC 4:30-6:30pm

17

18
Vestry Retreat/ Meeting
9am in the Parish Hall

19
8:00am HE Rite 1
9:15am Adult Christian Ed.
10:30am HE Rite II
10:30am Children's Chapel
11:30am Food Pantry Bags

20
ADK 4:30pm
TRAC 7-9pm

21
Food Pantry 9-11am
Mardi Gras Pancake
Supper 6pm

22
Food Pantry 9-10:30am
Ash Wednesday Services
7am, 10:30am, and 7pm

23
Food Pantry 9-11am
TRCC 4:30-6:30pm

24

25
TRCC 3-5pm

26
8:00am HE Rite 1
9:15am Adult Christian Ed.
10:30am HE Rite II
10:30am Children's Chapel

27
Lifeline Screening
8:15-5:30pm

28
Lion's Club 6:30pm



February 2023

LAY/LEM

February 5

8:00 Ron Jancso
George Earp

10:30

Leslie Hall
Jeanie Armstrong
Elizabeth Pope

February 12

8:00 Ramona Orzell
Tim Knapp

10:30

Martha Lamm
Terry Shackelford
Linda Hutcheson

February 19

8:00 Albert Corinth
Ramona Orzell

10:30

Terry Shackelford
Sandy Suggs
Martha Lamm

February 26

8:00 Tim Knapp
George Earp

10:30

Tom Drew
Leslie Hall
Jeanie Armstrong

ACOLYTES

February 5

Kate Hudgins

February 12

Wyatt and Walker Wells

February 19

Mericle Family

February 26

Landon Newcomb



“Therefore, if anyone is in
Christ, the new creation has
come: The old has gone, the
new is here!”

~2 Corinthians 5: 17

PANTRY DISTRIBUTERS

Tuesday—Patty Kennedy
Wednesday—Tommy Parker
Thursday—Elizabeth Hunter

PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

Dick and Lynn Arnow
Diane Renck

USHERS

February 5

Jan Arnold

February 12

Jim Royal
Angela Reid

February 19

Dan Melnyk
Don Mucci

February 26

Tom Drew
Linda Hutcheson

KITCHEN CLEAN UP

Lynn Arnow
Ramona Orzell

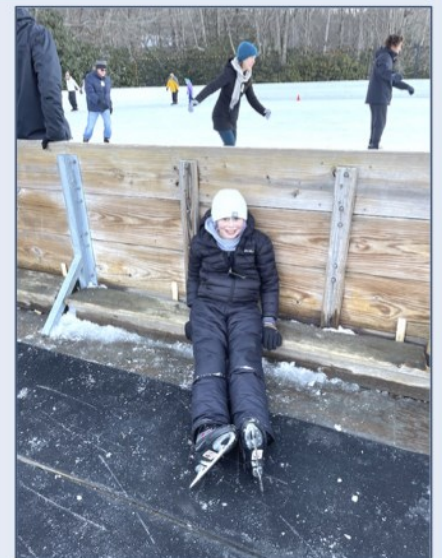


LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY

Marie Inscore
Ramona Orzell

Some of our EYC having fun in the mountains!





EYC headed to the mountains during the MLK weekend. On Saturday, we enjoyed about 2" of snow and spent most of the day sledding in the Greer's back yard.

On Sunday, we attended services at Holy Cross Episcopal Church and then went skating and tubing on Sugar Mountain.

Unfortunately, we couldn't catch the kids smiles while tubing, but could hear their laughter!





St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Annual Parish Meeting January 22, 2023

Vestry Slate for 2023

Lori Joyner Ashley Newcomb
Rita Coggins Dotsy Royal



**Sacrament of
Holy Baptism**
Harrison Whitmer
June 12, 2022
Niah Atherton
August 7, 2022



Sacrament of Confirmation
Landon Newcomb Lauren Renck
Sydney Mericle Madison Mericle
Liam Mericle Bradford Furrell
Bailey Furrell Wyatt Wells
Walker Wells



**Sacrament of
Marriage**
Stephen and Victoria James
September 16, 2022
Drew and Josie Desmond
October 1, 2022

“I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God all my life.”

Psalms 146



Annual Parish Meeting and Packaging of Food Pantry Bags.

Last year, we distributed 1450 bags and apx. 1680 Backpack bags for the children at Winstead Elementary.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst." Jn 6:35





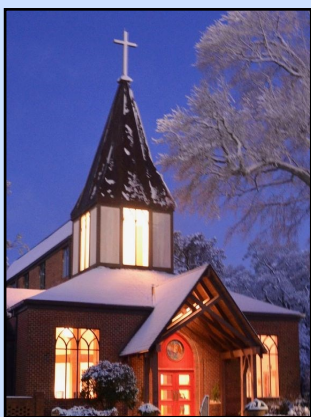
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Rocky Mount, NC

Return Service Requested

Our Parish Family

Let Light Perpetual Shine



Jeffery Lyn Mickelson
November 18, 1959 - January 8, 2023

*Father to
Brooke Ann Mickelson
Grandfather to
Bradford and Briley Futrell*

John Ellis Warren
March 22, 1935 - January 18, 2023
Husband to Vivian Warren

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

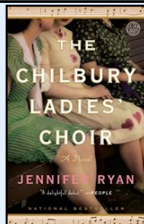
Stephen Bradley Earle
Sunday, January 8, 2023



The Men's Club is meeting Saturday,
February 4th at 8am.

St Elizabeth's Guild meets on Monday, February
6th at 12pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a bag
lunch. Dessert and beverage provided.

Every Sunday after services, we will be packing
food bags for the students at Winstead
Elementary. We will pack food pantry bags on
Feb. 19th after 10:30am services



St. Andrew's book club will meet on
Tuesday, February 14th at 10 am in
the Church parlor. We will be
discussing The Chilbury Ladies Choir
by Jennifer Ryan.

Life Line Screening will be at

**St. Andrew's on
February 27th
Call 888-814-0416
to register.**

