

Godly Jealousy

by Father John Yates

On a recent trip to the grocery store I found myself in a long line at the checkout counter, with ample time to read the headlines of all the gossip magazines. On the cover of nearly every magazine were pictures of Jon and Kate. Apparently these people are famous. I had no idea. They star in a cable TV reality show about them and their eight children. In an entirely predictable manner, the fame and fortune brought on by their celebrity status has ruined their lives. The magazine covers were full of headlines about infidelity, greed and above all jealousy within this marriage. Jealousy is one of the most powerful human emotions. It is passionate, hard to control and impossible to contain. When unleashed it has the potential to destroy people, families and even communities. Because of this we tend to think of jealousy in wholly negative terms. But this is not always the case in Scripture.

Did you know that nearly 40 times in the Bible God is described as, or describes himself as, jealous? In Exodus 20, when Moses receives the Ten Commandments, the only character trait of God that is mentioned is the fact that he is a *jealous* God. In this passage, and in many others, God's jealousy is related to our human propensity for idolatry. God is a jealous God because he wants our undivided worship. He is jealous for his own glory and honor and for the faithfulness of his covenant people. When we turn to other gods (money, sex, power, etc.) we dishonor the one, true God. This is the spiritual equivalent of cheating on your wife. And when this happens God gets jealous. But when God gets jealous it is a good jealousy – it is jealousy born out of deep, caring love. Because when we cheat on God and turn to idols for fulfillment we do ourselves harm and run the risk of complete self-destruction. God is jealous for our love for our own good.

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Interestingly enough good jealousy does not stop with God. Just as God has a jealous love for us so we are to have a jealous love for others. We are not meant to sit back and watch as friends and family members self-destruct by turning their backs on God. We are called to act with tender, jealous love. In 2 Corinthians 11:2 the apostle Paul says to his friends, 'I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, Jesus Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid . . . your minds may

somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.' What does this godly jealousy look like in action? In Paul's case it meant that he was willing to appear foolish (11:1, 21, 23) in order to share God's love. It meant that he was unwilling to tolerate idolatry in the church of Corinth (11:2-4). It made him bold in word and deed (11:5-6)! It led him to grieve over the sins of his dear friends (12:21). And it made him willing to step out in faith to win back his friends for Christ, even at the risk of being vulnerable and hurt by them (12:9-10).

For Paul, jealousy for God's honor brought about all these things in his life. This jealousy was rooted in a tender love for others. As John Chrysostom said in the 4th century, 'For those souls are jealous which burn ardently for those they love, and jealousy can in no other way be begotten than out of vehement affection.' As you consider your own propensity to idolatry, and as you watch those you care about slipping away to worship idols of their own making, remember this: God has a jealous love for you. He will not allow you to fall forever into petty idolatries or half-hearted devotion. He wants all of you and will not let you go. And as you draw near to him he will give you that same love for his people. He has called us to a jealous love on his behalf. And at the root of godly jealousy is a God-given gift of love for his people.

Vestry Corner

Our June Vestry meeting was held on Monday, June 8, following Evening Prayer at 7:00pm in the Chapel. The meeting was called to order by Fr. Todd at 7:30pm and opened in prayer by Ed Goll. The minutes of the May meeting were approved with minor corrections and will be available online in the near future.

Mary Ernst and Mac McCausland, co-chairs of the Discernment Committee, updated us on the work of the committee since last month. They have been meeting weekly and have retained The Rev. Howard Friend as their consultant. Cottage meetings will be commencing shortly, with the first one being their own and facilitated by Howard. Following this cottage meeting, Howard will train those members of the Discernment Committee who are willing to serve as facilitators. These members will then lead cottage meetings for the Vestry, staff and the parish at large. They plan to also use written surveys, in order to reach as many of our parishioners as possible. By using a variety of approaches, the congregation should give them the information that they need to finish the self study phase and prepare an accurate parish profile. Once again they reminded us of their constant need to be lifted up in prayer. They are constantly reminded of our Lord's words recorded in the 30th verse of the 11th chapter of Matthew, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Carol Kuniholm gave a brief report on our youth ministry. She shared with us a rather comprehensive report that was done by Mark DeVries of Youth Ministry Architects. This organization has worked with us as a consultant for a number of years in assessing our youth ministry. They gave many reasons to celebrate what has been accomplished in youth work at our church since they made an initial assessment in 2003 and reported on challenges that we face in the coming year and strategic steps that can be taken to help us have an even brighter future.

Fr. Todd challenged us with the question, "How fresh is your relationship with Jesus?" The message was that the Vestry set the tone of first seeking intimacy with Jesus, allowing Him to bring us intimacy with each other and then together pointing the direction forward for Good Samaritan. Fr. Todd then reported that the senior staff was meeting the next day to pray together and begin to shape plans on how best to use the resources available to invest in the priorities that are before us this Fall. He reminded us that the sacrificial

decisions that were made earlier in the year have made this possible. He also reminded us of the importance of communication and coordination, particularly given the ongoing work of the Vestry's Strategic Planning Committee taking place at the same time as that of the Discernment Committee. Finally, he reminded us that he will be Priest-in-Residence at St. John's by the Sea in Avalon for the month of July.

Bob Anewalt reported that May's financial performance was very good. We had another surplus for the month, which further reduced our year-to date deficit to a little more than \$5,000. Our cash position continues to be good. Although our giving has been good in the last couple of months, Bob continues to believe that it is too early to sound the "all clear." Bob also reported that the Day School has continued to have positive financial results and should end the year with a healthy surplus. He commended the work of Barb Condit and everyone associated with the Day School.

Jeff Moretzsohn reported that the current erosion of giving in the diocese should lead to increased pressure on those churches whose support is on the "low side" of the average. As we look to 2010 and beyond for budgeting purposes, the question of our support to the diocesan program budget will require our attention. As such, Jeff gave us a brief review of our giving practices to the Diocese extending back to 1994. This will be a topic of discussion in coming meetings.

The Stewardship report was given by Charlene Fitzwater. She and Bob Anewalt have developed an initial plan for the current year and fourteen people have been invited to join a Stewardship Committee whose initial meeting is scheduled for June 14. Fr. Todd and Jeff Moretzsohn will be working with them. The committee also plans to investigate options for a strategy for Planned Giving and intends to make a recommendation to the Vestry in the near future.

Rich Englander presented the Wardens' Report. He gave thanks to God that Bishop Franklin Turner was here to confirm and meet with us as a Vestry. Rich also gave thanks to all who provided leadership throughout the church year, the clergy, the Vestry, ministry heads and all those that helped behind the scenes. He presented new monthly reporting times for vestry members based on the new ministry alignment and reminded us of the times we have signed up to serve Lemonade at the Fair. Rich closed his report by lead-

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Notes from the Parish Administrator

I'd like to extend a big THANK YOU to every person who was a part of the 2009 Fair Days. With the sacrificial gifts of your time, talent (and treasure) we raised more than \$35,000 on Friday and Saturday of Fair Days. Comparatively, in 2008 we raised \$30,000 during the same period. Moreover, if we look at the tremendous blessings of both the Thrift Shop and the Furniture Store, which together have raised almost \$60,000 for Missions and Outreach in 2009; year-to-date the combined efforts of these three initiatives have already surpassed the totals for the entire year of 2008. As Fr Todd mentioned, the efforts of more than 200 parishioners, twelve Boy Scouts and even a Deacon from Bolivia (Ron Irene), ensured that 100 vendors and thousands of visitors were welcomed with warm smiles, fed with great food and invited to see the face of Jesus in the community known as Good Samaritan.

There are five individuals who deserve a particular note of thanks. I suspect each will cringe at the fact that they are being singled out, however, it is with deep appreciation and on behalf of the entire congregation that I would like to recognize the tireless efforts of Scott Lasser and Rusty Smith regarding Fair Days, Rose Smith's leadership and organization in managing the Thrift Shop and Garage Sale, and Robin Smith's passionate vision and commitment in establishing the Rectory Furniture Store. Finally, Tad Turski and his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty must not only be acknowledged but recognized as a gift from God, with whom we are richly blessed.



On a different note, as many of you know sometime between the afternoon of 10th and morning of the 11th of June, the sound mixing equipment was stolen from the AV booth in the Church. The authorities were notified and they immediately began their investigation by collecting evidence from the area (including fingerprints). As you can imagine this theft has caused both some concern and inconvenience. The inconvenience of having to adjust to not having a mixing board was overcome by the rapid response, creativity, and genius of Craig Russ, Tom Connett and Chris Garven. Within hours a temporary fix was established to allow for Sunday services to go on without too much of a hitch. There remains a concern as to how best to implement effective security measures without limiting access to the facility.

It should be noted that while our insurance will cover the replacement of the equipment the associated deductible would be categorized as an "unexpected expense." Once again, the generosity and loving spirit of the body of Christ here at Good Sam is an inspirational testimony to the power of God's love and abundant blessing within our community. I am pleased to report that through the anonymous gift of a parishioner, our insurance deductible on the replacement equipment has been paid. My thanks and deep appreciation for this miracle...



Vestry Corner continued

ing us in a prayer "For Zeal in Service" from the prayer book of the Anglican Church of Kenya.

Ronnie Tousignant reported on the work of the HR Committee, which includes Jeff Moretzsohn, Betsy Wolford, Pastor Beverly and herself. This group has been meeting regularly to revise the church's Human Resource Policy Manual. The manual is in a final draft phase and is scheduled for final review before submitting to Fr. Todd for his reviews and comments. Ronnie told us that the manual has been expanded, enhanced and updated to be compliant in legal and canonical areas. The goal is to present a completed manual to the Vestry in September for their approval. Ronnie recognized Betsy Wolford for her technical assistance and experienced input that has shortened the task considerably. There is still work to be done by this committee, which will be reported on in coming months.

Rusty Smith gave a report on our facilities to the Vestry. The Facilities Committee has approved a number of improvements/repairs to be made in the coming months. Among these projects are: walkway installations on the west lawn, re-roofing/repairs to the bell tower, continuing landscaping installations and improvements to the Yates' back entrance room and foundation. There are also numerous other projects that are pending.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm. The next meeting of the Vestry is scheduled for July 13, following Evening Prayer in the Chapel at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Wardens of the Church of the Good Samaritan

Episcopal Day School

We are looking forward to the 2009-2010 season! Our excellent Day School has a fabulous staff ready to care for your children. We encourage anyone with Toddlers and Pre-school age children to come visit our school. We still have openings for our Toddler program, a once a week class where your child comes and plays with a parent or caregiver. It is a great way to start off pre-school with the comfort of a beloved adult at their side while exploring the world. We also have a few openings in our two-day 3 year olds and a couple spots in our five-day Pre-Kindergarten classes. Give Barb Condit, Director a call to inquire or set up a time to visit at 610-644-6181.

Discernment Committee Update Week of June 15, 2009

As mentioned in previous Discernment Committee announcements, we are in a process of self-study, gathering information about our Church, its mission and how our congregation will continue to witness to Christ through its worship, outreach near and abroad, nurturing discipleship and commitment to living and growing together. Who we are as a church community will draw the right Rector to us. However, we need your help.

Good Samaritan is a lighthouse for Jesus Christ. As such, we need you, each and every one of you, to assist in helping our new Rector find our "beacon" in that lighthouse. It is central to this information gathering process that we have your prayerful input in three (3) ways.

We are asking you to do all of the following:

- 1) Pray for God to guide your input into this process;
- 2) Take a parish survey, called TCI (Transforming Church Index), either online or in a hard copy that will be made available to you.
- 3) Participate in one of the "Discernment Gatherings" that will be offered.

The TCI survey and the Discernment Gatherings each give us different information so please plan to participate in both.

The TCI survey will be rolled out very soon. Information on how take this survey will be communicated on the website, in the church newsletter and through live announcements.

We are planning the dates and place for the Discernment Gatherings and will also communicate them to you as soon as they are finalized. There will be large and small group gatherings, offered at many different times and in numerous places so that all will have an opportunity to participate.

In grateful thanks for God's faithful guidance in this process, The Discernment Committee.



Roberto Morales, Capt. Medina of the Salvation army in Humacao, PR. Joey Frometa, T. J., Gilberto Rivera, on the right are Jessica Medina, a youth from their church, and Rebecca Medina.

Full Circle Child Evangelism

by T. J. Foltz,

Good Sam Member, Team Leader, and Scripture Union Regional Director

If you ever want to see the milestones of our work as a church, peek down to Puerto Rico for one of Good Samaritan's most moving success stories. On May 30th, a team from Good Samaritan and St. John the Free (Kensington), in partnership with Scripture Union touched down to begin a six-week labor of love sharing God's love with kids all over the island. Here's the kicker: Two members of the team, Joey Frometa and Roberto Morales were kids in OUR program when we started up Urban Serve years ago. These two young men (now 19 and 20) were kids at our children's outreach in the 90s. Now, they are serving as medium-term missionaries in an internship with Scripture Union doing the same SuperKids program that they experienced in North Philly.

The first week we will be in two sites: Humacao and Villa Del Rey, in Caguas. Then, over the next month and a half, we'll be in San Juan, Arecibo, Guayama, Fajardo and lastly in Ponce. The Scripture Union material has been translated into Spanish and these guys know exactly what works, because they started their lives in Christ being touched by some of the same skits, songs and games that they will now be leading. We hope to minister to more than 1,000 kids this summer – always, always, inviting the children to attend the local church after we're gone. Such a blessing.

You can bless us. While the Lord has graciously provided what we need to get here and get started, we are still short on our fundraising. Anything anybody can give to help and support this team, financially, and of course with your prayers, will be much appreciated. Checks made payable to Scripture Union may be mailed to PO Box 987, Valley Forge, PA 19487. Please include "SuperKids-Puerto Rico" in the memo line.

Pray that in another decade or so, we will see some of THESE kids sent as missionaries to come full circle yet again. Peace.

June Membership Statistics

Baptisms

Zachary Maddoc Evans
Grant Henry Hoffman
Bailey Elizabeth Morin
Lucy Rae Morin
Clara Marie Snell
Grace Mildred Snell
Mather Gordon Snell

Youth Confirmations

Laura Margaret Beebe
Brittany Christine Bowers
Vivian Grace Brauer
Mark Joseph Ferris
Kathryn Figgins
Alexander Garven
Lauren Ivy Magrogan
Abigail Young Pioch

Adult Confirmations/Receptions

Alexandra Burns
Lawton Robert Burns (Received)
Arnold Larsen
Karen Larsen
Carol McFarland (Received)
Margaret Shoyer (Received)
Alberta Zalimas

Deaths

Domenick-Paul Rowe on 6/8/09
Dorothy Davis Cross on 6/13/09

New Members Welcomed

Drew Braun
Joshua & Brooke Cradic
Michael & Debra Floriani
Jessica Bonelli-Guantay
Rob & Joan Lodge and Jack & Anna
Geoffrey & Rachel Morin
Kent & Cheryl Sparks and Emily & Cara

Transfers Out:

Allyson Ross to Free Church of St. John in Kensington, PA
Heather Carbo to Trinity Episcopal Church in Buckingham, PA
Ron, Joan & Jessica Harris to St. John's Episcopal Church in Jackson, WY

GoodSamYouth Senior Salute

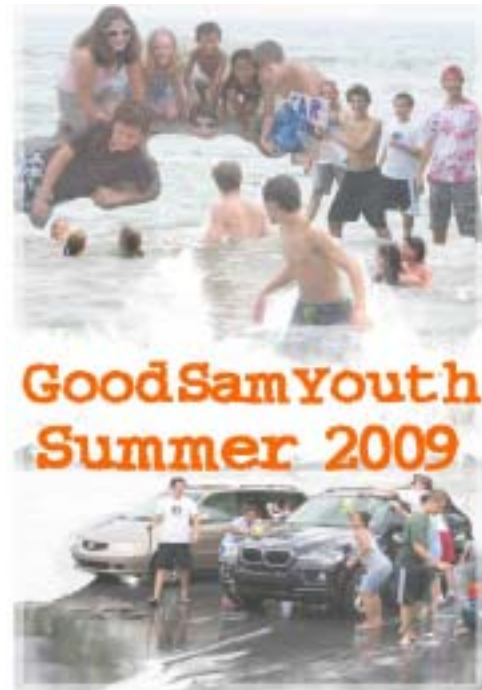
GoodSamYouth celebrated graduating seniors at Senior Salute on May 30 at the home of graduating senior Lauren Gibson. Family and friends of the class of 2009 gathered for food, games, and a moving video and photo montage of the groups' years at Good Samaritan, then circled the seniors to pray for God's protection and blessing as they travel into new places, and encounter new challenges and opportunities.



Please remember to pray for our graduates, as they head off to further education, jobs, and the uncertainties of life beyond high school.

New Date for Good Sam Night at the Reading Phillies

Due to several conflicts we have moved the night for the Reading Phillies game to Thursday, August 6. This is also a "Celebrate Your Faith Night," and the opponent will be the Trenton Thunder (Yankees' farm team). All other details for this event remain the same. Tickets are only \$8, parking is free, concessions are minor-league priced, and there is a great fireworks show after the game. Sign up for a low-cost night out now before your summer schedule gets too full. RSVP to mensministry@good-samaritan.org or call George Scheffey (610-407-0941) for more information. You can either meet at the stadium or carpool from the church, leaving around 4:30pm for the Celebrate Your Faith program. Game time is 7:00pm. Hope to see you at the game!!



GoodSamYouth Summer Update

TBS and TBS2

(Tuesday Bible Studies) begin on June 30.

Who: TBS is for high school students (youth who have completed 8th to 12th grade)

TBS2 is for middle school students (anyone who has finished 5th to 8th grade)

What: Games, swimming, supper, Bible study, dessert, more games and swimming. We'll be studying 2 Timothy—Paul's final letter, and his most personal instruction to a younger leader.

When: 6:15 to 8:45PM Tuesday evenings, starting June 30 and concluding on August 4. (There are no rain dates—we meet rain or shine.)

Where: TBS will meet at the Piochs', 1271 Wisteria Drive, Malvern. TBS2 will meet at the Gallaghers', 16 Briar Road, Wayne. Both homes have pools, so bring (or wear) a modest bathing suit and towel.

Beach Day: July 29 at Sea Isle City

9:00 AM to 9 PM – Beach, promenade, pizza, fudge shop. Parents and siblings are welcome.

30 Hour Famine: Rescheduled for July 31 to August 1.

Details for these activities and more are available online at GoodSamYouth.org, or in the Summer 2009 event booklets that are available in the church office.

Confirmation 2009



Eight Good Samaritan youth and four adults were confirmed on June 8 at the 9:00am service, with three additional adults received into fellowship. Bishop Turner, long-time friend of Good Samaritan, currently assisting in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, shared his firm faith and joyful witness as he preached a Trinity Sunday sermon and presided over the service.

The confirmation process for youth was the culmination of four months of preparation. Candidates attended confirmation classes from late February to mid-May, exploring the idea of covenant and the history of God's covenants with his people. They reviewed the covenants of the Old Testaments, considered prophecies about a new covenant, then looked at the way Jesus fulfilled those prophecies. Along the way, they examined the concepts of righteousness, redemption, and grace.



The service itself was an opportunity for all attending to reaffirm our faith in the triune God: creator, redeemer, sanctifier, and to agree to resist evil, proclaim the Good News by word and example, serve Christ, and strive for justice and peace. All present were reminded that the Christian life is not always an easy one, but that there is great joy in following Christ.

A celebratory reception followed in Ashton Hall, while Bishop Turner went on to meet with Good Samaritan's vestry to share vision, encouragement, and prayer.





he Church of the Good Samaritan

212 West Lancaster Avenue Paoli, Pennsylvania 19301

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Summer 2009 Events Calendar

July 11-17

Urban Serve, Kensington

July 13-17

Pittsburgh Project

July 14

Women's Book Discussion Group

July 17-26

Dakota Mission Trip

July 21

Samaritan Deadline

July 27

Prayer with the Vestry

July 29

Youth Beach Day

July 31-August 1

30 Hour Famine (rescheduled)

August 3-7

Fine Arts Camp

August 6

Reading Phillies Family Outing (rescheduled)

August 10

Youth Gleaning and Geocaching

August 22

Youth Bonfire and Night Games