



The Abbey Church Epistle

JUNE 2015

It would be impossible, I think, to list all the different ways human beings have thought about God.

We have evolved from people who believed God was found in a statue, tree, a river, a mountain, and then as an angry jealous God of the Old Testament to the great mystery of God in all living things. He exists behind the beauty of the sunrises and sunsets, beyond the billions of galaxies and myriads of stars in the night sky, each with its own awesome history and the incomprehensible time measured in light years.

We become overwhelmed at the mystery and majesty of creation. The whole Universe is sustained throughout eternity by the vital force of God – His love.

At this time of year in the rituals and teachings of the Divine Father Services, we consider a very different relationship with a God who is loving and merciful, full of unconditional forgiveness and beckoning us back by the Path of return to be one with Him, by the Way of Love. At this time of celebration of the Festival of the Divine Father we offer thanks to our Creator for that Divine Energy that sustains all things. When we once more observe the flint struck on the steel causing sparks of light to issue forth – the Church fills with Light and we are reminded of the outpouring of God's personal love for each one of us despite the blows of misfortune that at times obscure our vision.



May the Light of Lights fill your heart with Love.
Fr. George

THE ABBEY CHURCH GUILD

The Guild raises funds to further the ministry of your church. To keep this little ship sailing, the following information is provided for the month of April: Income \$ 100 Expenditure \$ 554



JUNE

- 10 Women's Morning of Prayer 9.30am
- 11 Benediction 7.15pm - **cancelled**
- 14 Sunday Services
- 14 Phantom Breakfast
- 15 The Abbey Church Guild 7.15pm
- 21 Sunday Services
- 23 Vigil of Divine Father 7.15pm
- 24 Festival of the Divine Father
- 25 Benediction 7.15pm
- 27 Abbey Medieval Banquet
- 28 Sunday Services

JULY (quick look ahead)

- 4 Abbey Medieval Banquet
- 11 Abbey Medieval Tournament
- 12 Abbey Medieval Tournament
- 19 Church BBQ
- 30 Confraternity Meeting

Sunday Services

- 9.30am Holy Communion
- 6.45pm Evensong
- 9.15am Sunday School (1st and 3rd Sun)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



We extend our well wishes to all the congregation members who celebrate their birthday in **June!**

A special welcome to all those who are attending our church for the first time.

CHURCH NEWS

- **Visitors** - Over the past two months we have had five backpackers from Canada come to Church whilst they were strawberry planting over the road. Here are a few snaps taken of their last Sunday morning with us. We wish them well and will update you as they intend to email us in the future.
- **Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals** - For the month of May we've had 9 Baptisms, no Funerals and no Weddings.
- **Anniversaries** - Please pray for those whose anniversary of their passing occur this month. Ank Blankenspoor (2nd, 2012), Maria Leitner (16th, 2005), Heather De Prada (28th, 2013), loved and fondly remembered by us all, knowing that the goodness of their souls is shining on us always.
- **We celebrate** - Saint Margaret of Scotland's Feast day on June 10th. This Saint was Sr Ursula's second Saint and there is a hymn to this Saint in our hymn book. Saint Margaret, was born a Saxon in 1045 and raised in Hungary. She came to England when her uncle King Edward the Confessor died and her brother Edgar decided to make a claim to the English throne. She was married to Malcolm III of Scotland (m. 1070–1093) and became Queen of Scotland. She died on 16th November 1093, four days after she heard that her husband Malcolm and her son had been killed in the hostilities between England and Scotland. During her life Margaret was active in works of charity. She frequently visited and cared for the sick, and on a larger scale had hostels constructed for the poor. She was also in the habit, particularly during Advent and Lent, of holding feasts for as many as 300 commoners in the royal castle. Margaret was declared a saint in 1250, particularly for her work for religious reform and her charitable works. She was considered to be an example of a just ruler, and also influenced her husband and children to be just and holy rulers. Margaret was sometimes called "The Pearl of Scotland" and was declared Patroness of Scotland in 1673.



I was walking down life's highway a long time ago. One day I saw a sign that read, "**HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE**" As I got a little closer, the door came open wide and when I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of ANGELS, they were standing everywhere. One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care".

Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store and all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more. First, I got some PATIENCE: LOVE was in the same row. Further down

was UNDERSTANDING: You need that everywhere you go. I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH. I just couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST, for it was all over the place. I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this race. By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed some GRACE. Then I started up to the counter, to pay my grocery bill, for I thought I had everything to do the MASTER'S Will. As I went up the aisle, I saw PRAYER: and I just had to put that in, for I knew when I stepped outside, I would run into Sin. PEACE AND JOY were plenty; they were last on the shelf. SONG and PRAISE were hanging near, so I just helped myself. Then I said to the angel, "Now, how much do I owe?" He smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go." Again, I smiled and said, "How much do I really owe?" He smiled again and said, "MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO."



Giving rather than Receiving

A young man, a student in one of our universities, was one day taking a walk with a professor, who was commonly called the students' friend, from his kindness to those who waited on his instructions. As they went along, they saw lying in the path a pair of old shoes, which they supposed to belong to a poor man who was employed in a field close by and who had nearly finished his day's work.

The student turned to the professor saying; "Let us play the man a trick: we will hide his shoes and conceal ourselves behind those bushes and wait to see his perplexity when he cannot find them."

"My young friend," answered the professor, "we should never amuse ourselves at the expense of the poor. But you are rich and may give yourself a much greater pleasure by means of the poor man. Put a coin into each shoe and then we will hide ourselves and watch how the discovery affects him."

The student did so, then they both placed themselves behind the bushes close by. The poor man soon finished his work and came across the field to the path where he had left his coat and shoes.

While putting on his coat he slipped his foot into one of his shoes; but feeling something hard, he stooped down to feel what it was and found the coin. Astonishment and wonder were seen upon his countenance. He gazed upon the coin, turned it round and looked at it again and again. He then looked around him on all sides, but no person was to be seen.

He now put the money into his pocket and proceeded to put on the other shoe; but his surprise was doubled on finding the other coin. His feelings overcame him; he fell upon his knees, looked up to heaven and uttered aloud a fervent thanksgiving, in which he spoke of his wife, sick and helpless, and his children without bread, whom the timely bounty from some unknown hand, would save from perishing.

The student stood there deeply affected and his eyes filled with tears.

"Now," said the professor, "are you not much better pleased than if you had played your intended trick?"

The youth replied, "You have taught me a lesson which I will never forget. I feel now the truth of those words, which I never understood before: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily, if they are travelling on the thrust of one another.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.

When a goose falls out of formation, it feels the resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into line to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those people who are headed the same way we are...it makes our job so much easier.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.

Finally - and this is important - when a goose gets sick or is wounded two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other.



UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL

What I Learned When My Wife Asked Me To Take Another Woman To Dinner

After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie. She said, "I love you, but I know this other woman loves you and would love to spend some time with you." The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my mother, who had been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my 3 children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally. That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie. "What's wrong, are you unwell?" she asked. My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or surprise invitation is a sign of bad news. "I thought that it would be pleasant to spend some time with you," I responded. "Just the two of us." She thought about it for a moment and then said, "I would like that very much." We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Half way through the entrees, I lifted my eyes and saw Mum sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips. "It was me who used to have to read the menu when you were small," she said. "Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favour," I responded. During the dinner, we had an agreeable conversation — nothing extraordinary but catching up on recent events of each other's life. We talked so much that we missed the movie. As we arrived at her house later, she said, "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you." I agreed. "How was your dinner date?" Asked my wife when I got home. "Very nice. Much more so than I could have imagined," I answered. A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn't have a chance to do anything for her. Some time later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place where mother and I had dined. An attached note said: "I paid this bill in advance. I wasn't sure that I could be there; but nevertheless I paid for two plates — one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me." "I love you, son." At that moment, I understood the importance of saying in time: "I love you," and to give our loved ones the time that they deserve. Nothing in life is more important than your family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off till "some other time."



JOIN US IN PRAYER

Please pray for
Cecilia Goos, Sr
Joy, Lindy Whitchurch, Bob
Ferraro, Malcolm Reeves,
Siena Morgan and Leni
Ruygrok.

A bad attitude
is like a flat tire.
You can't go
anywhere
until you change it.



THE ABBEY CHURCH (at St. Michael's)

Anybody wishing to become actively involved in the Community is welcome to make enquiries by contacting the Church.

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