



Faithful Centurion Anglican Orthodox Church

Sunday next before Advent

commonly called

Stir Up Sunday



Sunday Report

Today was the Sunday before Advent which is often referred to as Stir Up Sunday after the beginning of the Collect. Sunrise brought gray skies with a temperature of 37°F, rising to 43°F by the end of church. Even though the weather was a bit dreary, we had 4 people come to worship.

This is the 48th anniversary of the establishment of the Anglican Orthodox Church by Bishop Parker Dees, a man who put our Lord before himself. Please see the following from Bishop Jerry:

Anglican Orthodox Church

PO Box 128
Statesville, N.C. 28687

DATE: 16 November 2011 Anno Domini
TO: Faithful Members and Friends of the AOC
SUBJECT: 48th Anniversary Letter



"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt 16:18)

Contrary to the opinion of high churchmen, the Rock to which Christ referred was not to Peter as an individual, but to the faith in Christ which Peter demonstrated by his testimony. No man is the rock upon which the church is built for that Rock is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. The foundation of the Church is made sure by the apostolic faith and Doctrine of Christ as related through the preaching and teachings of Christ and His Apostles. There can be no Apostolic Succession where the Doctrines of Christ, as revealed to the Apostles, is not abundantly professed and clarified. If you wish to have the solid Rock for the Church, look not to man, but to Christ – *"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."* (1 Cor 10:1-4)

We have been blessed in the AOC to have such Apostolic Succession from our separation from the Protestant Episcopal Church (so-called) and founding as a separate Communion in the Reformed and Anglican Tradition. The courageous Bishop James Parker Dees fought apostasy and heresy in the Episcopal Church for many years before deciding that the Church was doomed to continue on the way of Baal. Upon leaving that body, Bishop Dees faced persecution from every quarter – political, social and spiritual. Though his last assignment as a priest had included service as Rector of a

black Episcopal Church, he was charged as being a racist and a radical. Priests of the ECUSA paraded all night around his house with loudspeakers and banners for three nights in a row. Every word he had written or spoken was twisted and misconstrued by the media who acted as vassals of the larger church body.

Bishop Dees never relented, but continued on the straight course upon which the Lord had placed his feet. On November 16th in the Year of our Lord 1963, Bishop Dees founded the Anglican Orthodox Church. He took the church back to the formularies and faith of the Great English Reformation Church of Cranmer, Ridley and Latimer. From that day until this, the AOC has remained faithful to that biblical faith for which the English and Continental martyrs died.

As we move into the future years, let us remain faithful to that biblical faith until Christ returns and finds us laboring as faithful and devout servants.

In Christ Alone,

JERRY L. OGLES
Presiding Bishop

Gathering Song

Jack Arnold played *Lord I lift Your Name on high* for the gathering song.

Lord I lift your name on high

Lord I lift your name on high
Lord I love to sing your praises
I'm so glad you are in my life
I'm so glad you came to save us.

Chorus

You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift your name on high.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,

Chorus

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger,

Chorus

We try to pick our gathering songs to have a wonderful message, be easy to sing and suitable for guitar accompaniment. This is a great song, but one that I have taken about four Sundays to get printed correctly. I keep getting the chorus and the verses reversed! Jack and the congregation have been very understanding; I promise my printing problems are just that and not passive aggressive behavior.



Stir Up Sunday

Stir Up Sunday is an informal term in the Anglican Church for the last Sunday before the season of Advent. The term comes from the opening words of the collect for the day in the Book of Common Prayer:

SSTIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Through an association of ideas, the day subsequently became connected, especially in England, with the preparation of Christmas puddings in readiness for Christmas. Also, though with no real religious significance, Stir Up Sunday is located just the right time of the year to make the fruit cakes, Christmas Puddings and the like to be consumed on Christmas. In many English culture homes, the afternoon of Stir Up Sunday is dedicated to measuring, **stirring** and cooking the Christmas Pudding!



The Christmas pudding is an important part of the Christmas Day celebrations in the UK. Christmas pudding is a round, rich and heavy pudding made from fruit, eggs, sugar, breadcrumbs, suet, spices, and alcohol such as brandy or rum. Many families have their favorite pudding recipe, which is often passed down through generations of family members.

Stir-up Sunday is traditionally the day for making your Christmas pudding; giving it a month to mature before eating it on Christmas day. Stir-up Sunday is on the 20th November this year.

According to tradition, everyone in the family (especially the children) takes a turn to stir the pudding and makes a wish while stirring. Traditionally, the pudding should be stirred from east to west in honour of the three Kings who travelled from the East to see Jesus; and it should also have 13 ingredients to represent Christ and his disciples.

It used to be common for people to put a coin in their Christmas pudding. This was supposed to bring wealth in the coming year to the person who found it.

Christmas puddings are popular in the UK, but many people now buy their puddings from their local supermarket.

In the Book of Common Prayer of 1662 and later, this collect is listed for "The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Trinity", with accompanying rubric specifying that this collect "shall always be used upon the Sunday next before Advent". This reinforced the significance of this day as forming part of the preparation for the season of Advent. The rubric is necessary because the last Sunday before Advent does not always fall on the twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity: Trinity Sunday is a moveable feast and the Advent season is fixed, so the number of weeks in between varies from year to year. The 1928 Book of Common Prayer solves this dilemma by marking only 24 Sundays after Trinity and setting this Sunday apart as "Next before Advent."

Propers

Each Sunday there are Propers: special prayers and readings from the Bible. There is a Collect for the Day; that is a single thought prayer, most written either before the re-founding of the Church of England in the 1540s or written by Bishop Thomas Cranmer, the first Archbishop of Canterbury after the re-founding.

The Collect for the Day is to be read on Sunday and during Morning and Evening Prayer until the next Sunday. If you have a hard time remembering, "Do I read the Collect from last Sunday or next Sunday during the week?" Remember Sunday is the first day of the week. There are also two Bible readings, the Epistle and the Gospel. While they are "lessons", they are not the First Lesson and the Second Lesson, they are the Epistle and the Gospel. The Epistle is normally a reading from one of the various Epistles, or letters, in the New Testament. The Gospel is a reading from one of the Holy Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Collect is said by the minister as a prayer, the Epistle can be read by either a designated reader (as we do in our church) or by one of the ministers and the Holy Gospel, which during the service in our church is read by an ordained minister or our Deacon Striker.

The propers are the same each year, except if a Red Letter Feast, that is one with propers in the prayerbook, falls on a Sunday, then those propers are to be read instead, except in a White Season, where it is put off. Red Letter Feasts, so called because in the Altar Prayerbooks the titles are in red, are special days. Most of the Red Letter Feasts are dedicated to early saints instrumental in the development of the church, others to special events. Some days are particularly special and the Collect for that day is to be used for an octave (eight days) or an entire season, like Advent or Lent.

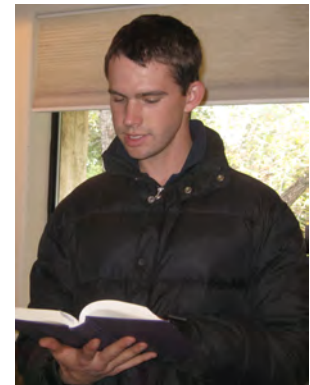
Today, the propers for the Sunday next before Advent can be found on Page 225-226:

The Sunday next before Advent

The Collect.

STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Ryan Hopkins read the Epistle for today, which came from the Book of Jeremiah, the Twenty-Third Chapter, beginning at the Fifth Verse. Foretelling the arrival of Jesus, Jeremiah prophesied, "I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days



Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” He prophesied the New Covenant, moving reference of the Lord from Egypt to Israel and the return to one people of those driven out of their homeland across the world.

BEHOLD, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

Deacon Striker Jack Arnold read the Holy Gospel for today which came from the Gospel according to Saint John, the Sixth Chapter, beginning at the Fifth Verse. John



relates one of the feeding the masses in the wilderness events. This event occurring long before there was a Thanksgiving Day, seems very appropriate for the weekend and also forshadows the arrival of the Christ at Christmas coming to feed our spiritual needs in the wilderness of this world.

With five thousand men with them looking for food in the wilderness, “One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down...” Reminding us that if the Son of God gave thanks to God for His food, so ought we, “Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given

thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, ‘This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.’”

Compare to saving our souls and feeding the inner hunger we have for God’s love, feeding a mere 5,000 men is child’s play, but then Jesus said we should accept God and His love through Him as the children do. So perhaps it really is child’s play.

WHEN Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of

them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

Sermon – Time and Action

Today's sermon tied the Epistle and Gospel together and is partly contained in the forewords above.

As is oft the case, today's propers are all tied together. As is usual, they call for action not just thoughts. In fact the collect is among the most direct, asking God to stir our hearts that we might ACT in a manner which will result in good things! Jeremiah prophesies the coming of Jesus out of the branch of David that He might unite God's people as one under a New Covenant. John tells us Jesus not only comes to fill our hunger, literal in that if we follow Him we will do much better here on earth than if we do not, and figurative only He can fill the hunger in our hearts for God. Interestingly, He tells the disciples to "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." Think about that and take what it is offered before it is no longer on the menu!

New Nametags

We had no new nametags today.

After Church Hospitality

No dog nuts AGAIN today. Today we met at Fred's for lunch. Next week dog nuts!

After church goodies providers as currently signed up:

Date	Name
27 November 2011	Dru Arnold
4 December 2011	Opportunity Available
11 December 2011	Opportunity Available
18 December 2011	Opportunity Available
25 December 2011	Opportunity Available
1 January 2012	Jack Arnold

People in our Prayers - <http://faithfulcenturionprayerteam.blogspot.com/>

Why? Prayer is an extremely important activity.

It is not that God knows not our needs, for He surely does. Yet, Jesus commanded us to ask God for those same needs. In addition to the obvious of asking God for help, offering thanksgiving and the like, prayer helps us focus our thoughts on how we might do God's work.

The Prayer Team of the Church of the Faithful Centurion was established to help our members and fellow Christians pray for those in need and to give thanks as well for the blessings we have been granted.

Who can be on the list? Do I have to be a member of the Church of the Faithful Centurion to be prayed for?

No! The only qualification to be on the list is that you want our prayer team to pray for you. We are Christians and are happy to pray for you, no matter who you are. If you want help from God, you are our kind of people.

What is the commitment from the prayer team?

Each member of the team will pray for the desired outcome at last once per day.

How do I get myself or someone else on the prayer list?

You can email one of the prayer team leaders: Jack - jack@faithfulcenturion.org or Dru - dru@faithfulcenturion.org, or call the church office at (619) 659-3608 or fill out a prayer card at church.

What should I ask for?

Depends on what you want. Some people merely want God to be asked to heal their ills and be mentioned by their first name, others want a specific outcome and / or have more of their personal information known to the team. Ask for what you want. It is your desire and need for prayer the team is attempting to meet. For typical examples, see the list below.

Updating the Team

If you are on our prayer list, or if you have submitted a person that you have asked us to pray for, please update one of the team members or Hap in person, by telephone or email. It helps to be able to pray specifically for these individuals including their specific needs; plus if they get better, it is nice to give thanks!

Please note that on the yellow (maybe green or orange if you get an old one) cards at church, you can ask that those to be prayed for have their names disseminated to the prayer team. Those names will be said in church and appear here. Or, you can ask that their names and purpose be kept confidential, then only Hap will know to pray for them.

Prayer List Notice – If you have someone on the prayer list and their needs have changed, please let us know. We'd like to update our prayers to reflect the need and most important to give thanks!

Travel

Tricia is on travel this week.

Robert and his family are on travel this week.

Move

The Thomas Family is on a short tour assignment in Guam for the next two years. Please pray for the assignment to go well for Kurt and for Mary and the kids to make new friends and Kristyna and Mitchell in particular to develop good friends and school mates there so as to further their development.

Birthday

Don Patton celebrated his 49th birthday 13 November 2011.

Jack Arnold celebrated his 19th birthday with us 26 October 2011.

Homebound or Infirm

Sara's mother is in a state of deteriorating health, both physically and mentally. Please pray for peace of mind for her and the ability for both Sara and her mother to put their cares and worries on God's shoulders so they can deal with the many

problems involved.

Departed

Colonel Don Frisbee, USAF passed away on 12 October 2011, after bowel surgery, infection and pneumonia. Please pray for the repose of his soul and comfort for his wife Bev and their family.

Colonel Don Durbin, USAF passed away on 12 October 2011, after what appeared to be an abdominal problem. A visit to the hospital found that he had congestive heart failure and liver problems. Shortly thereafter, he developed multiple blood clots and dementia. Don passed away shortly thereafter with his family by his side. Please pray for the repose of his soul and comfort for his wife Lynn and their family.

In need of a miracle or understanding of God's Plan

Todd and Kenny have both been fighting osteocarcinoma for over five years and have been told their time here on earth is nearing its end, absent a miracle from God. Both are ready to go home and leave the pain, but would like to stay. Please pray for them and their families.

Healing

Bill Aitken had a second abdominal surgery on 3 November 2011, an attempt by the Top Gun doctor in the world and inventor of the process of endolooping ligation of rare tumors such as his loop the tumor. The tumor was too big for the loop, and Dr. Binmoeller said he probably could have gotten 99% of it, but that wasn't good enough as he wants to have Bill 100% cured. Bill is in a bit of shock, as this was his "go-to" choice of all possible procedures, with the least possibility of unthinkable complications. But Dr. B. explained things, and contacted gastrointestinal surgeon Dr. Gregg Jossart, who specializes in minimally invasive surgical resections of the gastrointestinal tract, etc. (Bill's tumor is deep in the 5th lining of his stomach.) Bill has an appointment next Wednesday with Dr. J, and (fingers crossed) will get a surgery date of next Friday, as the situation is "urgent."

Please pray for guidance for the team treating Bill and for his recovery. Pray also for peace of mind for Bill and his wife Sara.

Walt Dexter had a stroke the week of 12 September 2011 and is still mostly half paralyzed. Please pray for a full and complete recovery for Walt and for peace of mind for him and his wife Fran.

Gil Garcia is back in the hospital for a re-do of his colostomy and a couple of relatively minor skin surgeries. He has not been able to get out on schedule. Not only is this getting to Gil, but his wife Mary is very tired from all this. Please pray for guidance for the team treating Gil. Pray also for peace of mind for Gil and his wife Mary.

Dotty Valkenaar has been diagnosed with a reoccurrence of breast cancer and had a double mastectomy and no reconstruction on 23 August 2011 in Seattle. Seemingly everything went very well, however there were complications in the recovery, but she is home. Now a torn muscle has surfaced in her shoulder, perhaps as a result of positioning during surgery. There is concern over a reoccurrence of the cancer and some question as to whether to do chemotherapy or not. Dotty is also having problems with fluid building in her upper body area. Please pray for guidance for the medical team treating her and for her to make the correct decisions regarding treatment and pray for continued peace of mind

through trust in God for Dotty and Lew, her husband, as well as their entire family.

Lew Valkenaar developed ankle and leg pain and swelling in his lower right leg due to a blood clot. The blood clot taken care of he is on Cumadin for six months and wearing a cool compression stocking on one leg, kind of a Michael Jackson thing.

Morris Martin, 91, was hospitalized with pneumonia, he in rehab now and doing well, he has been irritated by having a feeding tube in until his throat can heal and be retrained, but he has responded with renewed effort when he failed the swallow test on 21 July 2011. He had a bit of a fever from which he seems to have recovered; it is hard, but he is strong. Give thanks for his great attitude and trust in God. Pray for strength and peace of mind for Morris and his family, in particular his son Paul. Pray for his trust in our Lord and for both him and his family to let God carry their worries while he recovers.

Steve Sundberg had a heart attack after Easter. After some time, the medical team treating him decided he was not a candidate for stents and a five-way heart bypass was performed the week of 6 June 2011. Please give thanks for an apparently very successful surgery and also pray for his complete recovery and for his three children and family who are very worried about him, pray also for his trust in our Lord and for both him and his family to let God carry their worries while he recovers.

Matt Alcantara, age 15, has Osteosarcoma (bone cancer), a very rare and often lethal form of cancer with limited treatment options. This is a disease that is about 90 percent fatal in a couple of years. He has no hip joint on one side, but he walks and swims! Courage? Guts? You bet! Matt's scans on 20 June 2011, were CLEAN! Thanks be to God for the way things have gone. Thanks also for the great faith of Matt and his entire family. Their faith and trust is a wonderful example for each and every one of us. But, now is not the time to stop praying. Actually, it never is the time to stop praying!

Melanie Zimmers has what appears to be a badly bulged disc at C5-C-6 which is causing radiating pain down her right arm and numbness in her thumb and forefinger. She has been in physical therapy and is set to undergo epidural injections in July 2011. Please pray for resolution of her problem and a good attitude while a means to solve the problem is found.

Hal Campbell underwent apparently successful surgery for a cancerous lesion on the inside of his cheek and the associated lymph node on 7 March 2011, at the VA hospital in Seattle. Friday, 17 June 2011, his 62nd birthday, he started his first food by mouth since he finished six weeks of follow up Chemo and Radiation treatment to hopefully eradicate and cancerous cells that might have remained. Please pray for him to be able to eat so that he can have the feeding tube removed, for remission of the cancer and most of all for his acceptance of Christ.

Shamim Gray underwent a lumpectomy on Saturday 6 November 2010 at Bethesda Naval Hospital, with apparent great result. Please pray for a complete remission of the cancer. Pray also Shamim will maintain her great attitude and trust in God.

Judith Clingwall, is afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). She is currently in Laurel Place, an extended care facility in Surrey, British Columbia. Judith's condition seems stable a present, although the medication levels have been increased. Please pray for her to take an active part in her own life, for her strength, peace

of mind, trust in God and remission of the disease so she might return home to her family. Pray also for strength for her husband Martin as he deals with all the problems and stress of Judith's situation.

Becky Madden is paralyzed from the neck down as the result of a tragic shooting accident. She has made it home and to church in a new donated magic wheelchair. Please pray for further recovery for Becky, as well as strength and guidance for each of those involved.

Betty Macauley, Tim's mom, is currently in a state of failing health. Please pray she will gain interest in life around her and actively pursue life here on earth. Please pray for her family, in particular her son Tim, as they try to help her.

Lauralee underwent a lumpectomy on Friday after Thanksgiving. A further anomaly has been discovered and she had additional preventative radiation treatment. Please pray for a complete remission of the cancer. Pray also Lauralee will maintain her great attitude and trust in God.

Luca, 5 years old, from our church family in Perth, Western Australia, who has just been diagnosed with leukemia. And for his Mum and Dad and extended family.

Greg Chase asks that you pray for his family:

Diane, Greg's wife, has a positive attitude dealing with the ongoing treatment of her ulcerative colitis. They are grateful for a positive attitude and would be pleased to see physical progress.

Phyllis, Greg's mom, has stabilized as the result of the good home care she is receiving and recently celebrated her 89th birthday.

Wilma is at home after three weeks in the hospital and is working on building strength for a planned hip replacement in August 2011.

Vince (age 13), recurrence of cancer, recent testing found a nickel sized tumor in his lungs. The doctors are consulting with a specialist in Houston. Please pray for guidance for the medical team and for peace of mind for Vince and his family.

Obra Gray continues to take day by day. Please continue to keep Obra in your prayers, and give him the strength of knowing the Lord is with him and will never forsake him. Obra needs security of what lies ahead of him, and only the Lord can grant the solace to answer his prayer.

Bashir Ahmed, father of Shamim Gray, has been blessed with the Lord's breath of life to stay on this earth for the time being. But, things are hard for him and his loving wife, who cares for him. They have two young nieces living with them who see no real need to help, pray for God to enter their hearts. Above all, pray for his entire family to open their hearts to accept all God's love will bring them.

Kay Denton (Mrs. Kay) is still home and doing pretty well considering the bones in her neck and hands are degenerating as a side effect of her kidney failure. Her thumbs are not particularly useful any more. Mrs. Kay asks everyone who is praying for her know how grateful she is for their prayers. As always, she retains her trust in the Lord and her positive attitude

Guidance

Steve asks that you pray for difficulties he is having with his family. Please pray that the Holy Ghost will enter into his heart and provide him with the heaven sent inspiration that he needs to see clearly and deal with problems and the courage to do what needs to be done in the manner it should be done.

Jacquie to open her heart to God and accept His Love and Grace.

Hap and *Ryan* both ask you to pray that they might be able to trust God will help them make the right decisions at the right time and not to worry uselessly, to change those things they can change, accept those things they cannot change and that they will open their hearts to the Holy Ghost.

Armed Forces & Contractors

Airman Donny Patton (RAF Mildenhall, UK), Jordan (USMC – AIT), Neal (USN-Afghanistan), Trevor (USAF - KC-10 Boom Operator), Trevor (USN – Whidbey Island, EF-18 Pilot), Kurt Thomas (USN – Guam),

Persecuted

Around the world, Christians are under attack, not only in the Muslim world, but from Hindus and others in India. Also, they are under continual attack in the name of “Separation of Church and State” in the western world, as it becomes actively atheist or pro-devil buddy. Please pray for God’s guidance and protection for all persecuted Christians and those around them.

Thanksgiving

Hap gives thanks for safe and interesting travel this week.

Won King gives thanks for getting her medications right and feeling better.

Various Special Requests

We ask that you pray, please ask God that the Holy Ghost might give you insight into how you might make the lives of your friends and family better. Remember helping others is not just those who you don’t know!

Please join us in praying that the *Free Teen Guitar Class* will be continue to be an opportunity for God to work in the lives of the kids and their families. Please ask God to guide the class to new opportunities to make Him known to others. Help us to let the love of our Lord shine through us into their lives, putting Him first, so that He might enter in to their hearts and lives.

Question that only you can ask

What would you like to know about our history, what we believe, what we do or how we operate? *Hap* is looking for material for the continuing education class and *Thought for the Day* material. Help us help you. Please send your question to *Hap* so we all can get an answer. Just because you don’t know the answer to your question doesn’t mean you are the only one who doesn’t know. But, if you don’t ask, no one will know.

I’d like to get a different point across or announce something

If you have a different point of view, I would be happy to give you room to get your point across. While this publication is my perspective on events, I recognize not everyone may agree and that some people would like to express their own opinion. If you want to write something, please forward your item to *Hap* (with a note as to whether or not you would like editing help) to: hap@faithfulcenturion.org.

400th Anniversary of the Authorized Version of the Bible

The Authorized Version, commonly known as the King James Version, King James Bible or KJV, is an English translation of the Christian Bible by the Church of England begun in 1604 and completed in 1611. First printed by the King's Printer Robert Barker, this was the third official translation into English; the first having been the Great Bible commissioned by the Church of England in the reign of King Henry VIII, and the

second was the Bishop's Bible of 1568. In January 1604, King James I of England convened the Hampton Court Conference where a new English version was conceived in response to the perceived problems of the earlier translations as detected by the Puritans, a faction within the Church of England.

James gave the translators instructions intended to guarantee that the new version would conform to the ecclesiology and reflect the episcopal structure of the Church of England and its beliefs about an ordained clergy. The translation was done by 47 scholars, all of whom were members of the Church of England. In common with most other translations of the period, the New Testament was translated from Greek, the Old Testament was translated from Hebrew text, while the Apocrypha were translated from the Greek and Latin. In the Book of Common Prayer (1662), the text of the Authorized Version replaced the text of the Great Bible – for Epistle and Gospel readings – and as such was authorized by Act of Parliament. By the first half of the 18th century, the Authorized Version was effectively unchallenged as the English translation used in Anglican and Protestant churches. Over the course of the 18th century, the Authorized Version supplanted the Latin Vulgate as the standard version of scripture for English speaking scholars.

Anglican Orthodox Church

PO Box 128
Statesville, N.C. 28687

DATE: 19 November 2011 Anno Domini
TO: Faithful Members and Friends of the AOC
SUBJECT: Anniversary Letter of the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame." (Hosea 4:6-7)

It must be admitted by even the most complacent observer that America and her people are no longer the bright and shining star of freedom and liberty once projected by the



mere mention of her name. It is true that America remains a cut above most other nations of the world for hope and promise, yet she has fallen far below her previous standing as a beacon light of hope to which the whole world looked with admiration and longing. We have forgotten, among other things in our heritage, beauty and love – the two are inextricably joined at the heart. We have rejected the idyllic in the arts, and opted for the perverse. The graphic arts have degenerated over the past several decades from that which depicts the glory and beauty of God's Creation into that which distorts and disfigures all that is beautiful. The same is true of our music. If we can no longer compose to the standard of Bach, Vivaldi, Mendelsohn, Mozart, Handel, or Beethoven, why not retain this beauty in music until we are able to so compose. Instead, we have cast

aside the beauty of melody and opted for the jumbled and unorganized notes of music

which lowers the inspiration of the soul uses words that once would have been considered so disgusting that we would have landed in jail for uttering them.

America has been respected and looked up to over the years. As we began our descent into the abyss of vulgar tastes and perverse living, the world has watched and followed us there. Our media is quite powerful conveying our cultural failures to the rest of the planet. We have dumbed down our schools and institutes of higher learning believing that technical expertise can replace knowledge and spiritual advancement. How utterly profound has been our descent. We no longer know the meaning of an evening meal together with family. Fast foods, fast entertainment, decadent lifestyles, and foolish pursuits have occupied the hands that once built dreams and bridges.

The greatest decline has occurred in our souls and minds. The dull scrawlings we call art, the ear bursting racket we call music, and the dredges of society we call 'movie star idols' have transformed our souls into dark and forbidding pits of despair. Those things of beauty which are classical because their value has increased in appreciation over the years rather than declined, are cast aside for rubbish. Shakespeare, Dostoyevski, Tolstoi, Cicero, Dickens, Longfellow, or Hawthorne are no longer read in our schools. Instead, our students read books such as "Bobby has two Daddies". Historical perspective is no longer taught except in ways that distort history to satisfy a political agenda.

And what of our language? It, too, has suffered shameful degradation. We have forgotten the old adage that "words have meaning and consequence." The dumbing-down of America has been a clever undertaking by those who love not liberty or freedom. They wish to control, not only the American people, but the populations of the world into lab dogs that would have made Pavlov proud that we have fallen so easily to a people of 'conditioned' response. I believe this process began with the most important element of our American society – the Church. We are graduating, and have been for a very long time, men who are biblically illiterate by the standards of the past. They have been conditioned to have a very low view of scripture and will accept any corruption of the word as long as it is labeled 'bible version'. We have done so, with surprising success, by casting off the ancient landmarks and taking up the produce of the cattle stall as more valid than that text the Reformers called "commonly received." It amazes me that men for whom I initially feel to be of very high scholarship prove to have little wisdom, or scholarship, when it comes to the most important possession man can hold in his hands – the Holy Bible. Our King James Bible is the greatest accomplishment in translation beauty and accuracy of any to be produced by the church. Those modern versions, produced by corporations and which are under man's copyright, only contain bits and pieces of God's revealed Word. Within their so-called translational styles, they have embedded deadly [poisons that take away from the grace and beauty of God's Word. They take, primarily, two specious manuscripts which leave great gaps throughout their pages (in the originals) where long scriptural passages occur in the Received Text. These two manuscripts disagree in a great number of places even with each other, yet the modern mind can accept them more readily because they appear less harsh and require less backbone for their adherents in standing up for Christ and the Trinity. On the other hand, the Received Text is comprised of more than 90% of the manuscript evidence and all these agree together. I suppose "in the mouths of two witnesses shall the truth be established" is no longer sound counsel of Christ since the two witnesses of the modern, copyrighted versions do not agree.

I have added to this long letter a very informative and scholarly article from an English

Churchman. It was sent to me by Dru Arnold to whom I am very grateful for the sharing. If your attention span has not been hopelessly crippled, please read the below article:

The King of the Bibles

As the Queen prepares to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Version, Peter Mullen pours scorn on some of its modern rivals.

By Peter Mullen

7:06AM GMT 14 Nov 2011

We enjoyed a parish visit recently to St George's Chapel, Windsor: the Queen's Chapel. In there was a big sign saying, "Celebrating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible". I must say, it was a custom more honoured in the breach than in the observance. For at Choral Evensong, the lessons were both from some illiterate, godforsaken modern version. I knew we were in for trouble from the start when, in the Old Testament lesson, King Solomon addressed the Almighty as, "You God..." – as if the deity were some miscreant fourth-former in the back row. Of course it went from bad to worse.

On Wednesday, the Queen will attend a service of celebration at Westminster Abbey to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. The address will be given by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who earlier this year urged us to read the King James Bible in order to get a glimpse of what he called "the big picture". Perhaps this was meant to go with Dave's idea of "the big society"? This is a strange injunction, coming as it did from a man who has been in positions of power and influence in the church for decades. For in that time the same church hierarchy has ruthlessly suppressed the King James Bible, along with the Book of Common Prayer.

I can add a personal note on this subject. When I came to the City in 1998 I discovered that St Sepulchre's did not have a lectern Bible in the King James Version (KJV). So I asked St Paul's if they would lend me one of theirs. They replied, "Oh yes, and you can keep it. We never use it at St Paul's, only when the Royal Family comes – awkward people like that." The King James Bible is a work of literary and spiritual genius. It is the religious register in English and its words and phrases have penetrated deeply into English literature. You cannot read 10 pages of Dickens or Arnold, George Eliot or the Brontës without coming across wholly integrated resonances of the King James Version. And, of course, English poetry is saturated with it. WH Auden said, as he witnessed the sidelining of the King James Bible: "It was our luck to have that translation made when English was at its strongest and most robust. Why spit on our luck?"

Câ€™ooH Sisson said that all we really know is what he called "the reluctant deposit on the mind's floor". That is to say, what you remember when you've forgotten everything else. For centuries, people of all walks of life have carried around with them echoes of the King James Version. So to throw it out as the church hierarchy has done amounts to a savage act of deprivation and, as this deprivation is of the Word of God in English, it is vicious iconoclasm. Sidelining the King James Version especially deprives our children and is therefore a notable case of child abuse.

There is no such thing as noble truth expressed in ignoble words. The choice of words determines what is being said. Therefore, we should choose the best.

"Strips of cloth" is no substitute for "swaddling clothes". And Mary was "with child" –

we think of the Madonna and Child – and she had not "fallen pregnant" as it says in one of the modern versions. You cannot satisfactorily replace "through a glass darkly" with the crass literalism "puzzling reflections in a mirror" or "sounding brass and tinkling cymbal" with "noisy gong and clanging cymbal". The King James Bible was designed to be read aloud in churches. All the modern versions sound as if they have been written by tone-deaf people with tin ears and no rhythm.

What level of vacuity is reached when "Son of Belial" (i.e. the devil himself) is rendered by the New English Bible (NEB) as "a good-for-nothing"? As if the son of the devil is only a truant from the fourth form who has been stealing from the housemaster's orchard.

The real Bible says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." The NEB gives us instead, "The first step to find wisdom." But that is only the way in which babyish primary school teachers speak to their charges. The first step to find wisdom – and then, if you are ever so good little children, I'll show you the second step. This is infantilization. Sometimes the New Jerusalem Bible's (NJB) pedantry, this pseudo-scholarly fascination with all that is merely foreign and obscure, is just silly, as in "You, Yahweh examine me." But occasionally it is mindlessly un-poetic and banal, as in the substitution of "Acclaim Yahweh" for the mesmerizingly beautiful and timelessly familiar "make a joyful noise unto the Lord". But in one example of supreme idiocy the meaning becomes impenetrable: The King James Version says, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord ..." In the New Jerusalem Bible this degenerates into tasteless obscurantism: "If you live in the shelter of Elyon and make your home in the shadow of Shaddai, you can say to Yahweh ..." The Revised Standard Version (RSV) loves to parade the translators' acquaintance with the slightest nuances in the ancient languages but their utter ignorance of what will go into ordinary English. It renders the "giants" of Genesis as "nephilim" – to the confusion, one supposes, of elderly ladies everywhere. And the "two pence" that the Good Samaritan gave to the innkeeper as "two denarii" – lest we should imagine that the currency of the Roman Empire was the same as that of England, pre-decimalization.

The RSV makes a habit of iconoclasm, as for instance in its destruction of that very familiar phrase: "Arise, take up thy bed and walk." The RSV says, "Take up your pallet and go home." Because we must on no account be allowed to imagine that the poor paralytic slunk off carrying his four-poster, we have forced upon us the literalism pallet: and the result sounds like instructions to a sloppy painter.

The NEB also cannot tell the difference between speech that is poetic and metaphorical and speech that is literal and descriptive. That is why for "wolves in sheep's clothing" we are given instead the pantomime howler "men dressed up as sheep". We recall perhaps Ulysses' escape from the Cyclops or that pejorative expression "mutton dressed up as lamb". In the KJV men are "at meat" or they "sup"; but the RSV mentions a Pharisee who "asked Jesus to dine" – where, at The Garrick or White's? Likewise, his rebuke to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, "O fools and slow of heart" is emasculated to become "How dull you are!" How dull indeed. Can you imagine for one minute Our Lord Jesus Christ on the evening of his day of resurrection using such language? "How dull!"

The KJV's "pearl of great price" is exhibited in more of that infantilised Blue Peter

language as "a pearl of very special value". And then the end of the world itself is described as if it were only an exceptionally hot afternoon at Goodwood: "My dear friends..." (that is the voice of the NEB's urbane, housetrained St Peter) "...do not be bewildered by the fiery ordeal that is coming upon you, as though it were something extraordinary." The end of the world not extraordinary?

There is a sort of discreet charm about the KJV's saying, "It ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women." This is marvellous. It seems to reach up the underclothes of words, as that other great admirer of biblical prose, Dylan Thomas, said. But the Jerusalem Bible was written in the era of sex education, so it can confidently come straight out with "ceased to have her monthly periods". And the KJV's "great whore of Babylon" seems to have lost what is left of her character when the New Jerusalem Bible refers to her only as "the famous prostitute". Who is this – Eskimo Nell?

With studied pedantry, the New Jerusalem Bible replaces "inn" with "living space" – I suppose because they imagined readers to be so literal-minded that we might think St Luke meant the Rose and Crown. A similar pedantry removes the KJV's lovely "coat of many colours" and offers us "a decorated tunic". The KJV translates Psalm 139: 16 – a beautiful poem in which the Psalmist declares that God knew him "while he was yet in his mother's womb – as thine eyes did see my substance yet being unperfect." This is allusive, evocative, tender. Unbelievably, the NJB gives us instead, "Your eyes could see my embryo" – as if God were a member of the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority.

There is a pervading irreverence bordering on blasphemy. The translation of the Psalms in the Book of Common Prayer is by Miles Coverdale and he renders the Hebrew, "O let thine ears consider well ..." The NJB gives this as "Listen attentively Yahweh". But is that the way to speak to God? What more is there to be said when we notice that the NJB renders "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity" as "Sheer futility. Everything is futile." That phrase will serve as the motto for all the modern translations: "Sheer futility".

How hypocritical and sordid of the church authorities relentlessly to suppress the KJV, only to take it out and gawp at it in an anniversary year, as if it were a museum piece and we were all blundering tourists. The proper place for the KJV is on the lectern in every parish church – to be read, marked, learnt and inwardly digested, week in, week out.

Rev Dr Peter Mullen

Rector of St Michael, Cornhill, and St Sepulchre in the City of London

Epistleers

We post the list of Epistle Readers in the Sunday Report each week so you can either plan your attendance or your pre-reading as the spirit so moves you.

Date	Reader	
27 November 2011	Ryan Hopkins	
4 December 2011	Ryan Hopkins	
11 December 2011	Ryan Hopkins	
18 December 2011	Ryan Hopkins	
25 December 2011	Ryan Hopkins	Christmas Day
1 January 2012	Ryan Hopkins	

6 January 2012 Ryan Hopkins Epiphany
8 January 2012 Ryan Hopkins
15 January 2012 Ryan Hopkins
22 January 2012 Ryan Hopkins
29 January 2012 Ryan Hopkins

The near future, as well as Next Sunday

27 November 2011 – First Sunday in Advent – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

4 December 2011 – Second Sunday in Advent – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

11 December 2011 – Second Sunday in Advent – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

18 December 2011 – Third Sunday in Advent – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

25 December 2011 – Christmas Day – Holy Communion - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

1 January 2012 – First Sunday after Christmas – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

6 January 2012 – Epiphany Day – Evening Prayer - Service start time 1900 (7:00 pm); **Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**

8 January 2012 – First Sunday after Epiphany – Morning Prayer - Service start time 1000 (10:00 am); welcome or gathering songs before the service at 0945 (9:45 am); **Time 1000 (10:00 am); Location – 10603 Burrell Way, Descanso, CA**