

THE PIEDMONT EPISTLE

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS BY WORD AND DEED

September 2018

Visiting The Holy Land

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
And now here we are, standing inside your gates, O Jerusalem.*

Psalm 122

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

One of the more radical transformations that Jesus made to the Jewish religion of his day was to reorient the focus of worship from the Temple in Jerusalem to himself. This was a profound shift, not only theological, but also in terms of spirituality, for the worship and devotions of his followers. Now, no longer did his Jewish (and gentile) followers need to make sacrifices at the Temple. They could worship and experience God's presence (Jesus' presence) wherever they gathered and ate together ("wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them", Mat 18:20). There were no longer any holy places and unholy places. God was present in Christ in the Spirit whenever the faithful are gathered.



This is one of the major differences between Christianity, on the one hand, and Judaism and Islam, on the other. In both Judaism and Islam, making a pilgrimage is an important component of their religious practice. Muslims are expected to make a pilgrimage to Mecca (the haj) at least once in their life. And Jews living in Israel are expected to go to Jerusalem three times a year for the major festivals—*Pesach* (Passover), *Shavuot* (Weeks or Pentecost), and *Sukkot* (Tabernacles, Tents or Booths). Christianity, by contrast, has no similar expectation.

Nevertheless, Christians have throughout the centuries made pilgrimages, journeys to holy places, as acts of devotion or some cases as acts of penance. Throughout Europe, local pilgrimage sites arose as faithful believers sought God's presence and blessing at places known to have been inhabited by saints. Some of the best known are places like Canterbury in England, Santiago in northwest Spain, and the St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. But preeminent among pilgrimage destination has always been the Holy Land.

The Holy Land is where it all started; the lands into which Abraham first walked from Ur, the land which God promised to Abraham and his descendants. This is where Isaac, Jacob, Sarah and Leah lived. This is a land which, for generations, all armies

and nations have aspired to conquer and control, the land where David triumphed over Goliath, and where Solomon built his temple. But above all, this is where Jesus was born, crucified and resurrected. In the Holy Land one can walk where Jesus walked, literally follow in his footsteps, see and feel the places where the disciples walked with the Lord, where Jesus performed his miracles, and the place where he was nailed to the cross to forgive the sins of all Christians.

It is one thing to study the Bible when you are 6000 miles away, but it is a completely different – some say life-changing – experience doing it while in the Holy Land. The text truly comes to life when you read the Sermon on the Mount while standing on the Mount of Beatitudes; likewise, it is one thing to read about the Empty Tomb, but a whole different experience when you get to enter and see the tomb with your own eyes. It is only here in Israel that the Bible truly comes to life, in full 3D Technicolor glory. For this reason, the Holy Land has long been called the “fifth Gospel.”

Next month, at the invitation of a friend and with the support of our Vestry, I will be embarking on a two week pilgrimage to the Holy Land, to Israel and Jordan. I will be gone for two weeks (Oct 1-14), endeavoring to understand, and experience, and deepen my appreciation of the origins of our faith. Among the places I will be visiting are CANA OF GALILEE, where Jesus performed his first miracle (turning water into wine at a dinner feast); CAPERNAUM, where Jesus preached in the synagogue, performed several miracles, and lived during a short period in his life; THE JORDAN RIVER, where Jesus was baptized; NAZARETH, where Jesus spent much of his childhood with Joseph and Mary; BETHLEHEM, where Jesus of Nazareth was born; JERUSALEM, the historic site of the Jewish Temple and the place where our Lord was arrested, tried, crucified and resurrected; and the DEAD SEA, where, at the nearby Qumran caves, where in 1946/7 was found a collection of scrolls including the second-oldest known surviving manuscripts of works included in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament).

In anticipation of my pilgrimage, I will be leading two adult forums after worship, on September 23 and 30, to share with you about where I will be going. The first, on the 23rd, will discuss the geography and politics of ancient Israel, to point out where all the events of Jesus’ ministry took place. Many of us have heard the stories, but few of us have a full picture in our minds of the land of Jesus’ day. And on the 30th, I will be discussing the present state of the Holy Land, its history, political tensions, and challenges.

I hope you will join me for these forums at the end of the month and will join me in October in praying for my pilgrimage. That it will enrich my faith and knowledge in such a way that I can bear those blessings back to you.

All the best,

W Terry Miller

Terry+

Adult Forums

“Discovering the Holy Land”

Sept 23 Israel of the Bible

Sept 30 The Holy Land Today—
Geography and Politics

Fr. Terry's Holy Land Itinerary

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2 FLIGHT TO AMMAN, JORDAN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3 DRIVE TO ISRAEL/TOUR OF JAFFA Arrive in Israel and proceed for a short tour of Jaffa (Joppa) to visit the location of Simon the Tanner's House.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4 MT. CARMEL/MEGIDDO/NAZARETH/CANA/GALILEE

Visit to Caesarea, once a proud Roman port city dating back to the time of Pontius Pilate. View Herod's Palace and the monumental Roman amphitheater built in the days of Christ. From here, travel to Mt. Carmel where Elijah held a contest against the false prophets of Baal. Next, travel to Megiddo overlooking the plains of Armageddon. Then to Nazareth where Jesus grew up and to the precipice over which the crowd planned to throw Jesus. Afterwards, visit Cana, the site of the first miracle where Jesus turned water to wine.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5 GALILEE—MT. BEATITUDES/TABGHA/CAPERNAUM

After breakfast, the first stop will be Mt. Beatitudes. Near here Jesus gave the Beatitudes and taught on many occasions. Here he also performed many of the miracles. Travel to Tabgha to commemorate the miracle of feeding 5000. Nearby is the Church of Primacy, where Jesus appeared to his Disciples after his resurrection. Continue to Capernaum where much of the Galilean Ministry took place. Afterwards, a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and hear how Jesus calmed the stormy sea and walked upon these waters.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 CAESAREA PHILIPPI/MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION

Visit Magdala, believed to be the home-town of Mary Magdala. After a tour of a Kibbutz (Jewish farming commune), the next stop will be at Tel Dan, identified with the Biblical city of Dan, the northernmost city in the Kingdom of Israel. From here, ascend the Golan Heights and visit the sacred site of Caesarea Philippi and view Mount Hermon (Mt of the Transfiguration).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 MASADA/DEAD SEA /QUMRAN

Ascend Masada, where 960 Jewish defenders organized the last resistance against the Roman Conquerors. Then travel to the Dead Sea and continue to Ein Gedi to view King David's Waterfalls and then to Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8 JERUSALEM--MT. OF OLIVES/WESTERN WALL/UPPER ROOM/GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE/CAIPHAS' HOUSE

Visit the Old City of Jerusalem, drive to the crest of Mt. of Olives followed by a walking tour of the Garden of Gethsemane, Pools of Bethesda, Upper Room of the Last Supper, Ecce Homo Arch, Western Wall, Cardo, Jewish Quarters, Caiaphas' House & Dungeon and Oriental Bazaars.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9 JERUSALEM-- KNESSET/ BETHLEHEM/GARDEN TOMB

Visit to the Model of ancient Jerusalem and the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are housed. Next, view the Knesset (Israel's Parliament) and then a visit to Yad Vashem, a memorial to the Six Million Jews that lost their lives in the Holocaust. Continue to Shepherds Field and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the Garden Tomb.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10 JERUSALEM—TEMPLE MOUNT

Explore the city of Jerusalem, the open market and the Temple Mount.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11-14 JORDAN

The last few days will be spent touring Jordan with a friend.

Deacon's Report

Taste and See *Rally Day*

*Piedmont Episcopal Church
September 9, 2018 @ 10:00 AM
214 Church Street, Madison*

*Join us for worship
And stay afterward for
Games, good food, and fellowship
Bring a friend or a neighbor and
share the Good News!*

For more information call 540-948-6787

The Goodness of the Lord



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loose Plate Offering

The Loose Plate Offering (cash) that is collected on the fourth Sunday of September (September 23) will be the Literary Council to advance their mission of providing education services to adult residents of Madison County. Please remember these children in your giving.

MESA Food Donations

Please bring a can, bag, bottle, or box of non-perishable food item to give to the MESA food pantry.

Taste of the Mountains—September 1--Continuing long-standing tradition, our congregation will host a children's game booth at the annual food fair here in Madison. Please contact Bev Young if you could help with its set-up, operation, or taking-down.



Rally Sunday!



Rally Day-- September 9

Mark your calendars! Rally Day 2018 will be September 9. Rally Day is the day we "rally" our members for the start of Sunday School and the program year. The celebration will include a potluck and special activities for children after worship.

Pumpkin Festival—October 6

Piedmont will be hosting its Second Annual Pumpkin Fest on the third Saturday of this month. We will be offering pumpkins, baked goods, and crafts for sale, as well as games for the children. This event will be a fund-raiser, but more importantly, an opportunity for us to engage with the community. If you can help with set-up and operation on that Saturday, please contact Susan Kennedy. It's going to be a great event, so bring your friends!



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday	10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II 11:30 a.m. Refreshments in the parish house
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Community Book Discussion
Thursday	7:00 p.m. Bible Study, The Epistles of John, parish house

PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

We offer prayers of healing for friends and family:

Melvin Amos	Cynthia Gerstner	Abigail Newman
Corey Barker	Carrie Gilles	Carol Nowak
Barbara Beach	The Gleason family	Amanda Paff
Emily Begovitch (Kathy Henken's niece)	Griff & Vera Griffin	Sara Parmenter
Fran Bowers	Stanley Griffin (Vera & Griff's son)	The Puryear family
Jean Brashears	Reggie Hall (Barbara Straightiff's brother-in-law)	Maria Rosenberg
Max Brown (Sue Burnett's friend, 4-y.o.)	Susan Hansen	Lorraine Sandifer
Jane Camerer	Luke Harbert	Myia MacKenzie Shifflett
Doris & Roland Chapman	Sue Lam	Jacqueline Smith
Sandra Clore (Waltine Robinson's niece)	Ted and René Hinds	Barbara Straightiff
The Cox family	The Hitt family	Stephanie & Keith Stricker
Harley Cronk	Serenity Grace Lemen	Bob Thomas
David Cronk	Ren LeVally (Dink's son)	Matt Tsun
Janice Edwards	Richard Medeiros Jr.	Robert Ulrich
The Filmore Family	Keira & Brendan Miller	Bernie Valdez
Patrick & Sean Fohner	Rosalie Mow (Doug's mother)	Donna Whitman (friend of the Griffiths)
James Gardiner	Susan Mowchan	Augusta Woodward
Lisa Gardner	Dorothy Mudd	Jeff Yowel
	Susan Muston	

We pray for peace and the restoration of people's safety and dignity in Philippines, Pakistan, Syria, Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Iran, Sudan, West Africa, and the Congo. We pray for the victims of violence in Beirut, Baghdad, Kenya, Paris, and San Bernardino.

We pray for the men and women in the armed services, especially Mike Butterworth, Patrick DaSilva, Graham Davidson, Sean Hegg, R.E. Hutton, Nathan Kinkey, Alex Gochenour, Jeffery Mainwaring, Todd Mainwaring, Anthony Mark, and Clay Puryear, and for our first responders. We pray for our presiding bishop, Michael Curry; our bishops, Shannon Johnston, Susan Goff, Bob Ihloff, the churches of the Diocese of Virginia, and for our 70 million brothers and sisters in the Anglican Communion.

We pray for the families in Barbara's House; for the work of Madison Emergency Services Association, Madison Free Clinic, Literacy Council of Madison County, Boy's and Girl's Club of Madison, Senior Nutrition Site, Madison County Education Foundation, and Boy Scout Troop 116.

We pray for our youth in college: Nick Bader, Josh Good, Izzie Hansen, Ben Landolt, Sam Landolt, Paul Jackson, Peter Thawngzauk, Jacob Young, & Nathan Young.

We give thanks to God for all the families in this blessed Piedmont Church, and especially for the work God has done in the life of Peter Bank, in his recovery from surgery. Gracious Lord, guide, preserve and protect your servants as they create for your glory a holy family of love. May their love for each other be a sign of your tender care.

Daughters of the King Update

It has been a while since we meet to talk about what it would mean to become a member of the Order of the Daughters of the King. Vickie, Kathryn and I have not forgotten your interest and have been working with the ladies of St. Stephen's on how to forge ahead.

As a reminder of what it means to be a member... "No special spiritual attributes are needed to become a Daughter of the King – only a sincere desire to draw nearer to God, and to help others do the same. We are a group of Christian women who adopt a [Rule of Life](#) based on the promises of our Baptismal Covenant..."

But how do we discern the call to this deeper commitment? This involves prayer, study, training and service. This is a time to "learn about: 1) who we are, 2) what we do, 3) what is expected of us as members, and 4) whether God is calling you to make this commitment." The ladies of St. Stephen's have offered to guide us through this one Saturday a month, starting on October 13 at 9:00am for about an hour.

If you are still interested and have questions we will have a brief get together on Sunday, September 16th after church. This will also be a time for you to confirm that you want to move ahead, do the study and start a chapter. In the meantime if you wish to learn more about DOK, here is the link. <https://www.doknational.org/> There is a lot of information which can be overwhelming so start with Membership>Become A Member.

If I have missed anyone from the initial gathering please forward this to them.

Thank you,
Briarley