

# St. Philip's Weekly Newsletter September 2nd

Dear family of faith,

I am so happy to be getting back to doing a full newsletter for you. I just can't remember any three-week stretch being this busy for me at church -- no, not even Holy Week! But it's mostly a "good" kind of busy. I don't like that there have been funerals or that any of my church family is sick -- but I do like being able to be present and show you God's love and concern. What's even more exciting is to see how YOU are each finding ways to be a blessing to one another. What a great church I serve!

With that thought, let me share what news I have to report:

- We have a bishop! No, our Bishop-Elect is still on disability. Rev. Paula Clark was given the all-clear by her doctors to assume the duties of Bishop. But the diocesan Standing Committee and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry have asked her to take even more time to rest and rehab. I am proud to see us showing such care for our Bishop Elect. And we are most blessed to have Bishop Chilton Knudsen stepping in as "Assisting Bishop" for the Chicago diocese. Bishop Knudsen is the retired Bishop of Maine and a daughter of this diocese. She served parishes in Bolingbrook and Elmhurst as a priest before joining Bishop Montgomery's staff in 1997. Pray for God's blessing and guidance in Bishop Knudsen's ministry with us. And continue to pray for Bishop-Elect Clark. By all accounts, her recovery from a cerebral bleed is going very well indeed.

- St. Philip's has a lot of wonderful events on the horizon. I hope you will make plans to join us on the following dates:
  - Monday, September 6th 7:00 p.m. -- Michael DeMeyer hosts Bible Study in the Foote Library. (They are studying the life of Christ, so you KNOW there's going to be some good information!)
  - Tuesday, September 7th 11:00 a.m. -- Join Deacon Dan for a "Spiritual Awareness" session. (These special times follow our Tuesday mass and coffee hour.)
  - Sunday, September 12th -- Annual Parish Picnic! (Please sign up to bring a dish or some special treat.)
  - Monday, September 13th 7:00 p.m. -- Book Club holds their monthly meeting in the Foote Library. (They are reading Still Life by Louise Penny.)
  - Sunday, September 26th -- Remember that our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes are resuming. (Do you know a child who could benefit from the fun and inspirational training led by Linda Smith? Bring them to church!)
  - Also on Sunday, September 26th 9:30 a.m. -- St. Philip's welcomes guest preacher Rev. Courtney Reid from the Diocese of Chicago. (After mass, Rev. Courtney will introduce us to the "Fierce Conversations" program during coffee hour. Please make her welcome and plan to attend!)
  - There are plans for an INCREDIBLE Oktoberfest fundraiser at St. Philip's. Mark Saturday, October 2nd on your calendar! Please stay tuned for details. It sounds like it's going to be a blast.

## Prayer Concerns and Notes of Thanksgiving...

- Please keep Kim McDonald in your prayers. Kim is at Lutheran Home. She is improving slowly but reports low blood pressure and weakness. I am sure a card of cheer would definitely be in order!
- Andy Obara still needs our prayers. He is still hospitalized but is much-improved and so grateful for visitors and prayers. Sophie, Lisa, Kim and Michelle are taking wonderful care of him.
- Pray for Deacon Dan, who has been feeling poorly of late. We love you, brother, and we are praying for a total recovery.
- Praise God that Michelle Webb's surgery went so well. Michelle is in some pain but is able to manage it effectively. She now embarks on a difficult journey of rehab and rest. She is not able to work and will also not be with us for at least two months to give her time to heal. We miss her already but are confident of a complete recovery. Keep on praying!
- Give thanks that our problems with our organ appear to be resolved! Aside from needing the usual tuning, it is in remarkably good condition.
- I ask your prayers for my sister - Judy Harn. She is unvaccinated and now has Covid-19. She's 75 and has been feeling poorly for many days. Pray that my other two sisters will finally agree to get vaccinated.
- Pray for Don Van Cleave, and his family as he passed away this week. He was a family friend of our Administrative Assistant, Marinelle.
- Give thanks that Don Mueller is much-improved since a recent health scare. It's so nice to be able to put some happy news in here!
- Pray for all those returning to school. From pre-school to university; students, faculty, staff, bus drivers and parents ALL need our prayers. May this year be safe, sane and special!

- Please pray for the people of Haiti, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida panhandle. The recent hurricane has left a lot of devastation in its wake, to say nothing of Haiti's double-whammy with the recent earthquake.
- Give thanks to God for the helpers -- those wonderful and brave people who go into areas where natural disasters have occurred and bring food, medicine, repair and cheer to victims. May God bless each and every one of them.
- Pray for peace in Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq and Syria. Pray for peace in our own country, where violence is much too frequent. Pray for the families of the American servicemen and women who died in the recent bomb attack. May God comfort them.
- Our brother Jack Notzen asks our prayers for Dave and Maureen Genevich. Dave, Jack's brother-in-law, has been moved into hospice care. Pray for the entire Genevich family.
- We give thanks for the continued recovery of Bill Peterson. He should be able to put weight on his leg soon. You're in our prayers, Bill. Pat too!
- Give thanks that Peg Davis has a new great-grandson! Name to be determined. We celebrate with you, Peg!
- Continue to remember all those on our parish prayer list who have ongoing health or other concerns. Pray for Ken and Janie Jenssen; Diane Knowles; Jill Hill; Linda Purcell; Bill Peterson; Kim McDonald; JoAnn Miller and family; the Janiec family; Roberta Butler; Andreas Kistner; Christina Guzman; Kelly Scolnick; Kurth Horner; Joe and Toni Saladino; Levi Tsu and his family; Molly and her parents – Laura and David; Lillian Conway; Peggy and Don; and Marge.

## This Week's Quiz...

...is about your Chicago Bears! It's the perfect time of year for a Bears quiz - while there is still hope.

1. Which of these players was selected to represent the Bears in the 2007 Pro-Bowl? (Devin Hester; Kyle Orton; Cedric Benson; Brad Maynard; Richard Dent)
2. Which Bear running back was selected for the Pro-Bowl the year AFTER Walter Payton retired? (Craig Heyward; Merrill Hoge; Brad Muster; Neal Anderson; Matt Suhey)
3. The Bears were champions of the NFL in 1985-86. But prior to that victory, in what year were the Bears overall champs? (1983; 1976; 1963; 1956; 1940)
4. Standout Safety Gary Fencik - of the Super Bowl champion Chicago Bears - graduated from what University? (Ohio State; Illinois; Drake; UCLA; Yale)
5. This Bear was NFL Rookie of the Year in 1961. Who is he? (Gale Sayers; Ronnie Bull; Mark Bortz; Willie Gallimore; Mike Ditka)

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

## **This Week in Christian History...**

- ❖ **On August 29th, 1831:** Michael Faraday, a devout Christian, induces an electrical current in one wire from the current in another—a discovery that utterly transforms the world, without which there would be no electronic computers, no power lines, no telephones, no internet.
- ❖ **On August 30th, 1919:** Mexican evangelist Juan Lugo preaches the first-known Pentecostal message in Puerto Rico. In 1920 he will establish Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal in Puerto Rico.
- ❖ **On August 31st, 651:** Death of St. Aidan of Lindisfarne who evangelized Northumbria, England.
- ❖ **On September 1st, 1836:** When missionaries Marcus Whitman, H. H. Spalding, and their wives reach Walla Walla, Washington, Eliza Spaulding and Narcissa Whitman are the first white women to have crossed the North American continent.
- ❖ **On September 2nd, 1973:** Death of J. R. R. Tolkien, a linguist, novelist, and devout Catholic. He had helped lead C. S. Lewis to faith in Christ and was a member of the literary club The Inklings. Among his writings were the fantasy favorites *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.
- ❖ **On September 3rd, 590:** Consecration of Pope Gregory I, “the Great.” Gregory will be one of just two Popes to receive the title, “the Great” in all of history.

*Thanks to the Christian History Institute*

## News Briefs...

**(PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI)** -- In the 12 days since a [7.2 magnitude earthquake](#) struck Haiti on Aug. 14, and the subsequent drenching rains of Tropical Storm Grace, Episcopalians there and their ministry partners across The Episcopal Church continue to help devastated communities. As of Aug. 24, more than [2,200 have died](#) and some 12,300 have been injured. Over 1.2 million people have been affected, with nearly 650,000 in need of emergency humanitarian assistance in the three most affected departments (Sud, Grand'Anse and Nippes), where an estimated 130,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed, [according](#) to the United Nations. (A U.N.-generated [map](#) shows the scope of the damage and ensuing needs.) Many roads and bridges of the region's already fragile infrastructure [have been rendered unusable](#), making access for relief workers and supplies even more challenging. Many [hospitals and clinics](#) were also severely damaged. Episcopal Relief & Development responded within days with an [initial grant](#) to provide direct assistance to 400 families in hard-to-reach areas and on Aug. 24, [it announced](#) a partnership with Church World Service to enable the local health care center in Pestel, a coastal community due north of Les Cayes to provide primary medical care to over 10,000 people. Children and adults in the area will also receive community-based psychosocial support through existing [Wozo clubs](#). These clubs were established by a local organization, Wozo Haiti, after the 2010 earthquake, and later expanded through a partnership with Episcopal Relief & Development.

*Episcopal New Service*

**(NEW YORK)** -- The Episcopal Church has launched a fundraising campaign to support Episcopal Migration Ministries as it and other refugee resettlement agencies prepare to welcome and assist thousands of Afghans who fled their home country after the Taliban took control this month. Episcopal Migration Ministries, or EMM, set an initial goal of raising \$4 million, based on its estimate of the amount of money its affiliates will need to provide housing, clothing, legal assistance and other support to newly arrived Afghans for up to six months. Donations can be made online to the [Neighbors Welcome: Afghan Allies Fund](#). "The needs are great and will require our communities and congregations to come together to contribute financially, offer housing, volunteer and pray," Presiding Bishop Michael Curry [said Aug. 31 in a video message](#) in which he backed such efforts. "You can also stay involved in the work of advocacy in ensuring that the government of the United States honors its commitments to our Afghan allies." The Episcopal Church is one of 88 faith organizations that signed [an Aug. 30 letter to](#)

President Joe Biden asking him to commit the U.S. to welcoming and protecting “Afghans in need of refuge.” The church’s Washington-based Office of Government Relations has encouraged Episcopalians to press lawmakers to [make it easier for Afghans to resettle in the U.S.](#) EMM also is inviting dioceses, congregations and individual Episcopalians to provide various non-monetary support for the Afghan families, including volunteering and becoming community sponsors. A top priority is identifying temporary places for those Afghans to live, such as vacant church rectories and diocesan camps and conference centers. Individuals interested in offering housing or volunteering can [complete EMM’s online form.](#)

*Episcopal News Service*

**(WASHINGTON)** -- The spokesman for a major evangelical nonprofit was fired for [promoting vaccines](#) on the MSNBC “Morning Joe” cable news show, Religion News Service has learned. Daniel Darling, senior vice president of communications for the National Religious Broadcasters, was fired Friday (Aug. 27) after refusing to admit his pro-vaccine statements were mistaken, according to a source authorized to speak for Darling.

His firing comes at a time when Americans face a new surge of COVID-19 infections due to the highly contagious Delta variant even as protesters and politicians resist mask mandates or other preventive measures. During a broadcast on Aug. 2, Darling, an evangelical pastor and author, told host Joe Scarborough about how his faith motivated him to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Darling described the vaccines as an amazing feat of discovery by scientists, some of whom share his Christian faith. Darling said he was proud to be vaccinated. “I believe in this vaccine because I don’t want to see anyone else die of COVID. Our family has lost too many close friends and relatives to COVID, including an uncle, a beloved church member and our piano teacher,” Darling told Scarborough. He expressed similar views in a recent USA Today [opinion piece](#). Earlier this week, leaders at NRB, an international association of Christian communicators with 1,100 member organizations, told Darling his statements violated the organization’s policy of remaining neutral about COVID-19 vaccines. According to the source, Darling was given two options — sign a statement admitting he had been insubordinate or be fired. When he refused to sign a statement, Darling was fired and given no severance, the source told RNS. Troy Miller, CEO of NRB, confirmed Darling was no longer with the organization. He did not respond to a question about the role Darling’s statements



about vaccines played in his departure. “Dan is an excellent communicator and a great friend. I wish him God’s best in all his future endeavors,” Miller told RNS in an email.

*Religion News Service*

**(CHICAGO)** -- The Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) in Chicago, long absent from the Diocese of Chicago, will return on September 11 with the first meeting of the new Quintin E. Primo Chicago UBE Chapter. All people--clergy and lay, Black and other races--are invited to attend the meeting at St. James Commons (65 E. Huron), which will begin with morning prayer and a commemoration of September 11 in St. Andrew's Chapel at 9:30 am. The chapter meeting will take place from 10 to 11:30 am, and a livestream will be available for those not able to attend in person. Please RSVP by email. UBE is a national organization of the Episcopal Church that aims to unite diverse cultures, concerns and gifts of Black Episcopalians by providing preparation and encouragement for living the Baptismal Covenant and fully participating in the mission and governance of the Episcopal Church.

**(MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE)** -- The Anglican Communion has formally approved the formation of a new province of the Communion, to be entitled Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola (IAMA, or the Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola). The new province will be inaugurated in September, Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, secretary general of the Anglican Communion, told Archbishop Thabo Makgoba in a letter.

The formation of a new province requires the votes of two-thirds of the primates of the provinces of the Communion. Idowu-Fearon said 29 member churches had consented to the development. One province had abstained and no objections had been received. IAMA will hold its inaugural provincial synod in September and hold a livestreamed inauguration service on Sept. 24, the last day of ACSA’s 2021 provincial synod.

*Episcopal News Service*

**(UNDATED)** -- It’s a Bible verse familiar to many Christians — and even to many non-Christians who have seen John 3:16 on billboards and T-shirts or scrawled across eye black under football players’ helmets. But Terry Wildman hopes the new translation published Tuesday (Aug. 31) by InterVarsity Press, “[First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament](#),” will help Christians and Indigenous peoples read it again in a fresh way. “The Great Spirit loves this world of human beings

so deeply he gave us his Son — the only Son who fully represents him. All who trust in him and his way will not come to a bad end, but will have the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony,” reads the First Nations Version of the verse. In the First Nations Version, “eternal life,” a concept unfamiliar in Native American cultures, becomes “the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony.” The Greek word “cosmos,” usually translated in English as “the world,” had to be reconsidered, too: It doesn’t mean the planet Earth but how the world works and how creation lives and functions together, said Wildman, the lead translator and project manager of the First Nations Version. They’re phrases that resonated with Wildman, changing the way he read the Bible even as he translated it for Native American readers. He tells Religion News Service, “We believe it’s a gift not only to our Native people, (but) from our Native people to the dominant culture. We believe that there’s a fresh way that people can experience the story again from a Native perspective,” he said. The idea for an Indigenous Bible translation first came to Wildman nearly 20 years ago in the storeroom of the church he pastored on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona. Wildman, who is Ojibwe and Yaqui, was excited to find a Hopi translation of the New Testament in storage. He wanted to hear how that beloved Scripture sounded in Hopi, how it translated back into English. But, he said, while many Hopi elders still speak their native language and children now are learning it in schools, he couldn’t find anyone able to read it. That is true for many Native American nations, he added, noting that at the same time Christian missionaries were translating the Bible into Native languages, they were also working with the boarding schools in the United States and Canada that punished students for speaking those languages. It occurred to the pastor that “since 90-plus percent of our Native people are not speaking their tribal language or reading their tribal language, we felt there needed to be a translation in English worded for Native people,” he said. Wildman, a licensed local pastor in the United Methodist Church, has been working on translating the Bible into words and concepts familiar to many Native Americans ever since.

*Religion News Service*

**(MARQUETTE, MI.)** -- [UP Wild Church](#), a ministry of the Diocese of Northern Michigan, brings people of all ages and backgrounds into the woods of the Upper Peninsula for spiritual experiences. As it enters its third year, it is attracting a growing number of people who are drawn to its mix of outdoor adventures, community, quiet reflection and environmentalism. Unlike other “wilderness churches,” it isn’t a Eucharist service in the woods. Wild Church, a collaboration with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s

Northern Great Lakes Synod, holds nondenominational nature prayer services and wilderness walks in the area's abundant natural settings: protected pine forests, inland lakes and the shores of Lake Superior. But in addition to providing a natural refuge from the chaos of modern life, Wild Church also engages with the environmental crises that threaten those places, educating people about past and present industrial destruction. The idea originated during a gathering of Lutherans and Episcopalians in a park, where the conversation turned to the decreasing numbers of young adults in churches. "What if we created an alternative?" Lantto remembers someone asking. For Lantto, 41, appreciation and care for creation has always been central to her faith life. "One of our vocations that God gave us is to not just tend the garden, but get to know the garden. And when you start to fall in love with what God created, you're compelled to protect it," she told Episcopal News Service.

*Episcopal News Service*

Well friends, that's it for another week. I pray that you are well and enjoying this beautiful weather -- a gift from God! Blessings! Fr. Jim

And here are your quiz answers...

1. Devin Hester
2. Neal Anderson
3. 1963
4. Yale
5. Mike Ditka

