

Hello and warm blessings to you all. Another week has gone by and St. Philip's continues to plug along. It's a crazy world we live in and sometimes, we are tempted to despair. Illness and ignorance; violence and lack of respect for others; dishonesty and unethical behavior – the list of “bad” seems to be endless. But I was reminded of the opposite truth just the other day.

The air conditioning in my car has been acting up lately. Sometimes, it just won't turn on. Occasionally, it has finally come on during the drive home from church just as I pull into my driveway! (The gremlins have a sense of humor). So I took the car to Bartel's - my mechanic. It worked for them. They looked it over carefully and told me there was nothing they could really do until it was off and not coming back on. They easily could have suggested I need a \$500 ramistat and \$200 worth of whatzabobber fluid. But they were honest. Months ago, the dealer told me I needed about two thousand dollars' worth of work on my car. I went to Bartel for a second opinion, \$45. It's been running like a dream.

So what's my point? Good happens. It happens a LOT. Firefighters risk their lives to save people and pets. A kind soul writes a check to St. Jude Children's research hospital. A neighbor brings in your garbage cans. There is limitless good in the world. I agree that we need to know about and, where possible, work to alleviate the bad. But just pause today and thank God for all the good. And remember what St. James said in his brief epistle...“Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:17) Keep your eyes and ears open for all the good around you. Be thankful for it. And join the mission!

News from St. Philips...

- Remember that meeting times, special event announcements and volunteer assignments are contained in the weekly eBlast from the office. This newsletter is a link that is part of that eBlast, so you should have already seen the most important stuff. As ever, if you have questions – just ask.
- We are presently worshipping at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays and Tuesdays. Coffee hour follows. If you have not been back to church, please know you are loved and missed. We want to give everyone sufficient time to feel comfortable with a crowd, but please know that almost everyone in the building is vaccinated. We ask those who are not vaccinated to wear a mask, particularly when singing.
- Communion is available in both kinds. If you want wine, please do not consume your host (wafer) until you are presented with the chalice. Then, we ask you to intinct (dip) the host in the wine. If you prefer to receive just the host, that is fine. I am so grateful to our Roman Catholic siblings for this ancient teaching. The Roman Missal says “pastors should instruct the Christian faithful that the Catholic faith teaches that Christ, whole and entire, and the true Sacrament, is received even under only one species, and consequently that as far as the effects are concerned, those who receive under only one species are not deprived of any of the grace that is necessary for salvation”. And anyway, we know that salvation was already secured on Calvary and that receiving Jesus in the creatures of bread and wine is less about gaining eternal life and more about bringing His divine life, love and power into

our own. So commune, dear friends. And feast on the love our Lord has for you!

- Thank you to Andy Kistner, Mike Livingston and Ginger Knowles for the extremely hard work they did cleaning all the pews. It was a labor of love but every pew has been wiped down with good old Murphy's Oil Soap.
- Thanks, too, to every member of our Green Thumbs team. The grounds look beautiful!
- In case you missed the announcement last week, St. Philip's has hired Marinelle Glickhauf to be our new office manager. She starts in August. Pray for her. Working with a scatterbrained priest is never easy! Do thank Dolores Kampert, Bob Duer, Ginger Knowles, Jack Notzen and Pam Patyk for helping around the office in various ways. They will continue their work until Marinelle arrives on August 3rd.
- St. Philip's welcomes Rev. Courtney Reid as our guest preacher on September 26th! Courtney is Director of Operations for the Diocese and also manages the wonderful Nicholas Center downtown. After worship, she will join us for coffee hour and offer an introduction to "Fierce Conversations".
- Speaking of which, several people who are familiar with "Fierce" have donated books for you to read. There is a stack in my office. They are free for you to keep or just borrow and return. Help yourself!
- And Debby Irving's wonderful book, Waking Up White, is also available to anyone who wants a copy. It's not required, of course, but I am asking you to read it. Yes, it's a book about race – but no, it's not about slavery or the Civil War. It's not about assigning

blame. It's about a very nice, very good woman from a good, loving family...and how she learned to see through others' eyes. St. Paul tells us to bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2,3) and to mourn with those who mourn (Rom. 12:15). I think that's what this book is about more than anything. I continue to encourage you to read it and listen to our sisters and brothers of color at St. Philip's. They have stories to tell. (The book is free and was donated by a generous parishioner. It's yours to keep or just borrow. There are copies in my office.)

- We are still making Sunday and Tuesday services available on Zoom. If you're homebound, feeling under the weather or traveling somewhere – you are encouraged to “tune in”. We thank Mike Livingston, Bob Purcell and Jack Notzen for serving as Zoom techs!
- Thank you for making Lisa, my fiancée, feel so welcome this past Sunday. She hopes to visit from time to time. She loved you all!

This Week's Notes of Prayer and Praise...

- I have a whopper of a thanksgiving to start off with. As many of you know, a cancerous mass was detected under and behind Diane Knowles' tongue. This was a very serious concern as Diane has battled cancer on and off for a number of years. It's still serious, but the report from her doctor is the best news possible aside from the thing just disappearing. They will operate next week and the doctor is extraordinarily optimistic. Diane is feeling very positive; not only because she has a wonderful doctor but because she knows she has an army of praying friends. Please continue to pray for Diane's complete and total healing.

- I ask your continued prayers for the Cappello family as they mourn the passing of Jeff's mother, Norma. Jeff and Karen, we love you both very much and we will miss your Mom. She was a great lady.
- Give thanks that people are coming back to church! We were so happy to see Marge Adkins this past Sunday – first time in quite awhile because of the pandemic. Welcome back, Marge!
- Continue to pray for the victims of flooding in Germany; monsoons in India and wildfires in the western United States.
- And I invite you to pray for peace – in Chicago and across America; in Ethiopia; Yemen; Haiti; Myanmar; Sudan; and South Sudan.
- Give thanks for the wonderful coffee hours we have at church. And for the people who sign up to host and help!
- And let's give thanks for all those celebrating birthdays in the week to come: Thank you, dear Lord, for giving us Lauren Smith, Dan Gronlund, Jeff Cappello, Bud Lowe, Karen Porzak and Pam Patyk! We love each and every one of you!
- Please hold those with ongoing health or other needs in your prayers. Pray for Bob and JoAnn Miller; Kim McDonald; Jill Hill; Ken and Janie Jenssen; Linda Purcell; Michelle Webb; Roberta Butler; Andreas Kistner; Bishop-Elect Paula Clark; Fr. Tom Janiec; Fr. Henry Randolph; Faye; Aury; Marge; Peggy and Don. Please pray also for Kelly Scolnick; Christina Guzman; Levi Tsu and his parents; Lillian Conway; Sarah McCready; Kurth Horner; Tim Zierer; Joe and Toni Saladino and for Molly and her parents – Laura and David.

In the wider Church, please pray for...

- The members of Diocesan Council who are responsible for administering funds for diocesan programs and ministries.
- St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church in Des Plaines and the Rev. M.E. Eccles, rector. You might say an extra prayer for M.E. as he is currently serving as acting dean of the Elgin Deanery while Fr. Patrick Skutch is on sabbatical.
- Palatine First Assembly of God Church on Home Avenue

This Week's Quiz is About...

...the Apollo 11 Moon landing, which happened 52 years ago Tuesday.
Do you remember that amazing day?

1. How long did the Apollo 11 mission take from blast off to splash down? (6 days; 2 weeks; 8 days; 5 days; 11 days)
2. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin are well-known members of the mission. But there was a third astronaut on Apollo 11. Do you remember his name? (Michael Collins; John Glenn; Gene Cernan; Jim Lovell; Peter Griffin)
3. The moon rocks brought back to earth by the astronauts were made of what primary substance? (granite; cheese; andesite; basalt; copper)
4. Where did the lunar module land on the moon? (Sea of Storms; Sea of Tranquility; Sea of Rains; Southern Sea; Sea of Discovery)
5. According to the Smithsonian, what was the first meal eaten on the moon? (Hamburger and Tang; Chicken Salad and Water;

Chateau Brion and an amusing malbec; Stewed Tomato and tea;
Bacon with coffee)

Answers are at the end of the newsletter. How'd you do?

This Week in Christian History...

- On July 18th, 1323: Canonization of theologian Thomas Aquinas, author of Summa Theologica and Summa Contra Gentiles. He had synthesized Aristotelian thought with Christian.
- On July 19th, 64: Fire breaks out among the shops lining the Circus Maximus, Rome's chariot stadium. Nero is blamed and tries to deflect blame from himself onto Jews and Christians, soon conducting a full-scale persecution of Christians, notorious for the cruelty with which it is carried on.
- On July 20th: Buzz Aldrin, a Presbyterian elder, takes communion on the moon during the Apollo 11 landing.
- On July 21st, 1967: Chief Albert John Mvumbi Luthuli is struck by a train and dies. A Congregationalist, he had been at the forefront of resistance to Apartheid in South Africa, an effort he tied to his Christian beliefs: "The road to freedom is via the cross." He had been the Nobel Peace Prize winner six years earlier.
- On July 22nd, 1945: Forty-two delegates met at Winona Lake, Indiana, to found Youth for Christ International. Torrey Johnson is elected president and recruits Billy Graham as the first full-time evangelist for the movement.
- On July 23rd, 1184: Fontevrault Abbey, France, received a papal bull of privileges, permitting its women a good deal of autonomy without supervision by men.

- On July 24th, 1874: Oswald Chambers was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. Chambers would go on to author the classic My Utmost for His Highest.

With thanks to the Christian History Institute

News Briefs...

(UNDATED) -- More than a million children around the world may have been orphaned by COVID-19, losing one or both parents to the disease or related causes. According to Religion News Service, another estimated 500,000 lost a grandparent or another relative who cared for them. The numbers are from a new study by researchers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others that highlight another grim reality in the sweeping devastation caused by the ongoing pandemic. "These new estimates highlight the tremendous impact COVID-19 has had on children around the world," said Elli Oswald, executive director of the Faith to Action Initiative. Members of the Faith to Action Initiative, a coalition of faith-based child welfare organizations that includes Bethany Christian Services, World Vision and other nonprofits and ministries, responded this week to the study published Tuesday (July 20) in *The Lancet*, encouraging Christians to mobilize to care for those children and support surviving family members. "We know when families are supported during these tragic times, they can provide the love and care a child needs to thrive. The church is best placed to respond to the needs of these children as it carries out the vision we see in scripture of God's intention for family, and ensures that a child never needs to be placed in an orphanage," Oswald said. Researchers from the CDC, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Bank and the University College

London used COVID-19 mortality data from March 2020 through April 2021 and national fertility statistics for 21 countries to offer the first global estimates of the number of children orphaned by the disease. Their methods were similar to those used by the UNAIDS Reference Group on Estimates, Modelling and Projections to estimate the number of children orphaned by AIDS. The solution, said Chris Palusky, president and CEO of Bethany Christian Services, is “the loving care of a family, not another orphanage.” He pointed to Scripture passages that say God sets the lonely in families and call on Christians to care for those who have been orphaned. “We urge Christians to support efforts to strengthen vulnerable families and communities, reunify families, and place children without caregivers in loving families, so that children never have to live in orphanages,” Palusky said.

Religion News Service

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- The world’s largest Muslim organization accepts that Christians will try to convert its members. A new partnership with evangelicals seeks to ensure this does not lead to conflict. Christianity Today magazine reports that the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) has signed a statement of cooperation with Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), an Indonesian association with an estimated 30 million to 50 million members. Established in 1926 to counter Wahhabi trends issuing from the Arabian Peninsula, its name means “Revival of the Religious Scholars.” “Evangelicals very much aspire to proselytism, and so does Islam. So naturally there will be competition,” said NU secretary general Yahya Cholil Staquf. “But we need to have this competition conducted in a peaceful and harmonious environment.”

Staquf spoke from the stage of the 2021 International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit in Washington. On its opening day, he and WEA secretary general Thomas Schirrmacher signed “The Nation’s Mosque Statement,” along with Taleb Shareef, imam of Masjid Muhammad, the first American mosque built by the descendants of slaves. Calling for “the emergence of a truly just and harmonious world order,” the statement seeks a global alliance to prevent the political weaponization of identity and the spread of communal hatred. Schirrmacher called the WEA’s cooperation with NU the product of deep theological dialogue, counter to the academic tendency to downplay truth claims. And as evangelicals, evangelism is at the heart of their effort. “We are working together for the right to convert each other,” the German theologian said. “Religious freedom does not mean that we agree, but that we live in peace with our deep differences.” But alongside evangelism is coexistence and common ground. “There have been centuries of jihads and corresponding crusades,” said Thomas Johnson, senior advisor to the WEA’s Theological Commission. “It is time to set a conscious new direction.” This includes recognition of “deep agreement” in terms of love of neighbor, human dignity, and helping the vulnerable. Johnson is also the WEA special envoy for engaging Humanitarian Islam, the title NU gives to its East Indies cultural manifestation of the faith.

Christianity Today

(NEW YORK) -- Taking advantage of a unique virtual opportunity, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry invites all Episcopalians over 18 to consider applying to be a delegate to the 2021 United Nations climate change conference — known as the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties, or COP26. Applications are due by Aug. 20,

and the presiding bishop's delegation will attend daily virtual events during COP26, which takes place in Glasgow Oct. 31 to Nov. 12. "This year's online platform will allow for wider representation on the delegation," said the Rev. Melanie Mullen, director of reconciliation, justice, and creation care for The Episcopal Church. "Episcopalians who are young adults, people of color, Indigenous, LGBTQ identifying, and from communities affected by climate change and environmental injustice are especially invited to apply." Organizers underscored the vital importance of decisions from the annual COP gatherings in the effort to reverse the worst effects of climate change. Already this year, June was recorded as North America's hottest on record and the fourth hottest globally; the western U.S. is experiencing its worst drought in two decades. "Non-governmental organizations, including religious bodies like The Episcopal Church, participate in these UN meetings by advocating for our own needs and concerns, especially giving voice to vulnerable populations within our Church," said the Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California and head of the delegation. "As delegation members, we stand in solidarity with smaller nations, such as those in the Pacific Ocean, who already feel the leading-edge effects of climate change." During the conference, delegates will be expected to attend two to five hours of events per day and follow a particular issue within the climate negotiations. They will have the opportunity to speak at Episcopal Church COP events and write and publish blog posts about their engagement with the event.

The presiding bishop will announce his nominations for the delegation by early September. Members will meet monthly ahead of COP26 via video conferencing as well as daily during the November event.

(UNDATED) -- Thirty years ago, Amy Grant was on top of the world. After years of topping Christian music charts, Grant had caught the mainstream industry's eye and began finding success on secular radio. In the 1980s, she teamed up with Peter Cetera of the band Chicago for a No. 1 hit, "Next Time I Fall in Love," winning several Grammys and performing on "Late Show With David Letterman" and "The Tonight Show." Then in 1991, her album "Heart in Motion" went platinum, selling more than 5 million copies thanks to hits like "Baby, Baby," "Every Heartbeat," "Good For Me" and "That's What Love Is For." The success of "Heart in Motion" made her a household name and worldwide star — an experience that was both joyful and overwhelming. In a special story, Religion News service reports that a newly remastered 30th anniversary "Heart in Motion" appeared this month, just in time for Grant, who had heart surgery last fall and calls herself fully recovered, to hit the road for a post-COVID, coast-to-coast tour, ending with a series of Christmas shows with her husband, the country music star Vince Gill, at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. Grant was recently named to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, which she said was "beautiful and encouraging" and just the motivation she needed to start writing more songs. When work began on rereleasing "Heart in Motion," Grant hadn't listened to the album for years. The songs, she discovered, don't sound 30 years old, partly because their heavy reliance on synthesizers and studio techniques of the time have come back in style. But listening to the songs brought

back memories for Grant. When it came out she had young children at home and was still learning to balance the life of a pop star with being a mom. One of her four, her daughter Millie, who inspired the words to “Baby, Baby,” made a surprise appearance at the Grammys as a toddler in 1992. By the end of that heady decade, Grant had gone through a painful, public divorce. “I was picturing all of my family at a much earlier version,” she said. “And those are always tender memories. You remember all good stuff, not the hard stuff.” The best-known songs on “Heart in Motion” are filled with infectious joy, but the album also includes “Ask Me,” which Grant wrote after hearing the stories of friends who survived childhood sexual abuse. When her band started that song in concert, most people would be sitting down. Then Grant would look out over the sea in the audience and see someone way in the back stand up. Then another person would stand. And another. “That’s one of the gifts of music — it helps us find our voice and connects us,” she said. “The music seeps in the cracks and finds us.” Recently Grant had dinner with friends, one of whom revealed their own history of surviving abuse. It was a reminder that people often carry heartache and sorrows that they keep hidden away. “We just don’t know what anyone else carries,” she said. “We just don’t know. It’s a good reason to never assume and always be gentle with people.”

As she gets older, Grant said, it is easy to look back over her life with regret, wondering if she did things right. Recently, her prayers have gone something like, “Oh God, thank you for holding on to me.”

“Every day, we come to God with our five loaves and two fish in our worn-out, broken vessel and we receive and share,” she said. “I look at my journey of faith and think, there were times I felt smarter and more

together. And now I mostly think about thankfulness and a whole lot of grace.” The remastered “Heart in Motion” was released in early July in a two-disc set that includes unreleased tracks as well as remixes of the album’s hit singles. The record will also be available on vinyl for the first time since the 1990s.

Religion News Service

Here are the answers to this week’s quiz...

1. From blast-off to splash-down, the Apollo 11 mission lasted eight days.
2. Michael Collins was the third member of the Apollo 11 crew. Of the three, Collins was the only astronaut to remain in orbit around the moon. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin actually walked on the lunar surface.
3. Moon rocks were primarily made up of basalt. But it would have been awesome if they had found cheese!
4. The lunar module touched down in the Sea of Tranquility.
5. The very first meal eaten on the moon consisted of bacon and coffee. The bacon was reportedly coated with a glaze that prevented crumbs. The coffee came from a Starbucks franchise that had opened on the moon a few years before Apollo 11.

Have a wonderful week, everyone!

Fr. Jim