



The Shepherd's Staff

***Newsletter of the
Diocese of the Western States***

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Anglican Church Women

ACW Notes

By now, many of you have heard about our 'Ultimate Fundraiser' and are working to raise money for this important project. For those of you to whom this is something new, the project is very simple. We need to raise money to support the Bishop Morse Youth Camp, especially to offer scholarships for those who want to go but cannot afford the cost and transportation to the camp. Youth are vitally important to the future of our church, so please do your part to help in this project and make 2020 a record year for the camp.

The process is very simple. Make copies of the attached form and distribute it among your congregations. Stand back and collect the checks! If your church has an ACW group, please have the checks, made out to ACW-DWS, with a notation 'Bishop Morse Youth Camp', collected by the ACW treasurer, and forwarded to Linda Evans, Diocesan ACW Treasurer, 21824 Sioux Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308. If you have no ACW group, please delegate one of your ladies to collect the checks and forward them to Linda. Donations are tax deductible.

If you have any questions, please email me at gillian.golden@yahoo.com, or call 541-597-4270 (leave a message if there is no answer, and I will get back to you).

Thank you all for your enthusiastic participation!

Gillian Golden
President, ACW-DWS

THE ULTIMATE FUNDRAISER!

ACW-DWS invites you to be part of a fundraiser for the Bishop Morse Youth Camp. Nothing could be easier! Simply complete this form, write the check and you're done! No cookies to bake, friends to be coerced, or functions to attend!

Thank you in advance for your support!

___\$15 I do not want to bake, so here is the money I would have spent on those cookies.

___\$25 I do not want to hit up friends, family and co-workers, so here is the money I would have spent on wrapping paper.

___\$50 I do not want to walk, swim or run in any activity that has the word "thon" in it, so here is the money I would have spent on the "free" t-shirt.

___\$75 I do not want to attend any fancy balls, so here is the money I would have spent on a new outfit.

___\$100 I really would not have helped anyway, so here is \$100 to forget my name.

\$_____ I am making this donation to express my appreciation for having nothing to buy, sell or do except to fill out this form.

Name _____ Church _____

Address _____

E-Mail -----

- Please make checks out to ACW-DWS, with notation Bishop Morse Youth Camp, and give them to your church ACW Treasurer or your church treasurer.
- Treasurers: please collect checks, and forward them to:
- Linda Evans, ACW-DWS Treasurer, 21824 Sioux Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308
- Donations are tax deductible.

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to this very important cause!!

Episcopal Travels

Bishop Ashman spent the last two weeks of October visiting Saint John the Baptist Anglican Church in Omaha Nebraska and attending a Council of Bishop's Meeting called by Archbishop Morrison in Tulsa Oklahoma. Under the inspiring leadership of Father Robert Ponec, Saint John's worships in a beautiful old Presbyterian church every Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. Both the organist/choirmaster (Nick Behrens) and the choir provide superb musical atmosphere. The parishioners are a happy Christ-centered family; a happy place to be. The Council of Bishops met the following Wednesday at All Saints' Cathedral for their regular biannual meeting to discuss, assess and plan the ongoing programs of the APCK. More will be forthcoming in future Shepherd's Staffs.



Bishop Blair Schultz, Bishop John Upham, Archbishop Frederick Morrison and Bishop Peter Hansen

A Sermon for Late Trinitytide

There is a heart-warming story told of a man who finally decided to ask his boss for a raise. He told his wife that morning what he was about to do. All day the man felt nervous and apprehensive. Late in the afternoon he summoned the courage to approach his employer. To his delight, the boss agreed to a raise. The man arrived home to a beautiful table set with their best china. Candles were lighted. His wife had prepared a festive meal. Immediately he figured that someone from the office had tipped her off! Finding his wife in the kitchen, he told her the good news. They embraced and kissed, then sat down to a wonderful meal.

Next to his plate the man found a beautifully lettered note. It read: "Congratulations, darling! I knew you'd get the raise! These things will tell you how much I love you." While on his way to the kitchen to get dessert for his wife, he noticed that a second card had fallen from her pocket. Picking it up off the floor, he read: "Don't worry about not getting the raise! You deserve it anyway! This card will tell you how much I love you."

Total acceptance! Total love! Her love for him was not contingent upon his success at work. In fact, just the opposite! If he had failed there, if he had been rejected by his boss, he'd be all the more accepted at home. She stood behind him no matter what; softening the blows, healing the wounds, believing in him, loving him. I submit that we can be rejected by anyone if we're loved by just someone.

Did you ever stop to think that in so many of the Gospel stories, Jesus stopped what He was doing to help those who were hurting – or being hurt? He was constantly thronged by people, but He always found time to stop what He was doing and make time for the hurting. He was God made flesh, who found time to feel compassion for people like you and me. This is hard for us to do because we are so busy and get wrapped up in our own little worlds, but it is a lesson we must learn if we are really going to show people we care.

Moreover, Jesus always acknowledged the person he was helping. Look back through the lessons of Trinitytide. On Trinity XXIV, Jesus with stunning compassion told the "unclean" woman to take joy in her faith – and he healed her. On Trinity XX, Jesus acknowledged the faith of the nobleman – and healed his son. We are told on Trinity XVI, that Jesus had compassion on the Widow of Nain. On Trinity XIV, Jesus healed ten lepers but went out of his way to acknowledge the faith of the Samaritan leper who returned to give thanks.

The wife whose husband wanted a raise was alert to his needs. She is an icon for us. And we husbands need to be alert to our wives' needs; our children's needs. So it is that we all need to look past our own wants and desires and pay attention to the needs of others, both those that are spoken and those which are unspoken.

Once many years ago, I watched a fellow teacher do something along the same lines. I was helping that teacher judge a contest called Latin Sight Reading; basically, just reading Latin aloud - correctly. One student started off well. Then she made a mistake. We judges could feel her panic as she struggled onward gallantly to finish the passage. When it was over the teacher said to her, "Do you realize what you did? You panicked. But I want you to know that we judges felt your panic - and your pain. We also noted that you bravely finished the passage. I sincerely hope you will not leave this room feeling a failure. Rather, I hope you will practice and come back for next year's contests." It was heartening to see the change in the student's face as her demeanor changed from dejected defeat into renewed hope just because of a teacher who looked for the unvoiced needs of another human being.

My dear brothers and sisters, the greatest things we accomplish in life are often the unseen or the barely noticed. They are the kind words we speak to those in pain – physical, emotional and spiritual. Sometimes, our greatest gifts are the gentle words of support we give to a brother or sister struggling in tough times. And sometimes, it's when we forgive a stupid remark, a careless attitude or even an unintentional slight. It's when we take another's work or pain on ourselves and learn to say, "I'll do it," "thank you," "excuse me," or even just "I love you." I commend to your hearts and souls that attentive Latin teacher (whose name I have forgotten) and that wonderful housewife who was alert enough to her husband's needs to have two cards ready for his dinner plate. How many of us will act in the same manner before the sun sets today?

Don't Forget Thanksgiving

Don't forget the point of Thanksgiving Day! Dating back the emergence of farming culture (replacing the old hunter-gatherer cultures), early civilizations almost always had harvest festivals. And so did the ancient Jews. Three of their chief feast days were harvest festivals. Passover was a spring festival which celebrated the first fruits of the barley crop which was the first grain to ripen and be harvested in the land of Israel. The second was Pentecost (Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks) which marked the wheat harvest. And finally, was Sukkot or the Feast of Tabernacles which celebrated the ingathering of the fruits of the earth at the end of the year. The early Christians did not have such harvest festivals (probably because they did not wish to imitate pagan harvest festivals) but in mediaeval England August 1st was called Lammas Day and a "Loaf Mass" was offered from bread of the harvested wheat which had been blessed. All subsequent English harvest celebrations date to the nineteenth century.



In America, the first Thanksgiving Day was celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621. A century and a half later, the Continental Congress proclaimed a national Day of Thanksgiving and the 1786 proposed Book of Common Prayer included a thanksgiving service to God for all his mercies and the fruits of the earth. It was set on the first Thursday of November or another day prescribed by civil authority. President Washington proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving and all the American Prayer Books have made provision for it. But Thanksgiving is not just about the crops that are harvested or the food on our tables; rather is also about God's Divine Providence. The Gospel tells us that God takes care of us. We will

be just fine because of his loving kindness. But we must seek God, his righteousness and his Kingdom. The Epistle is an essay on how to seek God's Kingdom and righteousness (*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only*). And so, Thanksgiving is the day we say THANK YOU to God. I hope you will all be in Church, if at all possible. And if you can't go to Church, why not read the Collect for Thanksgiving Day at grace before your Thanksgiving Dinner:

O MOST merciful Father, who hast blessed the labours of the husbandman in the returns of the fruits of the earth; We give thee humble and hearty thanks for this thy bounty; beseeching thee to continue thy loving-kindness to us, that our land may still yield her increase, to thy glory and our comfort; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.