

The Church of the Holy Family **Family Affairs**

June 2022

Deadline for July/August *Family Affairs*: **June 18**

“My tears have been my food day and night whilst it is said to me daily:

“Where is thy God?”—*Psalm 42:3*

Editorial deadlines being what they are, I am writing this in the days after the murderous rampage at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Each day since, as both of my kids get on the school bus, I say a prayer for their safety and cry a lament for those parents whose only wish is to do the same, but now no longer can. Of course, we are still processing the heinous and racially motivated slaughter of African Americans in Buffalo last Saturday, and now the murders at a hospital in Tulsa. It has been a deadly two weeks. I wallow in my anger and powerlessness. I am outraged that the people who have the power to fix this crisis do nothing but offer their “thoughts and prayers.” I cry to God, “This is not my problem to fix! I have no guns in my home, only schoolchildren.”

These national events are only the tip of the iceberg. A friend of mine referred to this past month as “Meltdown May,” by which she meant that so many of her friends have broken under the crushing weight of cumulative trauma. I can confirm the same. Almost every household I know is, in one or more ways, suffering under the weight of illness, dashed hopes, children falling to pieces, the second anniversary of George Floyd’s murder, the continued racial unrest, inflation and financial insecurity, the coronavirus pandemic, the climate emergency, the war in Europe, the political impasse—and the list goes on and on.

One day last week, I was in the check-out line at the grocery store. The woman in front of me had a bottle of wine among her items. It is the clearly stated policy of the store that everyone buying alcohol must present I.D. to verify their age. It is kind of a dumb policy, if I am honest, as I have earned all my wrinkles and gray hair. However, having run afoul of this policy once before, I always come prepared. The woman in front of me, however, was not prepared. Clearly older than I, she had no picture I.D. on hand. The young cashier apologized for the policy but said she had to enforce it. The only word I can think of to describe the woman’s reaction is “berserk,” a word we inherited from the Old Norse, meaning “bear shirt.”

I know a few things because I’ve seen a few things. (Isn’t that the line?) So, I knew enough not to confront the woman in the middle of her rant and rave. (Did she have a handgun in her purse? One must consider this now.) I correctly predicted that she would abandon all her purchases and storm out of the store yelling “I’m never shopping at this [redacted, because this is church] store again!” And that is what she did. The cashier was shaking and now had to void all the items she had already scanned. She kept apologizing to me for the delay. I simply responded, “What happened to you was unfair. Things take the time they take. How can I help you?”

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Let me be clear: what happened in the grocery store, while egregious, was not altogether unexpected. We are a people on our last nerve and some of us are really, truly coming apart at the seams. After I got over my anger and embarrassment at the grocery store (to top things off, the woman was white and affluent, and the cashier was young and Black) I got to thinking about what might have caused the woman to behave as she did. Privilege, for sure. Used to getting her way, perhaps. But what awaited her at home? A sick or dying spouse, a home full of worry over the fate of a child? The adage is true: none of knows what another is going through. This compassion is not forgiveness—forgiveness was not mine to grant—but it does make me take stock and inform my easily-ignited moral outrage.

A friend recently told me to “guard my joy.” I’ve been thinking about that a lot. I am not tempted to retreat from the world and to wall off sources of anxiety and frustration. God planted each of us in our communities “to love and serve the Lord.” (Alleluia!) However, I am now much more mindful about the sources of joy in my life and how I might do more to cultivate and protect them. My family is a constant joy. Yes, we have suffered under the weight of All The Things, but it is my responsibility to make my home an outpost of the Kingdom. To paraphrase Brother Lawrence, I wash the dishes not because I love the task, but because I love the people who dirtied them.

Church has always been at the center of my life, but it took the pandemic to teach me that church is literally an ark—and without it I will drown. I live Sunday to Sunday now in a way I never have. I feel such joy each Sunday morning knowing that I will get to see my tribe, and that we will go through our holy rites together, and sing our holy songs, and say our common prayers. There will be smiles and hugs and handshakes. Together we will do hard things. It’s a fellowship that begins in the womb and continues beyond the grave.

Since you are still reading—thank you—I would like to offer an, as yet, unfinished word about the phrase “thoughts and prayers.” Obviously, when uttered with insincerity and a lack of empathy, this is a hollow phrase deserving of ridicule. However, the act of holding people and situations in the forefront of our minds, and commending people to God in prayer, is a critical part of our calling as Christians. We must not ignore the suffering around us, or put it out of mind. We can both guard our joy AND weep with those who weep. And when we pray, well, we enter the luminous web of the Trinity. If you are a sailor, prayer is the act of turning our sails so as to catch the wind of the Holy Spirit to sail under the Spirit’s power and not our own. Far from being hypocritical, our own thoughts and prayers help us grow in love and empathy. They help us feel more deeply. When people are truly suffering, one of the worst parts is feeling isolated and forgotten. We can make a commitment not to forget them, and to pray for them, perhaps at a time when they cannot summon the words to do so themselves. It’s holy work and I’m glad I’m in it together with you.

Clarke French, Rector

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Summary of Vestry Minutes

AT ITS VESTRY MEETING ON **April 19** THE VESTRY HEARD

- The Rector’s report, including Holy Family hosted the Diocesan Global Mission event, which was very successful. The Rector was pleased with how the events of Holy Week occurred and noted we confirmed nine youth and seven adults at the Easter Vigil. The Rector met with Steve Baucom to discuss a communication and working strategy. A second meeting will be held with Sarah Ball-Damberg and Angela Compton-Nelson.
- The Vestry unanimously voted in favor of endorsing Sadie Koppelberger as a candidate for ordination to the transitional diaconate.
- Roof Update: the roof shingling is now complete, on time and on budget. The solar panels will be installed on the south-facing roofs this spring.
- Outreach Commission-The Vestry discussed funding of the Outreach Commission’s discretionary budget. Some concern was expressed about how funding is set and the amount of money available. There has not been an increase in funding from the budget in some years. It was noted that “outreach” takes many forms. The commission sponsors numerous fundraisers each year, which bring in considerable funds. Giving to and from the clergy benevolent funds has increased significantly. For the past few years, Holy Family’s overall outreach giving has exceeded \$100,000.00 per year.
- Fellowship Commission: The need for an ADA-compliant mechanized door opener from the parish hall to the north parking lot was discussed. The Rector plans to apply for a grant from the Endowment Committee to make this possible.
- Properties Commission: There is no way to install the outdoor, large dome play structure for use by our elementary-aged children on a temporary basis. Work on nearby areas must be completed first, and then the dome can be installed permanently. The additional expense incurred will come from the Memorial Fund.

Commission Meetings in June

Outreach Commission will meet Monday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m., in the St. Augustine Room

Finance Commission will meet Tuesday, June 21, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom.

Vestry will meet Tuesday, June 21, at 7:00 p.m.

Canonical Crime Squad June Meeting

On the road from her husband's burial to her castle, Countess Ela of Salisbury is called upon to investigate a death. Her role as sheriff brings her into conflict with the bishop in his new cathedral and the King's justiciar, who seeks to marry her off and control her lands. Ela is determined to hold onto her power, solve Katie Morse's murder, and bring the pregnant woman's killer to justice. Join the Canonical Crime Squad for ***The Cathedral of Bones* by J. G. Lewis**. We'll meet in the Library or via Zoom on June 13 at 7:00 p.m. for this tale of a fascinating historical figure.

Refugee Welcome Camp - Volunteers wanted

After several pandemic delays, Holy Family will be hosting a day camp for refugee children this summer, July 5 - 8, 2022. It is sponsored by a grant from the Church of the Holy Family Foundation and will include four days of crafts, meal prep/sharing, field trips, story-telling and other adventures.

The camp will run from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. daily, Tuesday - Friday for children ages 6-13. We have funding to support 15 children. Transportation, lunch, and snacks will be provided for campers. There will be paid camp counselors, yet we are also looking for volunteers of any age to participate. We need extra sets of hands to help with craft projects, read stories or help the campers prepare meals. If you can offer an hour or two during the week, we would love for you to join us. There are potentially two small stipends for high schoolers over the age of 16. Please contact Deedee Nachman (ddnachman@gmail.com) or Leslie Butterfield (leslie.butterfield@outlook.com) with how you might like to help.

Did You Know?

Recently the U.S. Government announced that every household is eligible to order eight additional COVID-19 at home tests. Go to <https://www.covid.gov/tests> to submit your request. Test kits are delivered in about two weeks by the U.S. Postal Service.

Altar Flowers

Have you considered giving flowers for the altar one Sunday? Many upcoming Sundays in July, August, September, October, and November need sponsors. Always offered to the glory of God, flowers may also be given in thanksgiving for a special occasion or in memory of loved ones. You may sign up by placing your name on the poster in the narthex or by contacting Julie Hege, our parish administrator, by email (julie@holyfamilych.org) or telephone (919/942-3108).

Christian Education for Children and Youth

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

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The Events in Buffalo, New York and Uvalde, Texas

The recent school shooting in Uvalde, Texas and the grocery store shooting in Buffalo, New York call to mind the chaos, violence, and hatred that too often mark our common life together. I imagine that many of you, like me, are feeling the grief and anxiety of being a parent these days. This Summer, parishioner Sara Smith and Angela Compton-Nelson are working to create a pamphlet-sized resource on gun violence response for households with young children. You may pick up the resource, sized to be tucked into a prayerbook or Bible, and used as needed or desired this Fall from our Christian Formation Library in the Commons. Our resource will include FAQs for talking to children, prayers for your household, action steps you can take at home, and information about Episcopal and Christian communities involved in addressing gun violence and racially motivated hate crimes, locally and nationally.

Prayers to Pray in Your Household Following Instances of Gun Violence in the News

“For People Harmed by Gun Violence”

from *Common Prayer for Children and Families* by Jennifer Gamber and Timothy J.S. Seamans:

Loving God, Source of all healing, you weep when love gives way to hatred, and our souls, once again, weep for those harmed by gun violence; where weapons replace prayers, where peace is overcome with anger, may our hearts grow bold, and may our communities be transformed by our actions and our voices, working through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

“A Prayer For Young Persons” from *The Book of Common Prayer*:

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Summer EYC in the Garden

This Summer, EYC students (including those preparing to enter middle school next year) are invited to join Angela for EYC in the Garden at her home. Students will read short selections about ecology, Scripture, justice, and land, and work to tend a flower garden (the results of which will be offered back to the church and community). If students are not into gardening and would like to participate, they are encouraged to bring a book, watercolors, or other art supplies, and join in fellowship and garden-grown and prepared sun tea. EYC in the garden will meet most weeks of the summer on Wednesday mornings beginning the week of June 20 and a weekday evening (to be decided). Notify Angela of your student’s interest. Once our community is established for the summer, we can work together to come up with geography-based carpool options. Parish adults interested in sharing skills such as flower arranging or preserving or who would enjoy joining the fellowship and fun for a day or two should be in contact with Angela for scheduling.

How to Find a Church for Graduating Seniors

Interested in learning about how to find a new church home while away at college? Graduating seniors should join Angela in the library on Sunday, June 12, following the 10:00 a.m. liturgy in order to reflect on this process together.

Just One Thing

Just One Thing is a program from the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina to connect graduating seniors with chaplains and local congregations in their new college and university communities and settings. If you have a young person heading off to college (for that matter, if you have a young person in your extended family), fill out a five-minute form (link in e-newsletter) and let me know that you have done it! I am happy to facilitate connections between your student and new chaplains, university ministries, or a priest/congregation in their area.

Haiti Scholarship Drive June 12, 19, 26

Each year Church of the Holy Family combines \$10,000.00 from the Outreach budget with donations from parishioners to try to meet the annual budget needs of Notre Dame Elementary School in Molas. The school needs around \$30,000.00 each year for teacher salaries, periodic meals for the kids, and school supplies. Père Jean Jonas Laborde is priest-in-charge in Molas, as well as schools and churches in 3 other communities in the area. He is very dedicated to the community and visits them as often as he can.

In rural Haiti there is no such thing as a public school system and the families are too poor to pay much of anything in tuition. Holy Family is the **ONLY** source of financial support for the school. As Clarke has said, many Episcopal churches in the States have schools attached to them; ours is just 1,200 miles away! **You can donate with a check made out to CHF, memo Haiti Scholarship Drive or online (holyfamilych.org/give and select Haiti Scholarship Fund) or by scanning the QR code. Mesi anpil!**



Here is a recent message from Père Laborde to Holy Family:

“I would like also to thank all partners who [are] never discouraged to help Molas, a Community in big difficulty. Thanks to you many children can go to school, eat something each day. It seems to be nothing but in Haiti, because of poverty, when people could eat and go to school, they are lucky. We love you and the partnership so much. For now, I plan to build a tank to stock rainwater for the children.”

Upcoming Visit From Our Mission Partner Gyani Thapa

Gyani Thapa, who, along with her husband Madhu, leads **Kirtipur Christian Fellowship** in and around Kathmandu, Nepal will be in Chapel Hill June 15-22. Come to the Parish Hall after the 10am service on **June 19** to meet Gyani and hear about the work of their ministry. You will want to hear the amazing story of how John Paul met her as a little girl when he was in Nepal with the Peace Corps in the 1970s!



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.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. *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 (clarke@holysfamilych.org) or the Rev. Sarah Ball-Damberg (sarah@holysfamilych.org).

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, and all refugees.
- **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 Kathy Abbott, Dave Worster, Bill and Mary Harrison, Marie Carotenuto, Sara Smith, Celia Lata, Molly Summerlin, Cynthia Baker, Carolyn Parker, Frances DeHart, John Powell, Jim McCoy, Ivis Bohlen, and Jim Gray; and all those recovering from COVID.

- **Those who have died.**

- **Those expecting children.**

- **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.

Family Affairs

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Endowment Grant Applications to the Church of the Holy Family Endowment are now being accepted. The grant application period runs through **June 30, 2022**. The Endowment Committee hopes each of you will take this opportunity to envision projects that will enhance our parish community and apply for consideration. There are two categories of projects for which the Endowment Committee will consider grant applications: Christian ministry initiatives both within and outside our parish and projects that benefit Holy Family's buildings and property. To receive an application, email Julie (julie@holyfamilych.org)