

Lent and the Road to Familial Wholeness

By Robert Craig

In the past two Third Saturday Healing Services we have looked at family dysfunctions from past generations as well as their impact on the here-and-now. Next Saturday we will be "Looking Forward" toward functioning as an optimal family.

As I contemplated writing something to tease you all to come to the healing service I was reminded how strongly our journey through Lent's 40 days of reflection and penance might impact us and our families. In verse 3 of our Psalm for last Sunday (51), King David acknowledges: "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me." How many of us can say the same thing? He confesses and seeks God's forgiveness, which we know was granted.

Through the Cross of Christ we have a much clearer and surer path: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 ESV emphasis added.



Jakob Steinhardt (*Jacob and Esau*, 1950)

What are the roadblocks preventing me/you/us from becoming that optimal family? To me family goes beyond our flesh and blood kin, but includes our family in Christ and beyond. What sins, resentments, hurts, unforgivenesses...are binding us and retarding our growth, not only as a physical family but also the mystical family of God? These are tough questions that we frequently do not want addressed, for whatever reason.

Reflecting on the dysfunctionality of my birth family opened my eyes to many issues that plagued my youth and developed into extreme bitterness and resentment, which I carried into adult life, and I am certain

impacted my wife and children. But thanks be to God, in his mercy he has shown me those areas and has guided me along a path of deliverance.

My birth family dysfunction was not overt, no abuse, no addictions, a relatively stable platform to grow and develop on. The most important absence was Jesus Christ. My mother was a bitter, lapsed Roman Catholic and my father a "lapsed" Unitarian (if in fact there is such a thing). Though their relationship was loving it was also emotionally cold. I don't ever remember them saying "I love you" to each other nor do I think my brother and I ever heard the same directed to us. The only time I ever saw my father cry was at my mother's funeral. I am not sure those were tears of grief or the realization of the inadequacies in their relationship.

Why did I bore you with these details? These and other issues, when they were finally recognized had to be dealt with. Bitterness, etc., had to be confessed and forgiveness toward my parents was in order. This brings me to another important aspect of Lent, becoming a penitent and making a sacramental confession. There is something so freeing when the priest says, "...I absolve you from all your sins:..."

Join us on Saturday, March 18th at 5 pm and look ahead to becoming an optimal family, seek prayer for healing, no matter the issue, and make your confession to a priest.

If you are interested in training to be part of the Healing Ministry team, or want to find out more, please contact Marian Vance, cannon.vance@gmail.com, or Fr. Ray, rpndle55@comcast.net.

Today at CTR



FORUM SERIES: 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall, Fr. Malcolm and Fr. Tim discuss "Working with our Neighbor for the Common Good." Part of our *Keep Calm and Love Your Neighbor* series.

THE ANCHOR: Junior High Youth group today at the Keifer home from 2-4pm. Snacks, games, Bible Study. Contact Fr. Brian for info, brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org.

COMPLINE: 7 p.m. in the church. A contemplative end-of-day service held during Lent.

This Week at CTR

NEW ALPHA GROUP: Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., at the home of Carter and Kerry Crockett. You are invited! Everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. For more information contact Carter, carter.crockett@gmail.com or (978) 471-2061.

24-7 PRAYER ROOM OPEN THROUGH LENT at the following times: Tuesday 9 a.m.-12 noon; Wednesday 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 12 noon every Friday during Lent. Stations of the Cross is a guided meditation through Christ's passion, from his trial to his burial. As we follow the cross around the church, we stop at each of the fourteen stained glass windows that tell the story, with relevant Scripture readings and prayers corresponding to each image. It is held at noon on Fridays during Lent, the hour when Jesus hung on the cross, and lasts around a half hour.



THIRD SATURDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST: Join us on Saturday, March 18, from 8:30a.m. –10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall for food, fellowship, discussion and prayer. Newcomers welcome. If you want to bring along a breakfast entrée or accompaniment to share, please contact David Greening: david.greening@ctr-anglican.org

CAST YOUR CARES–HEALING WOUNDS OF HEART AND MIND: Third Saturday Healing Service, March 18 at 5p.m. "Looking Ahead– Setting goals and working toward functioning as an optimal family - what roadblocks need to be resolved?"

Regular Events at CTR

TUESDAY:

Weekly Bible Study: Meets in the Sacristy on Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact Richard Thorndike, 978-922-3618, for more information.

WEDNESDAY:

Seraphim Choir (grades 4 +), Wednesdays, 4:00-5:15p.m. Contact Dan McKinley dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org.
Cherubim Choir (grades 1-3), Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00p.m. Contact Cyndi Kreyling kreylingc@gmail.com.

THURSDAY:

Moms In Prayer International.: Thursdays during the school year from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. For more info, contact Flora Lee, floraisabella@gmail.com or 978-626-1179.
Women's Bible Study: A weekly Bible study for women of all ages. Thursdays, from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Contact Kim Ober, kimwober@msn.com, with questions or to request materials.
Choir of Christ the Redeemer, for adults and high school students, rehearses in the church, 7:15 p.m. -9:15 p.m., Thursdays. New members are welcome and needed. Contact Minister of Music Dan 978-774-3163x105; dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org.

COMPLINE

Sunday at
7pm

Guide us waking, O Lord
and guard us sleeping,
that awake we may watch
with Christ, and asleep we
may rest in peace.

-Antiphon from Compline

Upcoming Events

JEWISH EVANGELISM SEMINAR: Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at CTR. Sponsored by Chosen People Ministries, this seminar is to help equip the church to reach out to Jewish friends and neighbors with the Good News of the Jewish Messiah. Register at <http://north-shoremessianicfellowship.org/Events>. Contact Fr. Malcolm for more information, malcolm.reid@ctr-anglican.org.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS: Mark your calendars! Youth Night (grades 6+) in the Parish Hall, Wednesday March 22 from 5:30p.m.-7:00 p.m. Additional dates—Wednesdays, April 25 and May 24.



LA VIDA PARENT-CHILD TRIP: This summer with Fr. Tim. La Vida, the outdoors education program of Gordon College, is offering a parent-child backpacking trip this summer in the Adirondacks, led by experienced La Vida staff and with

Fr Tim as chaplain. Dates are July 29 - August 5, and the cost is \$1100 per pair. If interested, please contact Fr Tim, tim.clayton@ctr-anglican.org.

Other Notes

EASTER FLOWERS: Offering envelopes for Easter flowers will be available next Sunday.

CTR MEAL DELIVERY: If you, or someone you know, needs a meal, email us at mealdelivery@ctr-anglican.org. CTR volunteers cook and (sometimes the same, sometimes different) volunteers deliver the meals, with minimal fuss, as an expression of love to those who are sick, had a new baby, etc. For more info. contact Dcn. Adam, adam.gosnell@ctr-anglican.org.

SCHEDULING ROOMS AT CTR: The spaces at 188 Elliott Street are in constant use by our various ministries. If you wish to use a room for your meeting or event it is essential that they are scheduled on the church master calendar. Contact David at the church office to inquire about availability and to schedule your meeting or event 978.774.3163 ext. 101 or david.greening@ctr-anglican.org.

"Keep Calm & Love Your Neighbor"

Sundays 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall

19 March

**Loving Our Neighbor
Through Adoption**

Eric and Jennifer Keifer, parents of eight: five children born to them, and three siblings they adopted.

26 March

**The Spiritual Questions
of Our Student Neighbors**

The Rev'd. Tom Haugen,
Gordon College Chaplain.

2 April

**A Life Loving Neighbors in
New England**

Bishop Bill, born and raised in Peabody, and New Englander ever since.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
LOVE
YOUR
NEIGHBOR**