

The Church of the Holy Family

Family Affairs

July/August 2021

Deadline for September *Family Affairs*: **August 22**

“Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry or disturb you.” – words of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego on Mount Tepeyac in 1531.

Perhaps the greatest spiritual highlight of the first half of my sabbatical was a visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. My personal devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is nothing new. At several key moments in my life, I have found myself in front of a statue of Our Lady and felt the Holy Spirit’s prompting to ask for her intercession. Enough of these seemingly impossible prayers have come true, thus no longer affording me the luxury of doubt in God’s good care for us, and the efficacy of Mary’s intercession. But why am I so captured by the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe? It is, in the words of a friend, the strangest thing about my personal piety.

The story goes like this: Juan Diego, an indigenous Mexican peasant, received a series of apparitions in December of 1531 in which the Blessed Virgin promised healing for Juan’s dying uncle. During the Virgin’s final appearance, she told Juan to go to the local bishop and have him build a church on the Tepeyac Hill in her honor. When the bishop hesitated, Juan showed him his tunic where a miraculous image of the Virgin appeared. This was enough to convince the bishop, and the rest is, shall we say, history. The story of the Virgin’s appearance spread like wildfire. It is largely responsible for the conversion of the Mexican people and remains dear to their hearts. In Roman Catholic practice, Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron saint of the Americas.



The old Conquistador-era basilica had to be abandoned because it was too small to accommodate the crowds, and because of its shaky foundations. (Mexico City is essentially built over a lake and subject to frequent earthquakes.) The new basilica—to me, at least—looks like an enormous bus station. Indeed, it was built by the same architect that designed Mexico City’s enormous soccer stadium—and you can tell. But the Mexicans adore the church. What’s more, they come by the millions. Mass is celebrated every forty-five minutes, and the church seats 10,000 souls. There were easily 1,000 people at the Mass I attended, with a 1,000 more waiting outside for the next liturgy. At the end of the Mass, you get to have a closer look at Juan’s tunic. It’s preserved behind glass and five moving sidewalks move the crowds past it with relentless efficiency. Most sources claim that the basilica is the most visited Christian site in the world—even more than Rome—and I believe it.

So, why me? Why my devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe? I am a most unlikely enthusiast. In my khaki shorts, blue button-down shirt, and Birkenstocks, I looked nothing like the other pilgrims. I have no Latin American heritage. I am not even sure I buy the story of the tunic... So, why has this story become such a big part of my faith? Because of her words to Juan Diego, the ones I quote at the top. Because they are true words. Read them again. Along with the Magnificat—the Song of Mary in Luke—they give us a powerful vocabulary of faith. Praying the words of Mary—with *Mary*—unites us to God in a deep cosmic union because they so perfectly tell the story of God’s love.

As the first believer, Mary is an icon of fidelity. As the Theotokos (“Mother of God”—an ecumenical doctrine Anglicanism has always affirmed), she is worthy of our devotion. But none of that means anything unless we also experience her motherhood. That Mary cares for us, loves us, and wants us to know her Son, is a wonderful way for Christians to understand the “mystic sweet communion” of the Company of the Saints. Through prayer, this is something I have done over and over again.

Back at the basilica, one image will always stick with me: the enormous wall of candles lit by the pilgrims as they left Mass. Old and young, men and women—often with extended families—hundreds of pilgrims lit their candles and asked for the intercession of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Some would say a rosary, and some would sing the *Salve Regina*, but their beautiful faith was palpable. It was, in a word, undeniable. And their faith strengthened my own. For the chance to make this pilgrimage, and, indeed, for the gift of the time away to do so, I am profoundly grateful.

In this issue:

Parish Notes/ page 3
 Christian Education/ page 4
 Outreach / pages 5 & 6
 House of Prayer / page 7

Address update:
 Virginia Powell, 100 Lanark Drive, Apt. 301
 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517-4056
 and Virginia would love to get some mail!

Summary of Vestry minutes

AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON **April 20** THE VESTRY:

- Heard a report from the Associate Rector including: The fellowship event offered on Zoom prior to the outdoor Eucharist on April 18 was quite good and appreciated by the Rector. The three outdoor services on Easter were full and the Bishop was pleased with them. There is a potential to move back inside in early summer. The Rev. Brooks Graebner will be assisting on Sundays and taking part in worship videos while the Rector is on sabbatical. The Associate Rector is working as part of a group examining the use of Diocesan buildings in downtown Raleigh. The Associate Rector is also a member of a diocesan group working with ordination candidates in the Diocese.
- Fred Mason said that a Property Commission meeting was planned to discuss hand sanitizers, quarterly kitchen cleaning, and plans to rework and beautify the columbarium, and to consider switching some things to solar power, given the considerable incentives now being offered.

AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON **May 18** THE VESTRY:

- Treasurer Richard Fair said that with the recent repayment of two loans, Holy Family is now debt-free.
- The Associate Rector reported that the Flower Fund is currently in a deficit, but this will probably be resolved by the end of the year. Jim Gray is in the process of coordinating a blood drive in the summer. Angela Compton-Nelson will be ordained on June 5 in Charlotte. Kate Rademacher will discuss her new book, *Reclaiming Rest*, at a Zoom Gathering on June 2 and there will be a small book launch gathering at the church on June 27.
- Holy Family needs to add one delegate to convention for a three-year term, plus two alternates. The vestry will be making direct asks and will vote at its June meeting.
- The Property Commission’s plans to rework and beautify the columbarium will include making it a greener area and creating a better path for access. The redesign has been made possible by a donation from a parishioner.

Commission Meetings in July and August 2021

Properties Commission: No meetings currently scheduled.

Outreach Commission: Wednesday, August 11, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Finance Commission: No meeting in July.
 Tuesday, August 17 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Vestry: No meeting in July.
 Tuesday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The Steering Committee for the Northeast Campus Completion Project is swinging back into action, after a COVID-related hiatus. We hope that you've seen the video updates of our work so far! If not, you can access them via Holy Family's YouTube Channel or links in the weekly announcement email.

What are the priorities for the project? The Vestry established three priorities for the project: 1) a transitional housing component for an individual or couple, 2) a youth space flexible enough to support EYC activities and youth Sunday School classes, and 3) an outdoor component flexible enough to serve for outdoor worship, vacation church school, parish fellowship, and community gatherings.

What are important aspects of the project? The Vestry directed the use of several design features if possible, including energy efficiency, drainage issues, architectural consistency with the surrounding buildings, and responsiveness to neighborhood concerns. The Vestry also affirmed that learning the history of our property should inform the northeast campus project, with possible design elements incorporated to acknowledge indigenous inhabitants and the racial history of the land we currently occupy.

What's happened recently? The Building Subcommittee has queried architectural consultants who might be interested in submitting a proposal and chosen five firms from which to request proposals for the project. The Building Subcommittee will review submitted proposals this summer and then make a recommendation to the Steering Committee, which will select a firm. The Racial Equity and Land Subcommittee has begun meeting and is energized by the prospect of connecting to and deepening the equity and justice work in which the parish is already engaged. A Financial Stewardship Subcommittee will be formed this summer to determine if there is a need for a professional fundraising consultant and the scope of work if one is hired. Once the subcommittees have completed their work, the Steering Committee will work on preparing a timeline for implementation of any renovation and new construction.

What if I have questions? Please feel free to be in contact with a member of the Steering Committee (Dave Worster, Deedee Nachman, Jan Yarborough, Meredith Stewart, Clarke French, Anna Bauer, Alan Steinbeck, Kim Gotwals, and Phil Post). We'll continue to offer periodic updates via the weekly announcement email, Facebook, and *Family Affairs*.

Christian Education for Children and Youth

The Rev. Angela Compton-Nelson, Assistant to the Rector for Family Ministries
(angela@holyfamilych.org) page 4

Sunday School Thank You

As we come to the end of our extended Sunday School year, we offer our gratitude to Anson Burtch for playing music and to Tracey Powell for helping to coordinate and serving as a substitute for Nicole. We could not have done Sunday School week after week without you. To all the parents: In any year, it can feel like a feat to get your kids dressed and out the door for church on a weekend morning. This year, you made sure that they were up, ready, and at Sunday School still. We are grateful for the time with your young people and for welcoming us into your homes for this pandemic year. We enjoyed the times that it worked to have students there for the whole of our meetings and for your perseverance even when it did not always work the way we all wanted. This work is important and it will not return to us empty. Thank you for extending grace during our learning curve and for hanging in there with us.

Baking with the Bible

Join Nicole on Zoom at 3:00 p.m. on July 30 to hear the Parable of the woman and the leaven, and to make leavened bread. Details to follow on the Holy Family e-newsletter. Please RSVP with Nicole (ndpowell12@gmail.com) to let her know that you are coming and to make sure you receive the recipe earlier that day by text.

Dismantling Racism: Reclaiming our Baptismal Promise Workshop

Racial healing and reconciliation are fundamental to our ongoing spiritual formation. Please join us for this interactive workshop designed to deepen our spiritual commitment to dismantle racism as participants in the Jesus movement. Through presentations, prayer, story sharing, videos, and small group discussion, we will explore how the sin of racism impacts all of our lives. We will ground our work together biblically and sacramentally by renewing our Baptismal vows—to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of all human beings. This workshop, offered by the Diocese, is one step in our ongoing and sustained journey to become Beloved Community. The workshop will meet on Friday, September 24 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, September 25 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Angela for details about registration or check out information on the Diocesan website or in the next Holy Family Christian Formation e-newsletter.

Holy Family Endowment Grant for Building Libraries on Race, Sex, and Sexuality for Christian Formation

Last year a grant from the Holy Family Endowment enabled Christian Education to purchase a generous library of titles about race, racial history in the United States, and where the conversation of race intersects with Christian theological reflection. From that grant, we have built a small library for each age and stage: picture books reflecting on race, whiteness, and the lives of Saints of color and Black saints, middle grade books and novels, and books for adults to be placed in the parish library. As we return to in-person operations, this library will be on display and available for check-out in various places.

We were also given a grant for building a library for youth and children about bodies, sexuality, and sex. Pre-pandemic, we were working to establish places for these conversations at Holy Family with our youth and young people. These conversations continue and this library will be a key part in building the connections for leaders, parents, and youth.

Sabbatical Note

For the month of July, Angela will be away on Sabbatical and will be turning off email. During Angela's time away, Nicole Powell will be holding down the fort. You will hear from her about Baking with the Bible and Holy Family and Diocesan events via our e-newsletter. We have many plans shaping up for the fall in EYC, Sunday School, acolyte training, household help, and formation. These details will begin to be sent out the second week in August via our e-newsletter. Nicole works additional jobs and is a student. She can be reached through most of the week, but especially all day on Tuesdays, and Sundays at church or during the day. In observance of a Sabbath, Nicole does not check email on Wednesday.

Recent Outreach Activities of the Parish

In lean times as well as times of plenty, Holy Family parishioners continue to give generously of their time, talent, and resources.

March-June:

- Parishioners donated 3 carloads full of groceries to our food drive for RENA (Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association) Community Center.
- Parishioners corresponded with several incarcerated men.
- A hardy team from CHF continued to help provide box lunches to anyone who wanted one at the IFC's Community Kitchen on the 2nd and 3rd Mondays each month.
- Parishioners donated over \$4,000 participating in the virtual CROPWalk for Interfaith Council and Church World Service to fight hunger locally and abroad.
- Several parishioners pick up food from local businesses each week for IFC.
- The CHF Habitat team has been helping build senior housing in Carrboro with Orange County Habitat for Humanity and expects to finish by the end of June.
- Our annual drive to raise funds to operate the primary school in Molas, Haiti began in June.

In addition to budgeted support throughout the year to our mission partners addressing local and global needs, CHF has recently sent funds to:

- Episcopal Relief and Development for disaster relief in the southwest and to their 1000 Days of Love campaign to benefit young children around the world.
- UNC nursing mobile health van for outreach to people who don't have access to health care. Parishioner and Doctor of Nursing Practice Leslie Sharpe volunteers with the van. See her reflections elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Reentry House Plus, Inc., which just bought a house in Hillsborough as transitional housing for people leaving incarceration.
- TABLE, a local organization that feeds children year round. They expect their busiest summer ever, anticipating feeding up to 750 children every week for 10 weeks, a 25% increase over last summer.
- Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, which has been overwhelmed by Covid-19 patients and casualties from the recent increase in fighting.
- Two Mules for Haiti to support a local UNC grad student working on a sanitation program proposal for the area of Haiti that includes Molas.

MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC

Early on during the pandemic, I was feeling particularly lost and wondering how best I could serve as a healthcare provider, since I was no longer working in a clinic setting. I was NOT feeling very helpful just sitting at home, no matter how much I loved teaching and was able to continue educating nurse practitioner students in this time. I missed working as a partner in health with my patients. In June of 2020, I started volunteering at the UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing Mobile Health Clinic (<https://nursing.unc.edu/outreach/faculty-practice/son-mobile-health-clinic/>). The opportunity to volunteer with the clients in this setting has been a source of tremendous joy and satisfaction for me. The experience is even better knowing that I carry Church of the Holy Family with me when I am serving these clients. I am so grateful that Holy Family Outreach has provided financial support to the Mobile Health Clinic over the past year. It has allowed us to continue to provide care for a vulnerable and underserved community that faces many barriers to care, such as lack of transportation, inability to pay for medications, housing and food insecurity, acculturation issues, and financial barriers.

Our goals in working with our clients are screening (for hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, and depression), educating on preventing disease and optimizing health, and connecting clients to affordable healthcare and medications. We recently partnered with UNC to provide a vaccine clinic for an underserved population. Through our Looking Up program, we teach about healthy diet and lifestyle for folks with hypertension and diabetes who don't have insurance and provide the necessary supplies to help manage their health. Working 4 hours on Tuesdays and 2 Saturdays a month, we have already served over 100 clients since the beginning of the year (not including the 142 vaccine recipients). In the previous year, even with the pandemic, we had 32 volunteers and 1300 hours of service, and we performed over 250 diabetes screens and almost 200 cholesterol screens.

In a recent sermon from Sarah Ball-Damberg, I was particularly struck by the end of the sermon: "In Christ, God has given us the gift of God's self and of one another, forgiven our sins, and sent us on our way rejoicing. God's Holy Spirit sent Philip and the Ethiopian out into the world to meet Christ in strangers who become friends. Where, I wonder, and to whom is God sending us?" For me, when I am face-to-face with the beautiful strangers I have the privilege of serving, the answer is abundantly clear: I am able to experience the fullness of God's grace in this space. *Leslie Sharpe*

PROJECT 5000: SHARING OUR BOUNTY

Like everything else, our annual campaign to restock the grocery shelves at the Interfaith Council will work a little differently this summer. Instead of gathering a giant pile of fully laden boxes, we are hoping to deliver toiletries and shelf-stable foods to the new IFC building – now called Community Place -- every Monday during August. Items that are especially needed will be listed in the weekly bulletin and available in printed form in the Narthex. When you shop for groceries, please think of those eagerly waiting to make their monthly trip to IFC and fill an extra bag for them. You can pack the traditional box (cartons will be available in the Narthex at the end of July) or you can bring the food in bags, a bit each week.



Please drop off your donations in the Narthex at any time. They will be picked up every Sunday evening. Our church has always been a generous donor for Project 5000. We have chosen August as it is a time of great need. Questions? Contact Peggy Duhamel (540) 830-0182. Thank you!

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.

—Mark 11:17

Your prayers are invited for the people of our parish and of all nations,
and for the extension and establishment of the kingdom of God.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

house of prayer

Intercessory Prayers on behalf of specific individuals or groups can be recorded in the notebook kept on a lectern in the Narthex. Intercessions are offered at Morning and Evening Prayer during the week. To have a prayer included in the parish prayer list, please call the church office: 919-942-3108.

The e-mail listserv is a means of inviting the community to join in praying for particular concerns or thanksgivings. To make a prayer request in this way, contact either the Rev. Clarke French (cfrench@chfnc.net) or the Rev. Sarah Ball-Damberg (sballdamberg@chfnc.net).

Confidential requests for prayer may be made directly to one of the clergy, or by asking members of the Prayer Team at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service to pray with and for you.

This month, please pray for:

- **The victims** and perpetrators of violence, and the victims of war and natural disasters.
- **Those who lead the nation**, especially Joe Biden, our President, and Roy Cooper, our Governor. Please pray that they may serve justice, and promote equality and peace.
- **Those who risk their lives** in the service of their country, especially members of the armed forces and the diplomatic corps.
- **Our sick, homebound, and recovering**, especially Dave Worster, Bill and Mary Harrison, Marie Carotenuto, Sara Smith, Aileen Womark-Montes, Celia Lata, Molly Summerlin, and Cynthia Baker.
- **Those who have died**, especially Betty Lamar and Val Lauder.

- **Those expecting children**, especially Allie Leight Gochez and Caitlin Fuller.
- **Those in any need or trouble**, especially Billy Ray, Jimmy, and Ray in prison; Eddie on Death Row; incarcerated men and staff of Orange Correctional Center and those recently re-entering society from prison.
- **Our bishops**, The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop; the Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman, Bishop of North Carolina; the Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Suffragan of North Carolina.
- **Our seminaries**, especially the University of the South, Sewanee, the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies at the Duke Divinity School, and the Seminary of the Southwest.
- **Our mission partners**, Gyani Thapa in Nepal (Kirtipur Christian Fellowship), Catherine Piwang in Uganda (ChildReach Africa), and Karen Calani in Guatemala (Food for the Hungry).
- **L'École de Notre Dame** in Molas, Haiti, its students, teachers, and staff, and priest-in-charge Père Jean Jonas Laborde.
- **The Augustine Literacy Project** students, tutors, staff, and board members.
- **Our clergy**: Clarke, Sarah, Paula, and Angela.
- **The staff of our parish**: Tom, Gary, Julie, Bill, and Nicole.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

American Red Cross Blood Drive Scheduled!



Our next blood drive is scheduled for Monday, July 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall. We need several volunteers the day of the blood drive, and we also need people to provide homemade snacks for donors to have after giving blood. If you can help, please contact Jim Gray or the church office. To be a donor, sign up online at redcrossblood.org, look for the red box with the words "Find a Blood Drive." Our sponsor code is **chf**. Follow the prompts to schedule an appointment. If you have questions, contact Jim Gray (jimgray546@gmail.com).