

# KINGSTON CRIER

JUNE 2020

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## ***The Rector's Visions***

“What is truth?” Pilate asks on that fateful day when he allows all the distracting voices of the world direct him to send Jesus to the cross.

The distractions of this world are loud and strong and they are multitude. In these days when we seek to care for one another and the world by separation and isolation, some of the distractions have disappeared. We don't rush from one activity to the next. We don't plan one visit with family and friends after another. The church does not have so many activities going on that the calendar has more ink on it than blank space. Still there are distractions, of course. There are the constant reports of how many sick and how many dead. And the worries that grow inside us There are the hopes of returning to what was. The list of things on our calendars we cannot do. There are political arguments. There are the worries at home about finances and the worries for our small businesses and the economic well-being of the world. There are all those things that keep us up at night. The CDC and the WHO say certain things as we come to understand more and more about the Corona virus, and others say the opposite. Depending on what news sources you trust, you can find all sorts of “truths.” And I spend much of my time trying to figure out who to trust.

And so we may ask with Pilate: “What is truth?”

Human truth is never 100% truth. We see through a glass darkly. Our own worries, fears, blindness, limited experience, desires and hopes color our world, direct our sight, translate all that is into the language that only we can speak. A friend recently posted an article about masks and handwashing and physical distancing that sounded absolutely factual, yet not a single thing in the article was true. The only source for the article was an author who, if you search for them, seems most likely to not exist at all. But the article said things that my friend wanted to believe, so she did, at least for a while. We see this in our world and perhaps, if we are honest, even in ourselves. We believe the easy answer that we want to believe because the challenge of the Truth is more than we can bear on our own.

Enter Jesus. Enter prayer. Enter faithful waiting on the Lord in patience to rise on wings like eagles.

Jesus stood before Pilate and was the Truth. But Pilate was distracted by all the world's busy-ness. Prayer, if it is authentic, is not just telling God to fix what we want fixed, to cure those we love who are sick, or to help us to find happiness. Prayer is looking deeply at ourselves and discovering our false motivations that want to believe something other than the difficult and life-giving Truth of God. Prayer requires us to set aside all our distractions and spend time in the presence of the God who is Truth. Prayer calls us to be honest about who we are and our limitations. And prayer calls us to live out our lives in the messiness of a world of distractions grounded not in what we want but in God who is always beyond our understanding even as God is present in you and me and all around us.

There are plenty of quick fixes out there and plenty of easy answers. But there is really only one Truth. Dig deep. Pray hard. Courageously and unceasingly search your life and the world for what is true. Don't settle for falsehood or answers that make you feel better. Pray. Pray with all that you are.

What is truth? The life God gives us in Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. It is right here, standing before us. Truth. It is a gift from God and yet it costs our lives. We cannot possess it; Truth possesses us. We receive it in God's Grace and on God's timetable. And may we work with all that we are to welcome it into our lives and to share it with others. For it is Good News for the world.

God's Peace, **Gary+**



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

*"In returning and rest you shall be saved,  
In quietness and in trust shall be your strength."  
Isaiah 30:15*

What about summer vacation this year?

Among the many sacrifices we make for the sake of others and for our own health in this season of coronavirus are vacations and summer getaways. A trip to Greece that Tom and I began planning a year ago has been cancelled. Travel to visit my family in the New York City area is not practical. My continued cancer treatments, even though I am now cancer free, will keep us home anyway. So how do those of us who are fortunate enough to have accrued vacation time use it? How do we decompress if we can't follow our usual vacation habits and patterns?

It is God's will that we enjoy sabbath rest, time apart from daily striving and labor. It is God's delight to give us downtime, and God especially delights in our taking it. So a faithful spiritual practice this summer will include creating ways to slow down, to enjoy the wonders of God's creation and to celebrate the goodness of human relationships. Perhaps you might try one of these activities as a spiritual discipline:

- Pull out and look at your slides, photo albums or videos from past vacations and enjoy reliving the highlights all over again. Give thanks to God for all you saw, did and learned and all you now remember.
- Call someone who lives alone and invite them to tell you about their favorite vacation.
- Choose a place you wish you could visit and read about it or watch a travelogue.
- Visit a museum virtually, one that you visit frequently or one you might never get a chance to see.
- Spend time on your porch or deck or in your yard and notice the life there - the plants and birds and insects. Engage all your senses - hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting and touching - to connect with the life that is around you.
- Do at home an activity that you usually do only on vacation - put together a jigsaw puzzle, play family board games, read a novel, cook out, take long walks.
- Sleep outside on the porch or in the yard. Pay special attention to the night's sounds.
- Take up a new hobby or renew your delight in one you've not had time for in a while.
- Give money to an organization that protects places you love, or to one that aids those who don't have the resources to take a vacation.

Walk around your neighborhood and look at it through traveler's eyes, as if you were seeing it for the first time. The list of possibilities is endless. Joy comes by looking beyond the loss, hurt and frustration to the wonders that are right at hand. Vacation at home is not the same as going to a favorite place or visiting a new one, but it can offer just as many opportunities for rest, for adventure and for renewal. It can offer true sabbath time of returning and rest, quietness and trust.

Bon voyage,  
Bishop Susan

FOR CHRIST. FOR THIS TIME. FOR ALL TIME.



## Vestry Meeting Highlights

### From the May 4th Zoom Meeting.

- The vestry approved the lease of a new copier.
- The Junior Wardens are looking into the steps needed to erect a pavilion behind the Parish House, for which money has been given, or possibly in front of the Parish House.
- The Junior Wardens are exploring the possibility of a handicapped bathroom at Christ Church.
- A motion was made and approved to hire Bill Whitley, electrician, to fix broken exit signs.
- Rachel Musick continues to work from home preparing for next year's preschool.

### From the May 18th Zoom Meeting.

- Cemetery Rules submitted by cemetery coordinator Josie Thorpe have been approved. The cost for a gravesite has gone from \$750 to \$800, and clarification that all flags flown during designed holidays will be removed after two weeks was added.
- Shrine Mont children's camps have been cancelled for the summer. Still waiting to hear if we can have our parish weekend in July.
- Fr. Gary will be able to lead worship services online from our church buildings, but we are not yet able to worship together.
- The vestry approved the purchase of a Rogers electronic organ at Kingston Chapel for \$4,000. Monies used are those donated for the organ.
- The vestry voted to hire Bill Whitley to put electricity in the shed with monies donated for that purpose.
- The vestry approved work to purchase rock for the Parish House parking lot and to hire someone to fluff the driveway and then spread the gravel. John Lee Machen has volunteered to oversee this work.
- The vestry discussed ways that the parish can continue to support our community through various ministries. Vestry members will contact Hands Across Mathews, Meals on Wheels and Bay Aging to see what the needs are.
- Thanks was given to Fr. Gary, son Zach, Karen Jones, Ray Stubblebine, Nina Buzby, Jim Andrews, our choir and leaders who are assisting us in our online worship services.

Above: Many thanks to Becca Brown, who came and weeded Pam's Garden before things began blooming. Our weeding committee is aging out, so if you would like to help us keep Pam's Garden beautiful, please contact the parish office.



### **Organ For Chapel Is a Reality**

About two weeks ago the parish was offered a used digital organ by a church in Chesapeake at a special price if we could take delivery immediately. After much debate and prayer the vestry decided to purchase the Rogers 805 two-keyboard and pedal organ for \$3,995.00 using funds given for that purpose. On May 26th it was delivered and set up temporarily in Kingston Chapel. While it is currently playable it is voiced for the larger church it came out of and work will be done to permanently install it and voice it properly for our space in the next several weeks. Installation will be done by Ralph Spoettle of Sound/Organ Design of Virginia Beach and our long-time organ technician Otto Pebworth. —Ray Stubblebine

## About Going “Back” to Church

“Never let a good crisis go to waste.” As we continue to live in God’s world that is now also the home for the Corona virus, there is much to learn, much to digest, and much to do. How shall we be about it all?

The church continues to worship. Some of us are worshipping at home. Some of us are worshipping online together. The glorious thing about our online worship is that we are reaching between two and three times as many people with our worship as we would if we were still in our buildings. Now some of these numbers surely represent digital tourists who flip past our Facebook and YouTube presence something like the way we might drive by an expressway signboard. But some of these people are finding God with us in new ways. And we are finding new ways to worship our God.

The church continues to study and offer pastoral fellowship. Our classes continue in notes from Ron Lambert, our contacts with our children and youth, and our armchair pilgrimage experience. Care for one another and just checking in happens by phone and email and occasionally a six feet away meeting in the grocery store or neighborhood. Our neighborhood groups and pastoral care of those who are sick or having surgeries keep us connected even if we are not able to meet face to face.

Our outreach continues. And as always, so much of our outreach happens as individuals engage in the community to share food at Hands Across Mathews or the Snack Pack Ministry or Meals on Wheels. Our AA group continues in various ways even if they cannot meet physically together in our church. The discretionary fund and our outreach funds continue to make sure folks have food and medicine and a roof over their heads when their lives unravel.

Members of the congregation have built ramps and other things for people in need. Our support of the larger church means that ministries to people in our diocese and people around the world who we will never meet or even know by name are doing “our” work and God’s work in these days of pandemic.

I am sure you can think of more things that we are doing as the church. And I hope you can think of a few things you are doing as the church! Maybe most of all, we are praying and loving and seeking to be like Christ in the world we are given.

In short, we don’t have to go “back” to church. We are very busy being the church every day in our homes, in our community and in the world. And we will continue to explore how we can continue to be the church as these days continue to change and offer new opportunities and challenges. There is no going back. The Church moves ahead!

We will meet again and worship side by side. We will gather when it is good and wise to do so -- and not before. Meanwhile, we have work to do and prayers to pray! Let us do the work God has blessed us with by the love God has planted in our hearts and by the all the means we can muster. Thanks be to God!

## Junior Warden Report

- Gravel has been put down on the Parish House driveway. It needs one more smoothing out and then should be good to go.
- The electrician has been given the go ahead to fix the emergency lights in the parish house and wire the shed out back.
- We are still on hold for preschool for next year. We need the go ahead from the diocese.
- There is a long list of things that need to be done to keep up all Kingston Parish buildings. We have received suggestions from our parishioners and are putting together a list of priorities to work on. Suggestions and thoughts are welcomed.

## Christian Formation

As we are apart during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have missed being in fellowship with one another. Thinking of the families and children who brighten and enrich our worship through their participation, wisdom, and laughter, a packet has been sent to families to help celebrate Pentecost at home. In each packet is a letter to the family, a page of simple suggestions for a family celebration of Pentecost, a book, *The Story of Pentecost*, a printout of interesting information and background about the scripture, small wind chimes for the children to decorate (to remind us of the great wind of the Holy Spirit), festive flags (tongues of fire), and red balloons to celebrate the "birthday of the church".—Marti Bowen

## Thank You!

*I thank all of you for your prayers, cards, thoughts and other gifts to help me get well. They all worked, and I am feeling great! Love and prayers, Nina Guy*

Thank you, Everybody, for all the birthday wishes, especially the song! I miss you all!!! Love, Anita Minuth

## Parish Prayer List

### Pray For Our Parishioners

Hank Furniss for non-tremor Parkinsons (by Mairi Furniss)  
 Mairi Furniss for recovery from knee surgery (office)  
 Paul Gibson for heart issues (by Jan Mohr)  
 Peggy Hudgins for pulmonary fibrosis (office)  
 Jo Ann Hunley recovering from fall (office)  
 Martha Anne King for cancer (by Mary Chapman)  
 Terry King for Coronavirus (by Fr. Gary)  
 Martha Knight for stomach cancer (office)  
 Deirdre McElroy for return of cancer (office)  
 Tom Neiger for cancer of esophagus and stomach (by Pat Neiger)  
 Gay Pfister for recovery from heart valve repair (by Carol Swartz)  
 Mary Ellen Stimson for fractured tibia/leg wound (office)

### Pray For Our Family and Friends

Mickey Burchell for lung cancer (by Valerie Lewis)  
 Duncan Campbell for colon cancer (by Mary Kathryn Diggs)  
 Linda Crowe for lung cancer (by Duffy Crowe)  
 Nancy Donnelly (by Kathy Yent)  
 Mary Doyle for hydrocephalus (by Valerie Lewis)  
 Bill Drumel for cancer surgery complications (by Wendy Super)  
 Tommy Dutton for hip repair (by Becca Brown)  
 Glenda Flippin for ovarian cancer (by Jay Black)  
 Walker Linden Ford for Sturge-Weber Syndrome (by Kathy Yent)  
 Harriet French for COPD (by Mary Ann Gilman)  
 Lori Fuller for cancer in lymph nodes (by Joe Mereness)  
 Franklin Furey for mantel cell lymphoma (by Ethel Brown)  
 Peggy Gallagher for recovery from Coronavirus (by Kathy Yent)  
 Anna Garrett for Coronavirus (by Kathy Yent)  
 Doris Gibson for complications from shingles (by Paul Gibson)  
 +Susan Goff for breast cancer (office)  
 Pat Graveline for colon/liver cancer (by Joe Mereness and Richard Scott)  
 Helen Graves for congestive heart failure (by Paul Gibson)  
 Carole Hirose for anxiety (office)  
 Grady Hudgins (by Pat Munz)  
 Nancy Hunley for fractured shoulder from seizure (office)  
 Tom Hunley for recovery from back surgery (office)  
 Kyle Johnson for cancer (by Martha Ellen Traband)  
 Eugene Jones for Parkinson's Disease (by Robert Petersen)  
 John Michael Jones (by Shannon Kirschbaum)  
 Rick Jones from injuries - hit by a car (by Richard Jones)  
 Andrea Krause for breast cancer (by Gay Pfister)  
 Skip Lewis (by Valerie Lewis)  
 Don Loving for multiple illnesses (by Jan Mohr)  
 Allison Malise (by Shannon Kirschbaum)  
 Dave Martin (by Gay Butler)  
 Sudy McKnight for cancer (by Reed Lawson)  
 Kristen Moran for breast cancer (by Jan Mohr)  
 Kathy Nelson for pulmonary fibrosis (by Kathy Yent)  
 Steve Nelson in hospice for lung cancer (by Kathy Yent)  
 Mary Newell for Bell's Palsy (office)  
 Lisa O'Connors for lung cancer (by Kathy Yent)

## June Birthdays

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Rachel Morris       | 4  |
| Valerie Lewis       | 6  |
| Gloria Diggs        | 7  |
| Peggy Wintzer       | 7  |
| Brent Morris        | 8  |
| Mary Dabney Webster | 10 |
| Mary Kathryn Diggs  | 12 |
| John Lee Machen     | 13 |
| Harrison Fuller     | 14 |
| Christian Jemmison  | 14 |
| Bill Crowe          | 15 |
| Ray Stubblebine     | 16 |
| Jonny McCann        | 20 |
| Karen Johnston      | 21 |
| Mike Reed           | 21 |
| Dorothy Jeffress    | 23 |
| Phillip Machen      | 23 |
| Karen Geddes        | 24 |
| Ryan White          | 28 |
| Ronald Greene       | 29 |
| Bill Stearns        | 29 |

## Serving in the Military or Diplomatic Corps

Colin Bucknor  
 BJ Cavazos  
 Yvette Gaither  
 Chris Ivy  
 Joe Kraynak  
 Megan Kraynak  
 Hib McNeilly  
 Joey Plotino  
 Jennifer Schmidt  
 Zach Schmidt  
 George Truscott  
 William Truscott  
 Dawson Turner  
 Nicholas Webster

Elizabeth Perkins for brain tumor (by Pat Elliot)  
 Stefanie Powers (by Lisa McCann)  
 Josiah Raub for heart issues (by Hank Furniss)  
 Debbie Roberg for oral cancer (by Cathy Hinson)  
 Ginger Shackelford for Hodgkins lymphoma (K Yent)  
 Sue Ann Singleton (by Kathy Yent)  
 Joe Tomlinson (by Josie Thorpe)  
 Harry Ward for brain tumor (by Jay Black)  
 Kate Warfel for auto-immune disorder (Jen Kimball+)  
 Jennie Whittle for ovarian cancer (by Mary Chapman)  
 Kitty Witty for stage 4 bone cancer (M. E. Traband)  
 Catherine Worley for breast cancer (by Gay Butler)

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### **In The Diocese of Virginia and the Upper Tidewater Region**

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, Bishop Suffragan  
The Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop

**The Very Rev Gary Barker, Rector**  
(757)371-9382; barkergaryj@gmail.com

### **THE VESTRY**

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Senior Warden           | Valerie Lewis      |
| Junior Warden/Preschool | Jan Mohr           |
| Junior Warden/Worship   | Ray Stubblebine    |
| Christian Formation     | Marti Bowen        |
| Fellowship              | Shannon Kirschbaum |
| Outreach                | Mary Kathryn Diggs |
| New Vestry              | Nina Allen         |
| Treasurer               | Tom Reed           |
| Recorder                | Carol Swartz       |

### **TRUSTEES**

Vicki L. Carter Timothy W. Hudgins John Machen, Sr.

### **DIOCESAN COUNCIL & REGION II**

Reed Lawson, Lay Delegate  
Mary Chapman, Alternate

### **STAFF**

|              |                         |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Jim Andrews  | Choir Director/Organist |
| Karen Jones  | Parish Secretary        |
| Vicki Carter | Bookkeeper              |

### **KINGSTON PARISH PRESCHOOL**

**725-3211**

Rachel Musick Preschool Director

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

#### Sunday

8:00 a.m. Online Worship Service on Facebook and  
YouTube.com

Visit Facebook or YouTube.com and type “Kingston  
Episcopal Parish” in the search bar for the latest services,  
educational offerings and devotionals.