

LANSDOWNE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Hull Memorial)

Monthly Church News

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June 2006



June, 2006

Friends,

The first Sunday in June is Pentecost, and the following weeks are designated by the ancient church as Ordinary time, the time of the rule of the church. It is such until the beginning of Advent, when we return to the liturgical season

when Jesus takes center stage again. These weeks after Pentecost are the time of the church and the time of the Holy Spirit.

It is always interesting what we discover when we turn to consideration of the church as a human institution. The long teaching in the latter chapters of The Gospel of John which is called Jesus Farewell Discourse has as one of its principal themes that Jesus is leaving them, and that when he is gone, the Holy Spirit will be sent by Jesus from the Father to be with them and the Spirit will be witness to Jesus and will remind them of all that He has told them. The leaving of Jesus is described in Luke/Acts as the ascension of Jesus into the heavens. This took place in the midst of the disciples, and it says that "...they were gazing into heaven." Before this, they asked Jesus "...will at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" And Jesus tells them no one knows the time when this will happen. So when he leaves, he does not leave to return immediately to restore the kingdom. He leaves with the promise of the Holy Spirit and the hope of the realization of the kingdom in the future, but when he leaves humanity is left with the reality of the church as their own reality. The other day, driving around my neighborhood I saw a crudely painted sign in front of a small church which read The Orthodox Presbyterian Church. We all know that that means it is over against the other Presbyterian Churches which are not Orthodox. Our forebears looked on the tatters of Protestantism in the early 19th century and decided that it was all

the stuff that had come in between the first efforts of the followers of Jesus to shape a church under the influence of the Holy Spirit that had created the then current situation of a dangerously divided church. It was the belief of our forebears that all they had to do was restore the early church, the first church, and that could be done by reading what the New Testament had directed about the church and cast aside all the history from the time of Pentecost until the present and the unity of the church would be restored. It was an incredibly naive view of things and in its essential vision a failure. All this to say that here at the celebration of Pentecost and in Ordinary time, we are faced with the fact that what has become of the church is what we are and the flaws of our own human thinking, planning and acting.

Realizing this does not relieve us of the necessity to face the fact that what the church is is what we make of it. That is the church as this particular human institution and the church as the universal people of God. We have been left with our own flawed spirits and minds, our own struggling and often failing spiritual life, our own energy, commitment and efforts. The church is what is produced by these things. And these things are attached to the great, terrible, beautiful and ugly thing the history of the church has been. We cannot free ourselves from this. We cannot pretend that we, by some discovery of history, or some adherence to doctrine, or some resurgence of orthodoxy, can be the faithful and true church. The faithful and true church is what comes from our minds, wills and acts as we contemplate the history and resources of the church and the conditions of our own time and place. It is no easy task, but whether we know it or not, we do it every day.

Peace,

Trent

Brian's Corner

A significant issue of concern in the Lansdowne area is the overabundance of alcohol. While there is a liquor store or bar everywhere you turn, there is no bank, only one restaurant, and not much other business in the community, besides gas stations and barbershops. Consequently, when it was announced that Charm City Liquors, now located in the Sunoco Station, would be moving and becoming expanded in the Hometown Deli down the road, Rev. Bill Cochran of the First Baptist Church rightfully expressed concern about alcohol becoming an even more negative influence in the community. This location is not far from Riverview elementary, and will provide greater availability of alcohol to residents of Riverview and other nearby areas. There are also rumors of other older businesses beginning to sell alcohol and new liquor establishments being developed.

There is to be a liquor board hearing on the move of the liquor store to Hometown Deli; the hearing will be in Towson on Monday, June 19 at 1:20 PM. However, the larger issue is for the future: what are the issues, how do we make the community aware, and how do we make positive change regarding alcohol in Lansdowne? I read a paper that appears to show definitively, through a variety of studies, that with increased proliferation of liquor stores and bars in a community, alcohol consumption and abuse, as well as the problems that go with it, will increase in that community. In other words, the move of the liquor store to Hometown Deli should lead to more alcoholism in Riverview.

The greatest roadblock to change appears to be that people in Lansdowne have little to no knowledge about new liquor stores or bars ahead of time, are not made well aware of liquor board hearings, and are not made aware of what individuals and communities can do to lessen the impact of alcohol in their surroundings. According to the paper I read, it takes involvement of as many facets of the community as possible, and change must come through individual communities to define the sale of alcohol and the implementation of laws in their environs. The specific changes that are encouraged: preventing availability to underage youth, raising alcohol taxes and prices, make sellers of alcohol be more responsible, change where alcohol is available, change hours and days of sale, and grass-roots community-based prevention activities. Together, people can make positive changes in their communities.

God bless, Brian

COMMUNITY

Christian Temple Activities:

- June 19-21 - Chi Rho work trip at First Fruits Farm (including our own Samantha Neilson; keep us in your prayers!)
- Tuesday, June 20, 11AM-2PM - FF&O (Fifty-five and over) trip on the Lady Baltimore, lunch included. Adults: \$33; Seniors: \$27. Call Jane Byers at 410-869-8581 for reservations.
- June 26-July 7 (M-F from 9-3) - Kaleidoscope Arts Camp would appreciate donations of snacks or art supplies; call Pat LaFon at 410-747-3465.
- July 2-8 - Brian and Samantha at Camp Mary Mac. Keep us in your prayers!
- Tuesday, July 4, 11AM - Independence Day concert at Christian Temple. Including Christian Temple's own choir, and bell choir, as well as singers from around the Catonsville area, and The Fugitive Brass Quintet. Arrive early to get a good seat!
- Wednesday, December 6 - New York City bus trip for only \$39 per person. Call Doug Brice at 410-730-8727 to reserve a seat.

Lansdowne Community Activities:

- Wednesday, June 7, 11:30AM-1PM - Baltimore Highlands/Lansdowne/Riverview meeting at the Arbutus library
- Monday, June 12, 7:30PM - Lansdowne Improvement Association meeting at St. Clements Hall
- Wednesday, June 14, 11AM-12:30PM - Youth Program Leaders meeting at the Lansdowne library
- Saturday, June 17, 11AM-3PM - Community fair at Hillcrest Park

FREE HOT MEAL:

On the 4th Wednesday of every month (starting May 24, 2006) from 5:00 - 6:00 PM the Lansdowne United Methodist Church, 114 Laverne Avenue, will serve a hot meal - no reservations needed and no questions asked. If you need a good hot meal, their cooks and volunteers will be there to serve you.

S2006 Summer Concert Series

Sunday, June 11th at 5:00

The Notables

We welcome the Notables to the Patio. They are a singing group of about 40 seniors founded by the late Charles A. Haslip, who served as director. They sing at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, schools and churches. They raise money for annual scholarships to music students at Towson University and Anne Arundel Community College. We are happy to have them perform for us this month

Sunday, July 9th at 5:00

Just Plain Country Plus / The Glad Men of Song

Back to the patio by popular demand is Just Plain Country Plus. If you are a country music lover, you can't miss this one. Just Plain Country Plus is a long established group from Pennsylvania playing some of the best of Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, and other old country favorites. This group also features Lansdowne community's own Bob Anderson.

Also, on the billing is the Glad Men of Song. The Glad Men have their roots in a Cardinal Gibbons High School money raiser in the 1960's and now perform in nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living facilities and churches. They have been entertaining people for many years.

Sunday, August 13th at 5:00

Them Eastport Oyster Boys

Meet the Maritime Republic of Eastport's own musical sons, Jefferson Holland and Kevin Brooks, who provide a knee tapping, toe-slapping, comical musical history tour of Annapolis, Eastport and the Chesapeake through original songs and stories. No other musical group captures the flavor of past and present Annapolis like Them Eastport Oyster Boys. Through their songs and stories, you are taken back to the days of the skipjacks when life was slow and oysters and crabs were the centerpiece of life. And then, Kevin and Jefferson bring you back to today's Land of Pleasant Living for a peek into the life of those who treasure this unique bit of America along the Chesapeake Bay.

Sunday, September 10th at 5:00

Annapolis Junction Big Band

Annapolis Junction Big Band is a 17-piece band featuring the standard mix of saxophones, trumpets, trombones, rhythm, and vocals. This band specializes in big band swing from the classic music of the 30's & 40's. They have played for private and public affairs in and around Annapolis / Baltimore since 1994 and because this band plays mostly swing music, it has also been billed as the Annapolis Junction Swing Band.

CONGREGATION

The Mother's Day Blanket Sunday resulted in 68 blankets for Church World Service to use to help "Blanket the World With Love." Now it's time to think about Father's Day, June 18th, by purchasing a tool to honor or remember your father in the same manner. Please fill out the form on the entrance table in church and place it in the offering plate or call Lois (410-859-3390) by June 15th to give her the information so it can be included in the Father's Day Bulletin.

also noted for readers the 101st celebration of Grand ARmy Day: Sunday May 28 was the 101st celebration of Grand Army Day at Lansdowne Christian Church. Our speaker was Dan Toomey, who in the course of his remarks read from an address by an officer of the GAR given on the dedication of the windows at the front and back of our sanctuary. A copy of the text of the speech will be sent to us by Mr. Toomey.

Church Web Site

Don't forget: when you need to tell someone about our church, the information and all old newsletters can be found on the web site. Tell them to visit: www.erols.com/lanscc. Or just search for "Lansdowne Christian Church".

Prayer List

LANSDOWNE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (HULL MEMORIAL)



101 Clyde Avenue
Baltimore, Md. 21227
410-242-4821

Web: www.erols.com/lanscc

General Announcements:

Tina Neilson at 410-923-6056
e-mail: neilson@erols.com

News Letter Information:

Submit by 3rd weekend of the month to:
e-mail lanscc@erols.com
(subject line: News Letter)

Contacts:

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Organist: Randy Neilson (410-923-6056)
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Custodian: Vera Lester
Worship: Peggy Lowe (410-789-2990)
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Property: Vernon Neilson (410-859-3390)
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Outreach: Vernon Neilson (410-859-3390)
Membership: Lois Neilson (410-859-3390)

Helen Gerber [Recovery]	Barbara Geir (Recovery cancer)
Blake Neilson (Health)	Josh Martin (cancer recovery)
Cass Rimbach [Over 90 Club]	LaRue Hopp (health/recovery)
Thelma McConkey (Health/recovery)	Dorothy Schneider [Over 100 Club]
Alice Bishop (Thelma's sister)	Dal Kopec Jr. (Lung cancer)
granddaughter Sarah & great-granddaughter Holly Paige	Cindy Schneider (Al Schneider's wife)
Son in law: John Wilson (recovery)	Joe Kinsey, Stan and George Keys (all Glad Men of Song)
Niece Cheryl (surgery recovery)	Ronnie O'Brien (Hip surgery)
Todd Cepeda [health]	Carol Ann (Carroll's family)
Cynthia Neilson (Health/Recovery)	Peggy's Mom/Doris Buxbaum
Dorothea Duckett (Over 90 Club)	Brother in law/ Bob Blake (recovery)
Scott MurphyNeilson (Health/ recovery)	Peggys friend Charlene Green
Ray Hall [Over 90 Club]	Gilbert "Lee" Lester (pneumonia)
Beluah Owings (Trent's Mom)	Ethel Debelius (Jan Hardings mother)
Christine Tadd (Trent niece/ recovery)	Paul Hofman (Health/recovery))
Emily Marlow [recovery/cancer]	Ann Wray (Health)

THE BOOK CORNER, JUNE, 2006

I think that I may have already mentioned The DaVinci Code by Dan Brown in this space once before. I raise it again because of the opening of the movie based on the book, and because of the conversation and controversy that has been occasioned by both the book and the movie. I can't remember when a novel spawned so many other books in an attempt to cash in on the genre, or to take on some ideas in the book. It is quite remarkable. I propose that we make another trip as a group to the movie theater, as we did some time ago to see The Passion of the Christ, to see The DaVinci Code and then to gather at someone's house to have a conversation about it.

There are those who want to challenge ideas in the book and film, there are those who would like to boycott the movie and there are those who believe that the book and the movie constitute some affront or some offense. This latter response raises some very interesting issues. If Jesus was an historical figure, which we all tend to hold as true, it is important for us to know two things. There are those who make the case that he was not; that the

telling of the Christian story is a myth in the same way that the ancient stories of other religions are myths. This claim can be addressed, but we must not forget that the case has been made in the past and is still made in some quarters. If we want to address this claim then we must be ready to accept the fact that if Jesus is an historical figure, as such, he, and the story claimed for him, is subject to the investigation of others who may accept what we might accept about Jesus as historical figure. Brown makes the suggestion that Jesus married and had a child. He is not the first to make this claim. But because it is not in our theological understanding of the identity of Jesus, that does not mean that his history cannot be investigated by students who do not believe as we do. Anyway, I think we might decide on an evening to go together to see the movie and spend some time talking about it. What do you think?

We still need to find the books for the summer!
Trent

Scripture Readings for June

Lectionary Readings for June

6/4, Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
6/11, Isaiah 6:1-8, John 3:1-17
6/18, 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
6/25, 1 Samuel 7, Mark 4:35-41

Remember, try to read these texts once or more each day, along with some time to meditate on the passages