

Holy Eucharist

Processional Hymn: *Holy, holy, holy*

Words and music on page 7

Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. *Amen.*

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

The Reading

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day. And God said, Let there be

lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day. And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn *All things bright and beautiful*

Words and music on page 8

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

Fr. Craig Lister

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

Prayers of the People

Intercessor: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God, let us pray to the Lord. *(silence)*

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For Foley, our Archbishop, and Steven, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our diocese and congregation, let us pray to the Lord. *(silence)*

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others, let us pray to the Lord. *(silence)*

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith, let us pray to the Lord. *(silence)*

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For our nation, for those in authority and for all in public service let us pray to the Lord. *(silence)*

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity [especially _____], let us pray to the Lord. *(silence)*

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For all those who departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection [especially _____], in thanksgiving let us pray to the Lord. *(silence)*

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes with the following prayer

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Confession and Absolution of Sin

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Announcements

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

"Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty, to thee we sing;
long may our land be bright
with freedom's holy light;
protect us by thy might,
great God, our King."

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For with your co-eternal Son and Holy Spirit, you are one God, one Lord, in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being; and we celebrate the one and equal glory of you, O Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and people

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. *Amen.*

Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Blessing

Closing Hymn *Holy God, we praise thy Name (vss. 1-4)*

Words and music on page 9

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy, holy, holy

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 *2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee:
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the sin - ful hu - man eye thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.
 which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt. Music: *Nicaea*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

All things bright and beautiful

Descant

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small,

Refrain

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all.

all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

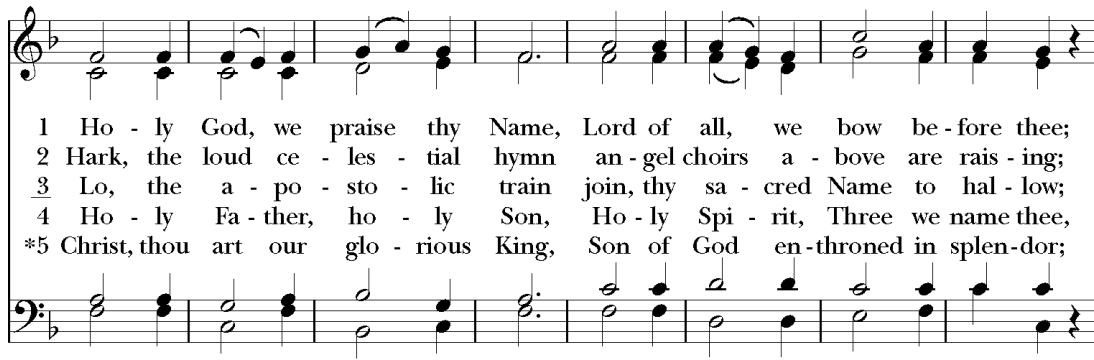
1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
 4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

Repeat Refrain


he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky,
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) Music: *Royal Oak*, melody from *The Dancing Master*, 1686; adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958)
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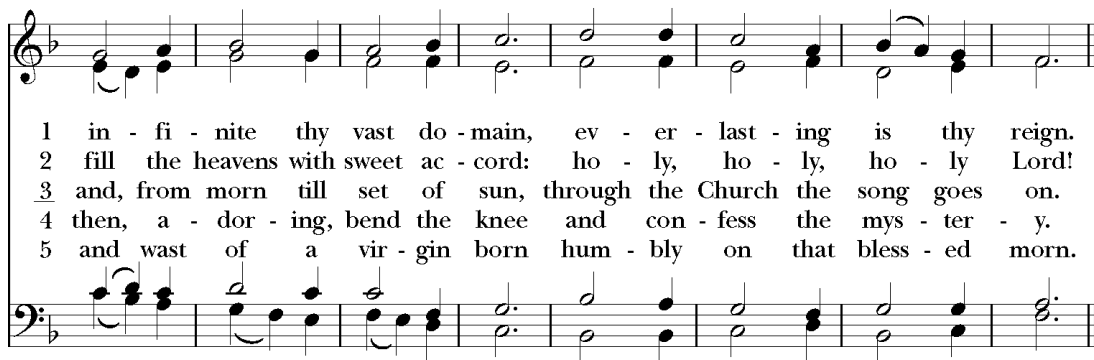
Holy God, we praise they Name (vss. 1-4)



1 Ho - ly God, we praise thy Name, Lord of all, we bow be - fore thee;
 2 Hark, the loud ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing;
 3 Lo, the a - po - sto - lic train join, thy sa - cred Name to hal - low;
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spi - rit, Three we name thee,
 *5 Christ, thou art our glo - rious King, Son of God en - throned in splen - dor;



1 all on earth thy scep - ter claim, all in heaven a - bove a - dore thee;
 2 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim, in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing,
 3 pro - phets swell the loud re - frain, and the white-robed mar - tys fol - low;
 4 while in es - sence on - ly One, un - di - vi - ded God we claim thee;
 5 but de - liv - er - ance to bring thou all hon - ors didst sur - ren - der,



1 in - fi - nite thy vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is thy reign.
 2 fill the heavens with sweet ac - cord: ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
 3 and, from morn till set of sun, through the Church the song goes on.
 4 then, a - dor - ing, bend the knee and con - fess the mys - ter - y.
 5 and wast of a vir - gin born hum - bly on that bless - ed morn.

6 Thou didst take the sting from death,
 Son of God, as Savior given;
 on the cross thy dying breath
 opened wide the realm of heaven.
 In the glory of that land
 thou art set at God's right hand.

7 As our judge thou wilt appear.
 Savior, who hast died to win us,
 help thy servants, drawing near.
 Lord, renew our hearts within us.
 Grant that with thy saints we may
 dwell in everlasting day.

Words: Para. *Te Deum*; sts. 1-4, Ignaz Franz (1719-1790); tr. Clarence Walworth (1820-1900). Sts. 5-7, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Grosser Gott*, melody from *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1686; alt. *Cantate*, 1851; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after Conrad Kocher (1786-1872) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

St. Francis Anglican Parish

Prayer List

For the concerns weighing on the hearts and minds of members of this congregation:

Pray for those who are ill:

Rick Hager
Jack Beyer
*Helen Frechette
*Susan Dixon
Sheila Holland
*Nina Bonti
Carole Womble

Les Sadler
*Mackenzie Stinson
Barbara Kuhn
Mary Quinn
Patricia Spaulding
Norma Parten
Cynthia McNeil

*Harriet Tice
*Betty Pittman
Robert Tatum
Sophia Johnson
Mary Perkins
*Jim Bonti

*Member of St. Francis

If you need to add or remove a name from the prayer list please call Sue Comstock at 919-498-9154 or you can email her at suectrace@gmail.com. Names will be removed after three weeks unless you contact Sue to extend the time.

Pray for strength and divine guidance: Bruce, Mark.

Pray for those serving all over the world in our military: Matthew Pate, Ben Hodsdon, William Puckett, Katherine Campbell, Tommy Walker, Brian Gille, George Walter, Patrick Hart, Jim Makepeace, Stephen Hart, Rick Smith, Chris Bladgett, Ryan Childress, Greg Poe, Josh Pratt, Jody Gordon, Raymond DeSantos and Eliza.

Pray for the departed: Betty Jean Beckerman, Kenneth Mills, Jackie Felix, Mae Moore, Murray Sayer, Jerry Jessup, Bessie Palmer, Evie Hoaglund, Virginia McIver.

Altar Flowers - The altar flowers are given by Jim and Barbara Jameson to the Glory of God and in honor of this year's graduates.

High School Graduates - Michael Crumpton, Blair Gille, Callie Davis and Callie Steger.

Those serving today:

Ushers:	Oliver Crawley and Bill Oberkirsch
Chalice Bearers:	Dwight Edmonds and Amy Davis
Lector:	Elizabeth Oberkirsch
Acolytes:	Michael Crumpton and Harris Wilkinson
Coffee Hour:	The Crumpton family
Organist:	Rosemary Parten
Altar Guild:	Jean Dabbs, Lisa Meadows, Mary Ann Dusenbury and Edie Makepeace

Announcements

Sunday School - All Sunday School classes will convene today after this service. The teen class will be taught by Stuart Smith.

Search Committee - The Search Committee would like to remind you to provide comments via the survey either by paper or digital (<https://goo.gl/forms/93VBFkgVx53kvM6U2>) We will be closing this survey on Sunday, June 18, 2017.

New Prayer Bookmarks - Pick yours up today.

Stewardship Insert today

St. Francis Men's Group - Will meet on Monday, June 12, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Pledge Sunday - Next Sunday, June 18, 2017.

Vestry nominee forms - Available now.

St. Francis website - Please make it a point to visit stfrancisnc.org. There you can get all the latest news about our parish. It's a wonderful website managed by our own Dr. Charles Wick.

Women's Ministry Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SUMMER MOVIES AT HELEN WARD'S HOME!

Monday, June 26--"HIDDEN FIGURES," the story of a team of three African American women mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the space program. One review calls it "a story of brilliance but not of ego...struggle and willpower but not individual glory." Refreshing, heartfelt, memorable! Two showings, 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm. Seating is limited to 10 per showing, so sign up soon. Popcorn and drinks (as well as super-comfy seating!) are provided.

Breeze Information (our parish's database)

* Questions: If you have questions about Breeze (or need to be added), please contact Brian Haynes at brianh72004@yahoo.com or (443) 326-8823. He also is happy to answer questions during the coffee hour after service.

* Information class: There will be one (or more) classes set up in the future. Please look for the signup sheet in the fellowship hall. Based on input received, the class dates/times will be determined.

* Breeze photos: If you need assistance with uploading your photo to Breeze, please contact Brian Haynes. Brian can assist in the following ways - 1) take a photo of you after church or 2) use an existing photo and upload it for you (it can either be a printed photo or one you send him via email or text).

Breeze website: <http://www.sfap.breezechms.com>

First – a little of my story...

I was very blessed to have been born into a life with Christ. Baptized at birth, raised in a God-fearing southern Christian family; I was active in our church every week as crucifer, as a choir member, and occasionally reading the lessons. As soon as I was old enough to get an allowance, I began my own share of tithing. (I think initially it was only a penny, as my allowance was only a dime a week!) I was confirmed when I was 12 and, had there been more kids in our little Episcopal church, I'm sure I would have been an active leading participant in a youth group. Church camp every summer at Camp Henry was a family tradition that I carried on from 3rd grade and up, all the way through high school as a counselor. Although I didn't understand it at the time, my stewardship had been occurring all along, with sharing the talents God had given me.

I admit I went through a fairly long phase of not attending church...not so much rebelling against God – although I had my share of that – but mostly because the “church building” didn't meet my needs so to speak; the people didn't mean fellowship to me. With my strong upbringing in faith, I did continue a personal relationship with God, in what I saw as a more direct communication with Him.

Together Bill and I tried to find a church to go to, but never felt a connection, even to the church in North Raleigh we became members of, so our attendance was sporadic at best during our first 10 years or so together. When we moved to Sanford, we were a bit skeptical of “church”. Being born and raised an Episcopalian, we considered St Thomas, but by this time I had lost faith in the “establishment” of religion; the inconsistency and go-with-the-flow approach I saw in the Episcopal denomination, but I didn't know where else to go, so again we became sporadic attendees at St Thomas.

When we became foster parents the first time, I knew the importance of being raised in a church family, so for her, we became more regular attendees. It was then that I realized my journey had found a landing zone. The more we came, the more I realized that Father Craig wasn't the typical Episcopal minister that I had lost faith in over the years. Through his ministering, as well as that of the congregation, I began to see that a church building and a “denomination” wasn't what it was about, and that he wasn't the type of spiritual leader who just walked the denominational line. His strength of conviction, that he often even put in writing, to stand firm in his beliefs of the way it should be, helped us find a home. And obviously, we weren't the only ones. Here, we found that fellowship – that church family that was real, not superficial.

That fellowship, that family, has been such a huge difference in our lives. We have been blessed with so much, and in SO many ways, in this life, sometimes it's easy to forget that it ALL comes from Him. The talents we have and use every day, the people who touch our lives and the lives of those we touch, it all comes from God; it's all part of God's plan.

n [Colossians 3:23-24](#) Paul writes:

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

A *steward* is someone who manages something of someone else's. Stewardship is about being grateful, responsible *stewards* of the gifts we receive from God. The tradition of giving back to God and to the church comes from the Biblical practice of "tithing," which means to give back a tenth of our earnings to God (Numbers 18:26). But "earnings" isn't just about money. We often hear that "time is priceless" – the time we spend helping others, sharing what we've learned, and taking the time to listen and learn what others have to share with us. It's about how God is calling people to use their gifts, passions, time and talents. Each week, putting that donation into the offering plate, I know I'm giving back what will lead to helping others find what God has blessed them with. Yes, it's money and it helps pay the bills, but it also reminds me of all the time and talents God has given to me to share, has given to all of those around us to share. That little sacrifice I'm making, reminds me of God's sacrifice of His Son, earning us a place in heaven. It reminds me of the biblical basics: "to be a responsible steward of God's gifts". It reminds me that I am a part of a church family, helping to support them, as they have given so freely of themselves to support me in more ways than I can express here in words. That's what Stewardship means to me...being part of God's family, serving by sharing all that God has blessed me with in this life.

Elizabeth (EJ) Oberkirsch