



Ring in the **Good News**

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JULY 2015

Purcellville, Virginia

Pentecost Season

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Our Independence Day Opportunity

By Fr. Tom Simmons



When Jesus looked at the crowd he felt compassion on them. They were like sheep without a shepherd. He called his followers to see their needs and be moved to action to serve them. We live in a big world of overwhelming needs. We want to make a difference, but how? To be effective we must focus on **one** need and then “dig in” together to make a real impact.



We’ve been trying to do that this year, “asking and listening” to as many people as we can to discern the need, to name our passion and to identify the competence we can harness to serve our community in Jesus’ name.



To discern the “Crying Need” in our Community we conducted 71 “man on the street” interviews in May, which gave people the chance to rank order what they like best about the community. A large majority, 63% chose the option “Small town/rural feel/environment. However, when asked to identify “what areas of interpersonal relationships” they see as “needing most support,” 35% of respondents chose “Feeling part of the community” and 42% said, “Building friendships w/ local families.”

Evidently, though most aspire to being settled and connected in a small town community, nearly half of them don’t feel like it is working for them. We have tapped into a large proportion of people in our community saying they came here looking for community, but haven’t found it yet. Many don’t know their neighbors and don’t have friends outside their home and work environments. By asking and listening, we gave people the chance to name their need. Now we know.

I mention this sliver from our research to highlight **our opportunity on Independence Day.**

The 4th of July is Purcellville’s ultimate civic celebration, with the parade and fireworks. St. Peter’s has a chance to add something significant to our neighbors’ experience of community in our town. For the fourth year in a row, we will serve up Monks BBQ dinner for 250 people, with live bluegrass music. We will sing patriotic songs, pray together for our country, and attend to a reading of the Declaration of Independence, by Colonel North. We’ll have multiple stations with wacky fun and games.

By inviting the whole community we create a place where people can eat with their neighbors and other strangers, share fun and fellowship and prayer together. We get to serve them and begin new relationships. They can connect with their community and recall the first principles of our nation’s unique founding.

Come for fun. Come to serve. Come with friends.





Join us to pray for our nation and its leaders.

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

(www.stpetes.net)

will host our 4th annual

Independence Day Prayer Service

at 7 pm on the 4th of July

Lt. Col. Oliver North will read the Declaration of Independence.

We'll sing patriotic hymns and
pray for our country in these difficult times.

Come early to enjoy a first-rate BBQ dinner

at 5:30 hosted by Monk's BBQ

(www.monksq.com)

Donations will be accepted for food and live bluegrass music.

All are invited.

Why Do Church?

By Fr. Tom Simmons

There are lots of reasons NOT to go to church every Sunday.

I once played hooky from church and drove around to discover what non-church people do for "church". I saw teams on sports fields, and people sweating while running or biking. There were people reading the newspaper with a cup of coffee, mowing the lawn, cleaning the garage, working in the garden, going to Nichols or breakfast at Purcellville Restaurant.

Church obviously has lots of completion on Sunday! So why go?

How about getting close with God?

That's what Isaiah was after in Isaiah 6:1-8. For him the quest for closeness with God started in deep anxiety. Can you identify? There's nothing like stress, or fear, or failure to remind us what's most important.

Isaiah was feeling great anxiety in "the year King Uzziah died." Uzziah was a good king whose prosperous reign lasted 52 years. His death unleashed forces of change and decline, and uncertainty for the future. So he seeks God. And to Isaiah's surprise *God actually showed up!*

So Isaiah's anxiety was turned to awe.

He reported, "I saw a throne, high and lifted up and the hem of his robe fills the temple." God's greatness was utterly overpowering, surrounded by seraphs singing their song: "Holy, holy, holy is God Almighty! Heaven and earth are filled with his glory."

That thrice "Holy" declares God's absolute perfection. Their "glory" gasps in awe at the expansive cosmos - its beauty and scale, complexity and design - all at his command.

When I see Isaiah joining the liturgy, the dance of love surrounding God, it makes me want to say, "Welcome to Sunday!" Every Sunday we join the same liturgy in progress. You know when, right? It's when "We lift up our hearts." Where do we lift them? "To the Lord!" In that moment heaven and earth overlap and we join the liturgy already in progress.



That's one reason we do church, for this unique experience of beauty. The Eucharistic prayer describes it:

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. ***Joining with them,*** and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory."

But then Isaiah's awe turned to fear.

Why? Before God's wholeness and glory, purity and perfection Isaiah has an insight: I'm not. "I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell among a people of unclean lip and my eyes have seen the King!" Strange. Whenever God shows up in the Bible people have the same reaction!

Why? Think of my brother-in-law Martin. He's a tri-athlete. He trains on weekends and he's good. But he's out there competing with athletes who have sponsorship and train full time. He's good. They're GREAT. They zip past him on the bike. It's...discouraging.

We all want to be good, and we work hard at it, but there's nothing like being in the presence of true excellence to make us feel like a hack. That's how Isaiah felt... only infinitely more so! Sure, he's a good guy, but that doesn't get us very far. Yahweh's HOLY! And we're...fatally compromised on the inside.

So with Isaiah, "We confess that we have sinned

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against you in thought word and deed, by what we have done and left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves..."

When we humble ourselves like this it is the start of something beautiful.

With confession comes cleansing.

Isaiah got a coal burning and purifying his lips. His cleansing is painful. "Ouch! That's hot!" But OUR cleansing comes from the suffering of another in our place. Jesus swallowed the gall. He bore the burning agony of crucifixion, the searing loss of being separated from the Father for us, "My God my God why hast thou forsaken me?"

And now, instead of a hot coal on the lips, what do we get? Jesus' body and blood upon our lips. The application of his sacrifice to our lives

We all carry a load of shame, regret, guilt, self-reproach, and even self-loathing through our day-to-day lives. Our self-esteem society doesn't offer good ways of dealing with this. But God does. In the presence of God we can be purified, and freed of this load.

That's another reason we do church! Or...not.

It's so easy when you feel unworthy to stay away. We think, "I feel like the worst hypocrite, the biggest loser. I'm not worthy to be there." But I want you to hear this; don't believe that lie. Our unworthiness is the BEST reason to *be here*.

***But I want you to hear this:
don't believe that lie.***

Don't stay away when you've been bad. Come and deal with your shame or failure. Get up and get free of your guilt. Like Isaiah.

With cleansing Isaiah received a commission.

God now speaks and asks for SOMEONE to step up. In a declining time, when things are getting worse, God is at work to steer things his way. And he calls us to stand WITH him, to speak FOR him.

Our God calls. Isaiah responds, "Here am I send me." We say at the end of the service, "Send us now into the world in peace to do the work you have given us to do as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

Though times are turning for the worse, Isaiah now has new perspective. From the vantage of God's throne Isaiah knows who is in charge. And he knows he has a role to play.

So why do church?

Go to get what Isaiah got: 1) a unique experience of inspiring beauty 2) that cleanses us deeply on the inside, 3) and gives us confident purpose in this crazy world.

There are *a lot of other things you could do on Sunday*, but WHERE ELSE ARE YOU GOING TO GET ALL THAT?

*O Lord my God,
to you and to your service
I devote myself, body, soul, and spirit.
Fill my memory with the record of
your mighty works;
enlighten my understanding
with the light of your Holy Spirit;
and may all the desires of my heart and will
center in what you would have me do.
Make me an instrument of your salvation
for the people entrusted to my care,
and let me by my life and speaking
set forth your true and living Word.
Be always with me in carrying out
the duties of my salvation;
in praises heighten my love and gratitude;
in speaking of You give me readiness of
thought and expression; and grant that,
by the clearness and brightness of your
holy Word, all the world may be drawn
to your blessed kingdom.
All this I ask for the sake of your Son,
my Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.*



Global Media Outreach—Part 2: What I Have Learned



By Debby Caulfield

Editor's Note: *Part 1 of this article was printed in the June issue of The Good News. Back issues are available on our website: www.stpetes.net.*

In the last issue of the Good News I shared with you information about the mission – Global Media Outreach (GMO) - that I have been involved with for over a year now.

Since becoming a Christian I have had a heart for Evangelism. I never felt that I had what it takes to “do” evangelism, but I certainly know that the act of evangelism by friends and strangers brought me to faith in Christ and it is a powerful tool in building the kingdom of God. So, now that I have been “doing” evangelism I want to share with you the lessons I have learned through this experience at GMO.

Make a deliberate commitment

We all know that the Church as a whole is charged with the Great Commission in Mathew 28:19. But we conveniently forget that each individual must play a part in carrying out the Commission. While I resisted in the beginning, I have come to appreciate that my deliberate commitment to an outreach program that imposes requirements on me, has actually made obedience easier! I can't slack off and the more time I give to my work as an Online Missionary (OM) the more I enjoy and excel at serving God.

I have committed to three simple goals and allow the Holy Spirit to fill in the blanks and add the detail.

To the seeker I must share my own testimony of what God has done in my life. I must share the message of salvation. I must shepherd the seeker into receiving Jesus as his Savior.

To the new believer I must explain the basic aspects of living for Jesus. I must mentor him into a deeper relationship with God. I must help him develop his faith and live it out more completely.

For all disciples I must encourage prayer, Bible reading, connecting with a Christian community and the sharing of their faith.

Trust in God's Plan

If there is any evangelistic endeavor that requires you to completely trust in God's plan it is Internet evangelism. From our very first OM training we learn that on average we can expect only a 20% response rate. So after spending time and effort replying to someone's question or plea for help, you may never hear back from that person! That's where the trust comes in. Maybe the answer you gave sufficed and

satisfied the person. Maybe the Bible verse you cited made a spiritual impact on that person. Maybe the love that you showed that person comforted him. Maybe the prayer that you said for that person made a difference. Or maybe none of the above happened.

I truly have learned to not think about what I don't know and leave it up to God. After all, I have planted and I have watered, but *God will give the growth.* 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 God saves, and I serve Him.

A young woman from Kazakhstan continually asks me for more information about my faith, which I give her, but she never reveals to me what she is thinking. I have written her well over 70 replies but I have no idea what is happening in Kazakhstan. I truly must trust her end to God.

Always Speak Truth

The individual who lands in my email box has voluntarily come to a Christian site seeking some clarity about truth or healing in the name of my Christian faith. So, I must be prepared to *give an answer to everyone who asks me the reason for the hope I have and always I must do this with gentleness and respect.* 1Peter 3:15

I communicate with many English speakers in Africa, where the Prosperity Gospel thrives. Instead of God using us for His purpose, the adherents believe that we need to use God for our purposes. I get many requests to pray for wealth and success and I know some believe that the right “words of faith” from a believer like me on a Christian site will surely secure them all their worldly needs.

But I am called to speak in truth and I do so as lovingly as I know. One friend from Johannesburg asked that I pray for him to win the lottery. I talked to him about the right use of prayer and the proper place of wealth in our lives. But he kept emailing me that I wasn't praying “enough” because he was only matching 3 numbers. Finally he asked, “You're not going to pray for me to win the lottery, are you?” I replied that I wasn't and it opened a whole new conversation between us about not being able to serve God and money.

I get many emails about relationships - dating, marriage, divorce, and family discord. In these situations I feel very much that I am called to speak openly and honestly and encourage people to pursue lives rooted in Christ. Oftentimes my advice is at odds with one's secular or religious traditions.

Build relationship

We are commanded in the Bible to *love your neighbor as yourself*, but there are many more places in the Bible where we are implored to care for the stranger.

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For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35 Most effective Christian ministries start out building relationship with the physical demonstrations of love – feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, and housing the homeless. But with Internet evangelism Christian charity must be conveyed with words of care and love typed on my keyboard.

The world is filled with strangers in need and many of them can only be reached via the Internet. Akshay is a sad Hindu man from New Delhi who told me upfront he doesn't want to be converted. I told him I have no powers to convert him, but since he contacted me through a Christian website he would have to accept that my worldview is informed by my belief in Jesus. He recoils slightly when I talk about Jesus, but he keeps coming back for more. He now calls me "Mother" which is a supreme term of respect in the Indian culture. Once he told me he would like to touch my feet and receive blessings from me - another sign of respect. I don't know where this relationship will go, but I pray daily for this stranger and explain to him regularly that the blessings he needs in life, will not come from my feet, but from a relationship with Jesus.

Encourage One Another

Through my Internet travels I have met many people from all over the world serving Jesus. These interactions help me to remember that I am but a part of the advancement of God's kingdom. *Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.* 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Ralph and I pray for one another. He is from Ghana but works in Life Abundant Church in Kuwait City. Christians are allowed to worship in Kuwait but not proselytize outside of the church. Ralph too has a heart for Internet evangelism.

Prosper Daniel is a pastor from upcountry Uganda. He accesses resources on our website. He prays for my ministry and I pray for the Divine Gospel Outreach Church in Uganda.

I am truly humbled by these servants' hearts.

Rely on the Power of the Holy Spirit

The most profound change in my life is that I have met the Holy Spirit through my work with GMO. Truly, every single day that I sit before my computer, the Holy Spirit joins me and He helps me with my efforts. I sit and look at the query before me and wonder how I, Debby the New Christian, can possibly respond with the clarity and wisdom that will make an impact on the human being at the other end of the world. Yes, I have great resources at my fingertips but how to pick and choose the right verses, the right sentiments, the right words of love that will not only meet the task at

hand, yet bring honor and glory to God. Oh, let me tell you! I have received help from the very author of the Word itself, the Holy Spirit who guides all my writing to keep it inline with the scriptures.

The proof is in the writing. Often I look back at what I wrote to one of my seekers or disciples and I am surprised at what I have written – almost as if I had not written it at all! It is the handiwork of the greatest Editor that shines through me.

It truly is an amazing thing to know the Holy Spirit like this. I am so emboldened now to ask His help every time I sit down in front of my computer. I liken it to riding a bicycle. I need to get on the bike and start pedaling, and when I am well on my way down the hill the steering is supernaturally taken over by the Holy Spirit.

Yes, I say "supernaturally" because that is exactly what it is.

Strengthen your faith through service

While I have been discipling to strangers from around the world, God has been hard at work discipling me as I sit here in front of my computer.

As I share scripture, I gain insight into that scripture.

As I pray, I gain confidence in God's care.

As I share Biblical insights into living like Christ, I learn wisdom.

As I share love, I feel the great arms of God wrapped around me.

As I see God's work, my faith increases.

This past year has truly been the greatest life changing experience of my young walk with Christ.

I am changed because of an opportunity to serve in this ministry. Internet ministry may not be for everyone, but as Pope John Paul II knew, every human space has room for Christ and for those who choose to serve Him.

*"The Internet causes billions of images to appear on millions of computer monitors around the planet. From this galaxy of sight and sound will the face of Christ emerge and the voice of Christ be heard? For it is only **when his face is seen and his voice heard that the world will know the glad tidings of our redemption. This is the purpose of evangelization.** And this is what will **make the Internet a genuinely human space, for if there is no room for Christ, there is no room for man.**"*

January 2002

I encourage everyone to find his or her space and make an intentional commitment to serve Him there. I know that my experience has led me from merely being a fan of Jesus to being a committed follower.

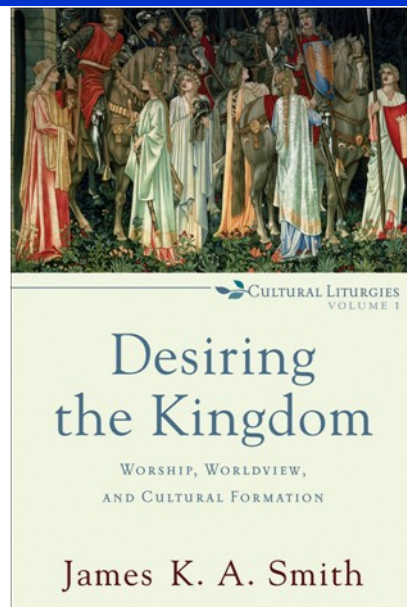
Desiring The Kingdom

Summer Adult Formation Begins July 12th, Between the services in McCray Hall, Led by Jon Corbett

Book Study on James K. A. Smith's *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*.

This book will be one of the most important books for Christians moving forward in today's secular and increasingly post-Christian society. It examines human beings and argues that our approach to Christianizing individuals and cultures based solely on a 'worldview' model is incomplete because it sees people as only "thinking things" when people are more "loving actors." As a result, Smith argues, that formation has less to do with imparting knowledge and instead has more to do with forming right desires and loves. He understands both Christian culture and secular cultures in terms of liturgies that vie for forming loves. Moving forward as Christians and as a church, this book will be of utmost benefit for forming people who are growing Christians who love Christ over and above what our culture desires and loves and for being able to understand our secular, post-Christian culture and find points of contact where we can saliently speak Christ in a way that is heard and understood.

Rod Dreher, writing for the American Conservative, states: ...because of the amazing work of the young Reformed theologian James K.A. Smith, who talks in his great books *Desiring the Kingdom* and its sequel *Imagining the Kingdom* about the importance of his fellow Protestants rediscovering the value of "cultural liturgies." I don't know how widespread Jamie's influence among Protestants will ultimately be — and I encourage Catholics and Orthodox to read his work too — but I do believe that Evangelical believers and congregations that survive the years and decades to come will to some meaningful degree have acted on what they've learned from Jamie.



Register for St. Pete's Vacation Bible School Online at www.stpetes.net



**We welcome children in grades K-5
to join us the week of
July 6th-10th from 9am-noon
for Kingdom of the Son VBS!**

Children love adventure! They are attracted to the thrills of exploring the unknown and encountering the unexpected. With the help of the African Safari theme of Kingdom of the Son, students will embark on a journey into the pages of God's Word and discover the greatest adventure of all... getting to know GOD! Through exploring the Lord's Prayer, children will learn to talk to God and will be encouraged to develop a personal relationship with Him.

Contact: Kathleen Voss with questions or to volunteer.

Welcome Fr. Michael Sie

By Tim Hall



The Reverend Michael Sie and his son, **Michael Jr.**, arrived in the U.S. on Saturday, June 20th, for a two-month visit. Pictured are Michael and son, resting in Michael's mother's kitchen in Takoma Park a short time after completing their 24-hour plus sojourn from Monrovia. Michael will be attending the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, in Salt Lake City, from 23 June to 3 July.



Following his return from Utah he will be **joining St. Peter's for our Independence Day celebration**, will be celebrating Holy Eucharist and preaching at **Good Shepherd Bluemont on July 5th at the 11am service**, and then will **lead both services at St. Peter's on July 19th**. Michael is currently serving at St. Augustine Episcopal Parish in Bardnesville, Liberia, just outside of Monrovia, where he was installed as its first rector in November 2014.

St. Pete's June 2015 Mission Trips—Lexington, Kentucky and Guatemala

As of our GN publication date (6/26), our missions to Kentucky and Guatemala are underway!

Several folks came out on June 18 to send Laurraine Landolt & Paul Miller off on their mission to the Reading Camp in Lexington, Kentucky. We look forward to their report next month.



Sending off Laurraine Landolt & Paul Miller

Excerpts from the Guatemala Mission Team blog:

Lights, Camera, Acción! - June 21—After a long day of travel, we set our watches back two hours, stopped for lunch at Pollo Campero, and settled into our beautiful hotel located right in Antigua. We went to a church in Antigua called Iglesia Del Camino, and experienced a bilingual service in English and Spanish, which was very neat. After church, we made our way to the small town of Santiago Zamora and transformed The Redeemer's House into a photo shoot for family portraits, and the best part is that each family walked away with at least one photo! Something we couldn't help noticing (and found somewhat amusing) was the fact that no one seems to smile for family pictures! They would start off with a serious look, but we were able to get most family members to crack a smile here and there, and the pictures turned out GREAT! And most of us would have to agree that what was even more rewarding than seeing how nicely the pictures turned out was watching the reactions when the families saw their picture. A lot of families don't have family pictures, so they were so excited to get their pictures and take them home. We can't wait to see how God will choose to use us throughout the course of this week!

June 25 - Today we went to "Hope for Home", which is a group home for disabled children, and is run by the Fulp family in their very own home. Some kids we were able to engage with, but there were others who couldn't speak or could barely communicate; we just gave them love and attention. While most of us were at the house, Katharine and Maggie went on house visits with Daryl Fulp to check up on some different families in extremely isolated villages in the dense forest. We had a special party theme for the after school program, and the kids got cake and candy from piñatas! God has certainly blessed us so far, and He is doing great things with the ministries here in Guatemala!



In an Unsteady and Confusing World

By Fr. Tom Simmons

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
BCP 829

This excellent prayer For Young People was written in the mid-1970s, a time of radical change in American society. The sexual revolution was being rapidly institutionalized through the spread of no-fault divorce laws and contraceptive technology, the judicial imposition of abortion-on-demand and the mass media promotion of casual sex and ridicule of the norms that have governed the West since the conversion of Rome and the barbarians.

The Revolution continues to grind its grim course. It has been well documented how American children, named in the prayer above, are the ones who suffer the most acute consequences of our sexual license. A strange ideology, which seeks to erase all distinctions and creaturely limits, is wielding increasing power in the opinion-making sectors of our society. It asserts that sexual identity is entirely fluid, and sexual behavior must be unconstrained. It employs agitation and propaganda (techniques 20th century Communists called “agitprop” and “disinformazia”) to shame well-meaning dissenters, and assimilate us all into a new groupthink.

This movement promotes a radical subjectivism, in which “truth” (how quaint a notion, now!) is only ever individually constructed. Such “truths” form within a person’s sentimental center, authoritatively expressing how “I feel.” Over this there is no higher law. To such feelings all must now be made to bow.

Like the Queen in *Alice in Wonderland* we are being asked to believe “six impossible things before breakfast.” Enormous suggestive pressure is brought to bear to compel our assent to The Impossible Thing of the Month. In June it was Bruce Jenner. As if by magic, one of the greatest male athletes of the 20th century is now a woman. As if on command, everyone who matters now calls him “her.”

For a potent dose of scientific reality in our Through-The-Looking-Glass world I offer excerpts from an essay, *Transgenderism: a Pathogenic Meme*, published by Dr. Paul McHugh on June 18 2015, at <http://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/transgenderism-a-pathogenic-meme#sthash.QEamV9ZI.dpuf>. The head of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University

and Hospital argues the now-controversial point that “gender dysphoria should be treated with psychotherapy, not surgery.”

For forty years as the University Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Medical School—twenty-six of which were also spent as Psychiatrist in Chief of Johns Hopkins Hospital—I’ve been studying people who claim to be transgender. Over that time, I’ve watched the phenomenon change and expand in remarkable ways.

A rare issue of a few men—both homosexual and heterosexual men, including some who sought sex-change surgery because they were erotically aroused by the thought or image of themselves as women—has spread to include women as well as men. Even young boys and girls have begun to present themselves as of the opposite sex. Over the last ten or fifteen years, this phenomenon has increased in prevalence, seemingly exponentially. Now, almost everyone has heard of or met such a person...

The champions of this meme, encouraged by their alliance with the broader LGBT movement, claim that whether you are a man or a woman, a boy or a girl, is more of a disposition or feeling about yourself than a fact of nature. And, much like any other feeling, it can change at any time, and for all sorts of reasons. Therefore, no one could predict who would swap this fact of their makeup, nor could one justifiably criticize such a decision.

At Johns Hopkins, after pioneering sex-change surgery, we demonstrated that the practice brought no important benefits. As a result, we stopped offering that form of treatment in the 1970s. Our efforts, though, had little influence on the emergence of this new idea about sex, or upon the expansion of the number of “transgendered” among young and old.

Olympic Athlete Turned "Pin-Up" Girl

This history may clarify some aspects of the latest high-profile transgender claimant. Bruce Jenner, the 1976 Olympic decathlon champion, is turning away from his titular identity as one of the “world’s greatest male athletes.” Jenner announced recently that he “identifies as a woman” and, with medical and surgical help, is busy reconstructing his physique.

I have not met or examined Jenner, but his behavior resembles that of some of the transgender males we have studied over the years. These men wanted to display themselves in sexy ways, wearing provocative female garb. More often than not, while claiming to be a woman in a man’s body, they declared themselves

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to be “lesbians” (attracted to other women). The photograph of the posed, corseted, breast-boasted Bruce Jenner (a man in his mid-sixties, but flaunting himself as if a “pin-up” girl in her twenties or thirties) on the cover of *Vanity Fair* suggests that he may fit the behavioral mold that Ray Blanchard has dubbed an expression of “autogynephilia”—from gynephilia (attracted to women) and auto (in the form of oneself).

The Emperor's New Clothes

But the meme—that your sex is a feeling, not a biological fact, and can change at any time—marches on through our society. In a way, it's reminiscent of the Hans Christian Andersen tale, *The Emperor's New Clothes*. In that tale, the Emperor, believing that he wore an outfit of special beauty imperceptible to the rude or uncultured, paraded naked through his town to the huzzahs of courtiers and citizens anxious about their reputations. Many onlookers to the contemporary transgender parade, knowing that a disfavored opinion is worse than bad taste today, similarly fear to identify it as a misapprehension.

I am ever trying to be the boy among the bystanders who points to what's real. I do so not only because truth matters, but also because overlooked amid the hoopla—enhanced now by Bruce Jenner's celebrity and Annie Leibovitz's photography—stand many victims. Think, for example, of the parents whom no one—not doctors, schools, nor even churches—will help to rescue their children from these strange notions of being transgendered and the problematic lives these notions herald. These youngsters now far outnumber the Bruce Jenner type of transgender. Although they may be encouraged by his public reception, these children generally come to their ideas about their sex not through erotic interests but through a variety of youthful psychosocial conflicts and concerns.

First, though, let us address the basic assumption of the contemporary parade: the idea that exchange of one's sex is possible. It, like the storied Emperor, is starkly, nakedly false. Transgendered men do not become women, nor do transgendered women become men. All (including Bruce Jenner) become feminized men or masculinized women, counterfeits or impersonators of the sex with which they “identify.” In that lies their problematic future.

When “the tumult and shouting dies,” it proves not easy nor wise to live in a counterfeit sexual garb. The most thorough follow-up of sex-reassigned people—extending over thirty years and conducted in Sweden, where the culture is strongly supportive of the transgendered—documents their lifelong mental unrest. Ten to fifteen years after surgical reassignment, the suicide rate of those who had undergone sex-reassignment surgery rose to twenty times that of comparable peers...

Most young boys and girls who come seeking sex-reassignment are utterly different from Jenner. They have

no erotic interest driving their quest. Rather, they come with psychosocial issues—conflicts over the prospects, expectations, and roles that they sense are attached to their given sex—and presume that sex-reassignment will ease or resolve them.

The grim fact is that most of these youngsters do not find therapists willing to assess and guide them in ways that permit them to work out their conflicts and correct their assumptions. Rather, they and their families find only “gender counselors” who encourage them in their sexual misassumptions...

What is needed now is public clamor for coherent science—biological and therapeutic science—examining the real effects of these efforts to “support” transgendering. Although much is made of a rare “intersex” individual, no evidence supports the claim that people such as Bruce Jenner have a biological source for their transgender assumptions. Plenty of evidence demonstrates that with him and most others, transgendering is a psychological rather than a biological matter.

In fact, gender dysphoria—the official psychiatric term for feeling oneself to be of the opposite sex—belongs in the family of similarly disordered assumptions about the body, such as anorexia nervosa and body dysmorphic disorder. Its treatment should not be directed at the body as with surgery and hormones any more than one treats obesity-fearing anorexic patients with liposuction. The treatment should strive to correct the false, problematic nature of the assumption and to resolve the psychosocial conflicts provoking it. With youngsters, this is best done in family therapy.

The larger issue is the meme itself. The idea that one's sex is fluid and a matter open to choice runs unquestioned through our culture and is reflected everywhere in the media, the theater, the classroom, and in many medical clinics. It has taken on cult-like features: its own special lingo, internet chat rooms providing slick answers to new recruits, and clubs for easy access to dresses and styles supporting the sex change. It is doing much damage to families, adolescents, and children and should be confronted as an opinion without biological foundation wherever it emerges.

But gird your loins if you would confront this matter. Hell hath no fury like a vested interest masquerading as a moral principle.

Ahhh, blessed reason, lovely facts! Here we reach the beach of reality in a sea of misleading “memes.” Dr. McHugh makes his case from sound scientific grounds. As Christians we can view his argument in the wider context of Natural Law reasoning, and with light from God's revelation in Holy Scripture. There's Jesus, citing Genesis 2, saying “From the beginning of creation God made them male and female” (Mark 10:5-7).

OCEAN WATER

After a busy summer day, relax in the shade with this cool drink.



What you need:

- 3 Tablespoons water
- 3 Tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon coconut extract
- 3 drops blue food coloring
- 24 oz. (2 cans) lemon-lime soda
- Clear cup or glass
- Ice
- Swedish Fish candy

What you do:


1. In a small microwave-safe bowl, combine the water and sugar. Heat for 1 minute. Stir until sugar is dissolved.
2. Pour the mixture into a pitcher. Add coconut extract, food coloring and soda. Stir.
3. Pour into cup. Add ice and fish. Enjoy!


PUZZLE


UNDER THE SEA


This summer, consider God's marvelous creation under the sea.


Directions: Write the animal names on the blanks. Then use the circled letters (they may not be in the right order) to create a new word from Psalm 148:7, NIV. Finally, match the words to their numbered blanks below.


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 1 2 3 4

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ sea _ _ _ _ .
 5 6 7

PSALM 148:7, NIV

Answers: lobster > Lord, sea horse > earth, hermit crab > great, stingray > praise, jellyfish > you, clownfish > from, sea star > creatures

Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures, Psalm 148:7, NIV



Shout outs to Sophie Brzozowsky, Catherine Czaban, Nick Holdorf, James Nunaley and Olivia Smith, for winning the Sunday School Good Citizen Award!



St. Peter's JULY ROSTER 2015

		July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
		6 Pentecost	7 Pentecost	8 Pentecost	9 Pentecost
LECTOR	Early	Terry Duhring	Bryan Field	William Lawrence	Corinne Hegener
	Late	Jen Coate	Mark McKinley	Eamon Coy	Liz Tuohy
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Early	Peter Schellhase, Terry Duhring	Judy Hall, Tim Hall	Caitlin Donohue, Peter Schellhase	Tanya Matthews, Terry Duhring
	Late	Dan LaPre, Shane Ayers	Randy Stoutenburgh, Dave Grommons	Lauren Hunt, Tom Coate	Dave Tocki, Randy Stoutenburgh
SUB DEACON	Early	Buddy Andrews	John Burden	Paul Donohue	Buddy Andrews
	Late	Dave Hunt	Linda Stoutenburgh	Dave Hunt	Linda Stoutenburgh
INTERCESSOR	Early	Peter Schellhase	Kelly Cockrill	Dell Nunaley	HL
	Late	Traci Eddinger	Marty Thompson	Shane Ayers	HL
ACOLYTES	Early	Adam Gibson, Mark Matthews, Hayes Baker	Joshua & Megan Smith, Eric Gibson	Ciara, Kimberly & Colin Donohue	Aubrey & Addie Winger, John Matthews, Isabella Tucker
	Late	Katya Clavelli, Jonathan LaPre, Henry Psaltos	Chris Hunt, George & Henry Simmons	Dan LaPre, Shane Ayers, Lauren Hunt, Peter Forbes	Katya Clavelli, Jonathan LaPre, Henry Psaltos
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Early	Debbie Pappas, Martha Ballinger, Marina Liburdi	Jim & Wynell Schatz, Dick & Bobbie Wilhelm	Buddy & Sally Andrews, Drew Lavan & Nancy Wise	Rick & Tricia Smith, Justine Phelan, Tim & Judy Hall
	Late	Joe & Nissa Clavelli	Eamon & Jen Coy, Kurt & Melissa Nordstrom	Steve & Patti Flowers, Marty & Erica Thompson	Shane & Teresa Ayers, Dan & Una LaPre
USHERS	Early	Bill & Beth Gibson	Rick & Kelly Cockrill	Paul Miller & Lauraine Landolt	Mark & Nancy Baker
	Late	Mark & Katie McKinley, Marty & Erica Thompson	Susan Collins, Sandy Wehr, Steve & Anne Schultz	Nick Psaltos, Tred Parry, Billy Dillon, Jimmy Eddinger	Eamon & Jenn Coy, Ben & Anna Curtis
GREETERS	Early	Rebecca Smoot	Mark Baker	Corinne & Hank Hegener	Bill Gibson
	Late	Tom Coate	Jon Corbett	Traci Eddinger	Peter Forbes
TELLERS		Pat Long & Sven Johnson	Howard & Linda Evans	Joe Clavelli, Rick Tyler	Pat Long & Sven Johnson
ALTAR GUILD		Sophiann Nunaley, Nancy Baker, Maggie Heim, Chris Lafferty, Esther Kilgour	Sophiann Nunaley, Nancy Baker, Maggie Heim, Chris Lafferty, Esther Kilgour	Sophiann Nunaley, Nancy Baker, Maggie Heim, Chris Lafferty, Esther Kilgour	Pat Pearson, Linda Evans, Debi Parry, Lauraine Landolt, Leigh Psaltos

If you are unable to fulfill your ministry on a day you are assigned, please (1) find your replacement and (2) notify the church office of the change in schedule. Thank you for serving!

JULY Anniversaries and Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES:

7-1 Don & Krista Winger
 7-2 Keith & Regina Brzozowsky
 7-11 Rick & Kelly Cockrill
 7-14 Brad & Esther Kilgour
 7-15 Charles Baugh & Jane Mitchell-Baugh
 Kurt & Melissa Nordstrom
 7-16 Sven Johnson & Pat Long
 7-17 Bob & Barbara Verdile
 7-30 John & Carrie Marie Burden

BIRTHDAYS:

7-2 Eddie Harris
 Henry Psaltos
 7-3 Ethan Erickson
 7-6 John Burden
 Bridget Wagstaff
 7-7 Jon Coate
 7-8 Tanya Matthews
 7-10 Lola McKinley
 7-14 Jane Bogle
 Tom Coate
 Shea Voss
 7-16 Keri Holdorf
 7-17 Jaqueline Duchemin
 Colt Nordstrom
 7-21 David Matuszewski
 7-23 Dan LaPre
 7-24 Jimmy Eddinger
 7-27 Joe Babb
 7-28 Ron Clark
 7-29 Gwyneth Heefner
 Katie McKinley
 Henry Simmons
 7-30 John Israel

Mark Your Calendar!

July 4 Men's Breakfast 7am
 Independence Parade 12:30pm
 BBQ Dinner 5:30pm
 July 4-Prayer Service 7pm
 July 5 VBS Set Up 12pm
 July 6 Vacation Bible School 9am
 July 7 Vacation Bible School 9am
 Hedgehog Mtg. 7pm
 July 8 Vacation Bible School 9am
 July 9 Vacation Bible School 9am
 July 10 Vacation Bible School 9am
 VBS Closing Program 6pm
 VBS Clean Up 7:30pm
 July 11 VBS Clean Up 8am
 July 12 Adult Formation Class begins 9:30am

July 14 Vestry Exec Mtg. 6pm
 July 15 MORNING PRAYER 11:30am
 July 16 TOL Dinner (by Next Step Community) 5pm
 July 18 Men's Leadership Mtg 7am
 Literary Guild 5pm
 July 20 Mt. Calvary Guild 10am
 July 21 Vestry Mtg. 7pm
 July 22 MORNING PRAYER 11:30am
 Friends Being Friends Bowling 6pm
 July 26 MORNING PRAYER
 Healing Liturgy
 Newsletter Deadline
 July 27 Outreach Team Mtg. 5:30pm
 July 28 Pastoral Care Team Mtg 5pm

Register for St. Pete's
 Vacation Bible School
 Online at www.stpetes.net



Revised Common Lectionary Readings for JULY

Date	Sunday	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
5	6 Pentecost	Ezekiel 2:1-5	123	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
12	7 Pentecost	Amos 7:7-15	85:8-13	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
19	8 Pentecost	Jeremiah 23:1-6	23	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
26	9 Pentecost	2 Kings 4:42-44	145:10-19	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HOLY EUCHARIST MSSG	2 Next Step Community	3	4TH OF JULY Men's Breakfast Parade BBQ Dinner PRAYER SERVICE
5 HOLY EUCHARIST VBS Set Up Bible Study	6	7 Hedgehog Mtg	8 MSSG	9 Next Step Community	10 VBS Closing Program & Ice Cream Social VBS Clean Up	11 VBS Clean Up
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9am-Noon						
12 HOLY EUCHARIST Adult Formation Bible Study	13	14 Vestry Exec Mtg	15 MORNING PRAYER MSSG	16 TOL Dinner Next Step Community	17	18 Men's Leadership Mtg Literary Guild
19 HOLY EUCHARIST Adult Formation Bible Study	20 Mt. Calvary Guild	21 Vestry Mtg	22 MORNING PRAYER FBF Bowling MSSG	23 Next Step Community	24	25
26 Newsletter Deadline MORNING PRAYER & Healing Liturgy Adult Formation Bible Study	27 Outreach Team	28 Pastoral Care Team	29 HOLY EUCHARIST MSSG	30 Next Step Community	31	

KEY: FBF=Friends Being Friends; MSSG=Men's Spiritual Support Group; TOL=Tree of Life



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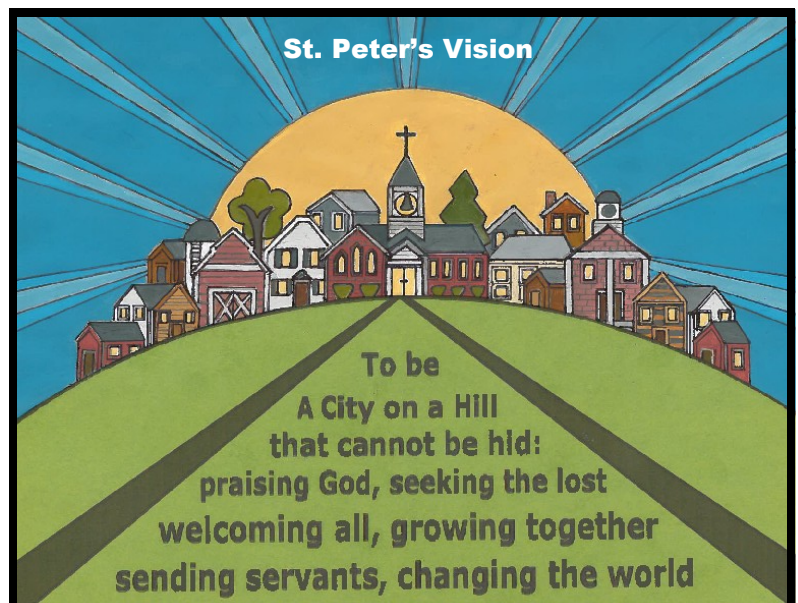
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