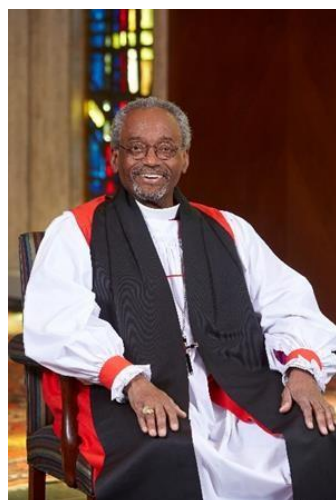


ECHoEs of God's Love

Newsletter of The Episcopal Church on Edisto – July 2020



Habits of Grace: An invitation for you, from Presiding Bishop Curry

July 7, 2020

A word to the Church from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry:

As we learn how to adjust our lives given the reality of the coronavirus and the request to do our part to slow its spread by practicing social distancing, I invite you to join me each week to take a moment to cultivate a “habit of grace.” A new meditation will be posted each week. These meditations can be watched anytime here: <https://episcopalchurch.org/habits-of-grace>

The 4th of July weekend has just concluded and a new week has begun, but the titanic struggles of the old world continue. The struggles to face painful truths of our racial past, the struggles to find ways to fashion a new future, the struggles for racial justice and human equality and true human reconciliation. Even in the midst of these struggles, we still face a pandemic that is worldwide. Now the United States itself is gravely threatened and affected by COVID-19. And even in the midst of all of that, we enter a season of electioneering, campaigning, a presidential election that could well be a profoundly polarizing and divisive election for our country.

In this time, I remember the worlds of Howard Thurman, who I often go back to. Dr. Thurman was one of the founders of probably the first interracial and interreligious church in the United States in San Francisco, back in the forties and fifties. He was the author of *Jesus and the Disinherited*. He was one of the people who went and met Mahatma Gandhi in the 1940s, and brought back his teachings of non-violent social change that influenced an entire civil rights movement. He was quietly, if you will, the spiritual director of many of the

leaders of the civil rights movement. Whitney Young, Roy Wilkins, Martin King, many others went quietly to Howard Thurman to talk, to reflect, to pray. He wrote this in one of his meditations about times of great transition and turmoil:

Look well to the growing edge. All around us, worlds are dying and new worlds are being born. All around us, life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such is the growing edge. It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed. The upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason. A source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash. The birth of a child – life's most dramatic answer to death – this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!

God love you. God bless you. And may God hold us all in those mighty hands of love.

+Michael

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church

Mission Council
Members and Assignments

Class of 2020

Billy Cox - Parish Life
(includes Front Porch Fellowship, Foyer Groups, Fellowship and Special Events)

Gretchen Smith - Outreach
Class of 2021

Harriet Gettys - Finance
(includes Collection Counters)

Brooks Goldsmith -
Facilities

Taylor Skardon - Worship,
Strategic Planning and
Membership

Class of 2022

Betsy Daise - Senior
Warden

George Hayworth - Junior
Warden

John Nickerson -
Communications

Embracing Evangelism: A six-part digital course exploring our call to seek, name, and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in the stories of all people.

The Episcopal Church, in partnership with Virginia Theological Seminary, offers this free six-part digital course exploring our call to seek, name, and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in the stories of all people – and then invite everyone to more. Each session features teachings on Episcopal evangelism, group discussion, and exercises to help Episcopalians understand the ministry and call to evangelism. The full Embracing Evangelism series consists of six video sessions, each under 45 minutes.

Find it here: <https://episcopalchurch.org/embracing-evangelism/series>

Father Fred's Reflections

Fred has been pulling 13-hour shifts as a chaplain at MUSC lately, so he is "off the hook" for a newsletter article this month. However, you can catch his video services of Morning Prayer on our Facebook page:



<https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalChurchOnEdistoIsland/>

From the Senior Warden

Continuing to adjust to our masked, socially distanced new normal, following the numbers of those who fall ill or lose their lives, I've seen many plans, by necessity, change. We try to pursue our typical activities and goals, and some new ones - in our case, building a house, and preparing for my sons' upcoming weddings (talk about the best laid plans!) While we don't know exactly what to prepare for, we take steps to stay connected, adjust, and to affirmatively prepare for whatever we believe our "new normal" will look like. It's a manifestation of faith, hope, and of following God's path the best we can.

My husband, Thad, many years ago told this story to describe following God's path in trying circumstances:

"When I was a little boy growing up on Edisto, there was a path in the woods. My older siblings had traveled it many times to visit my mother's best friend, but because I was so much younger than my siblings, I had only heard about walking the path, which was known as going 'across the sands.' One day, my brother decided it was time for me to see this path. We set out from our home, crossed the road, entered the woods, walked over the marsh, and went through another patch of woods. All throughout our journey, we made markings to guide us back home. But when we returned to the marshy areas, we discovered that the tide had come in – and washed away the markings. Despite our careful planning and preparations, we were lost. It was a miracle we found our way home that night. My road map was gone – washed away. But as Christians, we are never truly lost. I relied on the power of prayer, allowed God to direct me, and found my way home."

As we continue down this path together across the sands, I am thankful to our church leadership for their wisdom, skill, and foresight in keeping us safe and connected, and for continuing to help our community. And I look forward to worshipping together again.

Betsy



*Betsy Daise
Senior Warden*

From the Junior Warden

Our church will be jointly using with our neighbor, New First Missionary Baptist Church, a device that dispenses a botanical disinfectant solution throughout the sanctuary.

It is a liquid product used in conjunction with a handheld dispenser that puts a positive charge on the liquid product. The device dispenses a fine spray that attaches to negatively charged items throughout the sanctuary. This product is highly recommended as a COVID-19 disinfectant.

Each week, preceding the videoing of the coming Sunday's service, we plan to spray the entire sanctuary. The first spraying was done today, June 7, 2020. When we re-open for Sunday services, spraying will be done, likely on the Friday or Saturday preceding the Sunday service.



The process of spraying takes less than 10 minutes to cover the sanctuary, and is directed within 2 feet of all tables, chairs and pews. We will not have to remove hymnals or prayer books from the pews. It does not require any follow-up wiping and has very little odor. The overall area sprayed can be occupied within 2 hours of the application.

Henry Jenkins, a member of the New First Missionary Baptist Church, and the person who provides cleaning services for our church, will be administering the spray in conjunction with Bob King and George Hayworth.

--George

Keeping in Touch with The Episcopal Church on Edisto

Each Sunday you can find our **virtual service** uploaded to our Facebook webpage: www.facebook.com/EpiscopalChurchOnEdistoIsland/. If you click "Like" and "Follow" on our page, you will receive an alert when the "Watch Party" for our weekly service is starting (normally around 9:50AM). At the watch party, you can join with other members of the congregation to watch and comment on the service.

You can also access all the services on YouTube. Search YouTube for "Episcopal Church on Edisto." You can also "subscribe" to our YouTube channel to see all videos.

Fred frequently posts a service of **Morning Prayer** "live" on Facebook - www.facebook.com/fred.thompson.52012. If you "friend" or "follow" his page, you will get alerts when he goes live. We share these services on the ECOE Facebook page, as well as reflections from the Diocese and National Church.

Join us Thursdays at 5 PM for **Virtual Fellowship** via Zoom. Click the link in the email announcement each Thursday, or go to Zoom.us and enter meeting 846 9482 8094 and password 806852. Join us after the virtual service Watch Party (approximately 11 AM on Sundays) for **Front Porch Fellowship** – from your porch! Use Zoom meeting number 873 0432 3916 and password 564718. If you need technical help, contact Elizabeth at egalaida@yahoo.com or 843-631-1115.



The **Bay Creek Room at the Civic Center** is now available for use with cleaning, masking and distancing guidelines. No more than 10 people may use the room at any one time. The town and ECOE have agreed to rules for using the building; those rules will be posted onsite.

Valiant Seekers, the **Prayer Circle**, **Dancing for Joy** and the **Caregivers** group are actively meeting! Some are meeting in person, and some are virtual. If you would like to be a part of one of these groups, please contact Pat Neumann patneumann1@gmail.com or 843.869.9250; 843.469.7395 (for Valiant Seekers and the Prayer Circle), Elizabeth Galaida egalaida@yahoo.com 843-631-1115 (for Dancing for Joy), or Susanne Nash susannesmithnash@gmail.com 843.869.4063 (for the Caregivers group).

Food for the Hungry: The Dancing for Joy fitness ministry, along with Betsy Daise and members of New First Missionary Baptist Church, collected and distributed 50 bags of non-perishable food items to people in need. This activity was combined with a regional Baptist food ministry drive at NFMBC, which provided 100 boxes of fresh foods at the same time. It was pouring rain, but all the food was distributed in a safe and low-touch “drive-through” format. ECOE will continue to seek ways to provide food for the hungry, particularly now that the Allen AME food bank is on hiatus.



We invite any who enjoy **singing the hymns** to record their voice to add to our “virtual congregation” each week. Elizabeth is also gearing up to resume the choir, the ECOEs and the Ensemble (virtually). If you want to share your musical talents in any way, please let her know.

Pledges and Offerings

Many members of our community have asked how to stay up with their pledges and offerings. Thank you! Until we are able to meet together again in the church building, you can send your contributions by mail to: **The Episcopal Church on Edisto, P.O. Box 239, Edisto Island, SC 29438**. For your convenience, we are also implementing online giving via our website and our online database, Realm. Stay tuned for more information on how to give online.

eGiving is coming soon to

The Episcopal Church on Edisto

“All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God.”
— DEUTERONOMY 16:17

BENEFITS FOR YOU:

1. Give from anywhere using a computer, tablet, or smartphone.
2. No need to find a check or stop by the ATM.
3. Use your Checking / Savings Account or your Debit / Credit Card.
4. Schedule gifts to occur automatically.
5. Give to one or more funds at any time.

BENEFITS FOR YOUR CHURCH:

1. Reduces administrative work allowing more time to focus on the ministry.
2. Helps streamline administrative work.
3. Increases stewardship by providing members and guests easier ways to give.
4. More regular and predictable giving makes planning easier.

ONLINE

Soon you will be able to [make a donation](#) from our website.

TEXT

Text giving allows quick, easy, one-time donations.

MOBILE

Giving will soon be available from the Realm mobile app.

“Behind the Scenes” at The Episcopal Church on Edisto

Each week, a small team of dedicated people arrives at our church to create our virtual service. The team includes John Nickerson and Taylor Skardon, our “producers,” as well as Fr. Fred, Jim Gettys as Verger and our acolyte. Bella has completed her visit to Edisto – we thank her for serving as an acolyte this summer! Stephen will continue to serve as acolyte for our virtual services. Ginny King and her team of flower arrangers provide our beautiful floral arrangements. Our Lay Intercessors come to read the Prayers of the People and share our prayer lists. Epistlers come to read the scriptures. The worship team is also the “congregation,” providing the verbal responses in the service.

For those behind the scenes, church usually comes on Wednesday, which is the day the virtual service is recorded. John and Taylor each use their smartphones to record the elements of the service, including the readers, the sermon, the Eucharist, and the processions. The two phones provide two camera angles, recorded synchronously.



John uses video editing software to take the raw footage from both cameras and create a rough draft of the video service. He sends this electronically to Taylor, who uses the same software to add in the instrumental music, the hymns, and the anthem video. He also adds the other graphic elements and short video clips, such as passing of the peace.

We would love to see you in our virtual service passing the peace, reading or in other ways! Smartphones can make terrific recordings. Use landscape mode, and don’t worry about editing the beginning or ending of your video. Don’t be shy! We are craving the sight of others in the church. Your video – no matter how messy your hair is – is a blessing to us. If you would like to participate, contact Taylor or John.

Once the video is edited, the entire service must then be converted to a format that viewers can access, such as a YouTube video. The service is uploaded to YouTube and Facebook with private settings and made public automatically at a scheduled time, usually early Sunday morning.

Recording, editing, converting, and uploading our video service takes considerable time. We are truly blessed to have a production team that has the skills and the commitment to creating this way for us to remain connected as an active congregation.

Who We Are

The Episcopal Church on Edisto is a vibrant Christian community that honors our Episcopal heritage. We rejoice in welcoming all people. Together we exist to love and serve both God and our neighbor, inviting all to share in the joy of God's unconditional love.

What We Hope to Become

The Episcopal Church on Edisto gathers in worship and fellowship to learn, teach, nurture, and give thanks for God's blessings. Mindful of Christ's command to "love one another as I have loved you," we go into the world in service, taking our unique gifts and talents to minister to the needs of those within our community and the world."

Please remember those on our prayer lists:

Continuing Prayer List

Betty Black, Jane Hood Bolden, Jane Brailsford, Ashton Carter, Anne Creed, Betty Ruth Crews, Jay Dowd, Lorraine Easterby, John Eichorn, Noreen Holthaus, Elton Lachicotte, Sylvia Looney, Beth Malloy, Beth MacMillan, Mary Ann Neumann, Bruce Rawl, David Sikes, Ben Skardon, Bud Skidmore, John Stewart, Jane Sullins, Clay Thomas, Faye Thomas, Bubba Unger, Bob Voight, Elizabeth Webb, Caroline Werntz, Alison White and the Rev. Ginny Wilder.

Public Prayer List

Betty Bartholomew, Zillah Cribb, George Dossett, Margie Foy, Carla Harrison, Bonnie King, Harriet "Ding" Kizer, Dave Martin, Harry Pardee, Amanda Payne, Nona Rowcliffe, Lauren Sharkey Sanderson, Nina Smith, Sarah Sturm and Allston Swartz.

Additionally, we pray for Kenzie King and all Health Care Workers and First Responders working to heal those who are suffering from COVID-19.

Faithfully Departed in June 2020 Laurie Copeland, Sally Jarvis.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

July 5th: EYE, Youth of TECSC and all those associated with youth ministry, remembering those who have just graduated, and those on summer mission trips, and celebrating International Youth Day.

July 12th: The University of the South

July 19th: Kanuga Camp and Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC

July 26th: Lambeth

In the spirit of reconciliation, mediation and the Way of Love, we pray for congregations, including Trinity Edisto, that we long to be together with in Mission and Purpose

To request prayer for yourself or someone in need please contact a member of our Prayer Circle. Additionally, Fred would like to know if you have an impending hospitalization or need. Gene Gentry genegentry06@gmail.com or 843.869.9116; Jo Ann Liles

joannliles@gmail.com or 843.869.0907; Susanne Nash susannesmithnash@gmail.com

843.869.4063; Pat Neumann patneumann1@gmail.com or 843.869.9250; 843.469.7395



Serving Schedule for June and July - in the Church or on Video

Sunday of the Month	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Chalice Bearer	Jim Gettys	Pat Neumann	John Nickerson	Nancy Skardon
Ushers	Taylor & Nancy Skardon	Brooks & Laura Goldsmith	Thad & Betsy Daise	Bob King/ George Hayworth
Lay Intercessor	Bob King	Ginny King	Louis Gentry	Taylor Skardon
Epistler	Taylor Skardon	Jim Gettys	Betsy Daise	Michele Skripps
Flower Guild		Ginny King	Emilie Cox	Nona Rowcliffe
Altar Guild (<i>Zillah Cribblinens</i>)	Carroll Carter	Gene Gentry	Catherine Main/ Bert Looney	Susanne Nash
Front Porch Fellowship	Looney/Padgett	Galaida	Skripps	North-Coombes/ Sanders
Counters	Annette Jerwers/ Cheryl Van Metre	Thad Daise/ Bob King	Ginny King/ Jo Ann Liles	Greg Galaida/ Louis Gentry
Prayer Partner	Nancy Skardon	Nancy Skardon	Nancy Skardon	
Mission Com open church	George Hayworth	Gretchen Smith	Harriet Gettys	Brooks Goldsmith

Sunday of the Month	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Chalice Bearer	Taylor Skardon	Jim Gettys	Pat Neumann	John Nickerson	Nancy Skardon
Ushers	Annette and Denny Jerwers	Michele and Tim Skripps	Taylor and Nancy Skardon	Jeff and Pat Neumann	Jean Murray and Bob Hild
Lay Intercessor	Nancy Skardon	Taylor Skardon	John Nickerson	Jim Gettys	Bob King
Epistler	Nona Rowcliffe	Janet Oakley	Gretchen Smith	Nancy Skardon	Cheryl Van Metre
Flower Guild		Shelagh North-Coombes	Ginny King	Ginny King	
Altar Guild (<i>Zillah Cribblinens</i>)	Carroll Carter	Gene Gentry	Catherine Main	Susanne Nash	Carroll Carter
Front Porch Fellowship	Hayworth	Carter/Leake	Goldsmith	Neumann/Ginny King	Skardon
Counters	Jim Gettys/Brooks Goldsmith	Tim Skripps/George Hayworth	Taylor Skardon/Shelagh North-Coombes	Annette Jerwers/Cheryl Van Metre	Thad Daise/Bob King
Mission Com open church	George Hayworth	Gretchen Smith	Harriet Gettys		Brooks Goldsmith