



Epistle

Ancient...Classical...Scriptural...Spirit-led

SEPTEMBER 2011

VOL. 20 NO. 9 ONLINE EDITION

God Works Through the Gift of a Book

by Pastor Thomas Oscar
Page 1

Liturgy Lesson

Offices of Instructions
Page 3

All Saints Outreach

Food Pantry, Strong Foundation Ministries & more!
by Bill Wimp
Page 6

All Saints Fall Festival!

Coming Oct. 29
Page 7

Prayer List

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" - St. James 5:16
Please See Members' Section

Rector's Devotional

People's Work
by Fr Chip
Page 2

The Mountain of Unbelief

by Ellen Dass
Page 4

Kid's Corner

God's Plan
Page 8

Man plans....

God laughs!
by Jason Dass
Page 10

GOD WORKS THROUGH THE GIFT OF A BOOK

by Pastor Thomas Oscar

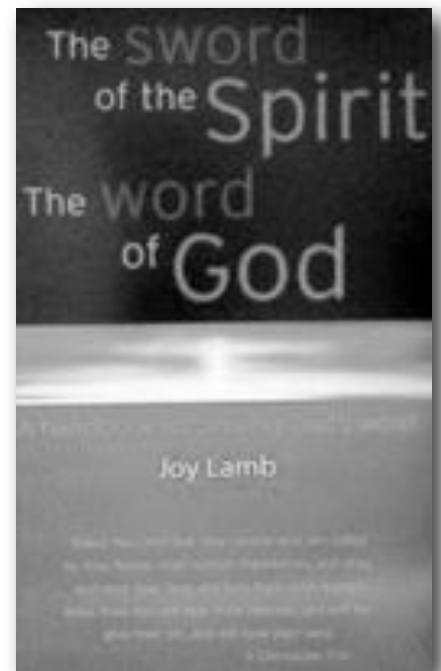
Fr Chip sent the book *The Sword of the Spirit, The Word of God* to Senior Pastor Thomas Oscar, Co-Founder of the New Life Gospel Fellowship in Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Pastor Oscar wrote to Father Chip:

"I really thank you in God for this book. For me this is not just a good book, but this is a great blessing for me, my family, and my Christian community where I am performing my pastoral activities. I have started reading the book and read the passages quoted in the book. I keep the Holy Bible with me to read same passages in the Bible too. I meditate on the passages. I found this book very useful to make life holy, for healing and fight with the demons, devil and all its powers. This is a unique book it covers almost all aspects of our spiritual life. My loving Father as I am reading the Book I got a revelation from God to translate this book into my local language (Urdu) and distribute in my local community here so that my local community will

be benefited from it. First I will read it and meditate on it deeply and ask help from God. Then I will start translate it. I am sure this book will be very much fruitful for the people who can not read English they will get this book in their local language."

How awesome that God takes the simple gift of a book and uses it to reach a whole community of Christians in a non-Christian nation more than eight thousand miles away!





RECTOR'S DEVOTIONAL:

People's Work

Bible Reading: "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." --St. John 4:23-24

Bonus Readings: Luke 3:15-17; Acts 1:5; Phil 3:3; Rom 12:1

"There is some loss in the use of printed words; but there is a greater gain. We have in them the accumulated wisdom and beauty of the Christian Church, the garnered excellence of the saints. We are by them released from the accidents of time and place. Above all we are preserved against the worst dangers of selfishness: in the common prayer we join together in a great fellowship that is as wide as the world; and we are guided, not by the limited notions of our own priest, nor by the narrow impulses of our own desires, but by the mighty voice that rises from the general heart of Christendom." — Percy Dearmer, *Everyman's History of the PrayerBook*, 1912.



I'm a high churchman, and an Anglo-Catholic...believing and holding to what has "been taught semper et ubique (always and everywhere). My heart of hearts is in the stone chapels and ancient tones of the Church Catholic. And, in that expression, John Wesley captured, in 1784, what resonates with me. "I believe there is no liturgy in the world, either in ancient or modern language, which breathes more of a solid, scriptural, rational piety, than the Common Prayer of the Church of England: and the main of it was compiled considerably more than two hundred years ago, yet is the language of it not only pure, but strong and elegant in the highest degree." That describes our liturgy. Ancient and Scriptural. And, characteristic to here, full of the Holy Ghost.

Centuries have passed, and Wesley's observation still rings true. And the breath of "solid, scriptural, rational piety" is couched, for me in the Person of God the Holy Ghost...the Spirit of Truth. Like God to Adam in Genesis, He breathes the Breath (Spirit) of Life into this ancient, reliable avenue of approach to the Heavens. He brings the Shekinah down as we worship in "spirit and truth." And, after centuries of use, there's a lot of residual glory in our prayerbook...if we invoke and release the Holy Ghost to inhabit those praises and prayers.

This is not to say I don't love every other expression of Christian worship...I find Him easily in an evangelical tent meeting or a free-wheeling Holy Ghost prayer and praise gathering. In fact, anyone who has attended All Saints' Sunday night Koinonia can tell you that we have elements of both there, in trumps, but, even there, when we have our concluding Spirit-led prayer time, we will have some liturgical prayer to punctuate that move of the Paraclete.

That's the thing...we need all the expressions, but the liturgical expression, to me, is like the bedrock of the Spirit's river. His currents eddy and ripple in its course. If we will allow our own spirits to predominate over our intellect, emotions and body, the flow of the Holy Ghost in liturgy, as in all worship, will take us to places we wouldn't go to on our own. It's transcendent. And, it's unifying in ways you may not suspect.



I think this is where God wants us: In the fullness of His Spirit, we love the diversity of joy and interaction in all our forms of worship. Like movements in a great symphony, full worship has various moods, movements, and tempos that, like a symphony, characterize the piece and convey the intention of the Composer, provided via the interpretation of the musicians. And worship, like

continued on pg. 3



music, is usually better in the company of other lovers of it and with live musicians. We share the music together and benefit from the each other's participation in the experience. We literally are, in the words of Hebrews, encouraging each other to "good works" in common worship of all kinds—but most especially when we worship in glow of the Holy Ghost. So, it's a call to *community*, as well as worship.

So, liturgical worship—something we inherited from our Hebrews antecedents—is indeed the best of all. Ultimately, God wants His people to be open to His SPIRIT and to be willing to find Him regardless of the way His people minister their love to HIm. Of course, that's gonna mean some work on our part because we all have our preferences.

That's the point...and the real translation of the term "liturgy"...the work of the people. If we really are doing business with God, our worship, whatever form

it takes, requires us work at it through His real, present, and personal Holy Ghost. And so...everyone who really worships, then, in the purest sense, worships in liturgy...whether it's written down or not. So, we really are together...One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism. So...let's get to work, People of God.

It's good to have unity, isn't it?



Pray about it:
“How do I worship in Spirit and Truth?”



LITURGY LESSON FOR THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY: OFFICES OF INSTRUCTIONS

The Offices of Instruction, found in our prayer book on pp 283-295 and 571-576, are there to teach candidates for Baptism and Confirmation the most basic aspects of the Christian life. They are also there to remind us all of the need to renew and edify ourselves in the Christian life through a method called “catechism,” a term taken from the Greek *katecheo*, meaning to sound towards, sound down upon, resound, to charm with resounding sound, to fascinate; to teach orally, to instruct; to inform by word of mouth; to be orally informed. Taken in context with how it's used, it paints a picture of how the Church has always trained its members—by oral instruction. The interactive method here emphasizes the need for both initial and continuing Christian development. No wonder St. Paul, writing to St. Timothy, taught him to “study to show thyself approved.” The word “study” means to exert one's self, endeavor, give diligence and is taken from a root word that means to “foot,” or place ourselves at the teacher's feet. Deuteronomy 6:5-7 amplifies it: You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” The love of the Lord and His Word in our hearts implies fascination with and discussion of His commandments to us via Scripture. Unfortunately, some think we have all we need when we've grasped the rudiments found in the Offices. Not so. The truth is the catechism is the first in a lifelong corporate learning process needed to grow in the Lord—and something we offer to all our members in Sunday School, Koinonia, Bible Study, and other ministries. If you're not part of the corporate learning process—pray about joining!

THE MOUNTAIN OF UNBELIEF

by Ellen Dass

Warning! Parable enclosed!

Our Lord Jesus spoke his messages in parables so that his audience could understand the lessons. Unfortunately, his disciples were always confused and asked him to clarify the message as it pertained to them. He always rebuked them for being ignorant or unbelieving. Today, I present a parable, but instead of being in the third person it is in first person. It is intended for you to recognize yourself and the weakness in which you walk.

Psalm 116:1-2 perfectly covers what we need to remember in our daily lives: "I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live." We don't come to the Lord on our knees and accept him as our Savior because he ignores us. We come because we recognize we have a God-sized hole in our lives.

We believe we are saved. We hang onto our faith, but sometimes in our walk we are bombarded by disbelief and questions. There are two ways we can go with it. We can be like the apostles in Luke 17:5, "and the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith," or we can lose our faith and return from whence we came, into the darkness.

The Mountain of Unbelief

Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me! For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me!

John 8:43-45 NLT

It spans the horizon from left to right. It towers so high it covers the sun and moon. The surface: craggy and pitted with sharp precipices and sharper ravines. The surface rocks can pierce the flesh, shred clothes, and puncture the toughest climbing boots. The insurmountable mountain; woe is me to be blocked by disbelief.

For we walk by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV

I moan and bewail my tragedy; a still small voice speaks. As I am crying louder, pleading, begging; again it speaks. Raising the volume on my pity party I nearly screech out my prayer. "Mercy! Mercy! Lo, I have erred! Behold this impassable mountain of disbelief! I fear! I struggle! Lord! I hear not your voice! What sin have I committed to blot you from my senses?!?!"

In the midst of voluminous sobbing, again speaks the still small voice: "Arise my child, for I am with you."

Again, I gnash my teeth. "Lord! You have forsaken me at the foot of this mountain! I have prostrated myself for your sake! Free me from this bondage!"

Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1 Kings 19:11-13

"Mountain Unbelief" continued from pg. 4

Again speaks the still small voice. "Arise my child, for I am with you."

Peering at the mountain, fear sets back in. "Lo, my Lord. Have you not seen this mountain at which you have forsaken me?! How do you say to me: arise? Have you not noticed the path I walked alone, that caused me to stumble and fall here Lord? Woe is me! Woe! It is thy will Lord that caused me to be stranded here. Thy will, Lord, not mine."

"Arise."

"Thy will Lord, thy will...but, my strength. I cannot rise my Lord. I am struck! You have cursed me!"

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding

Proverbs 3:5

"Arise, for I am with you. My father sent me as a sacrifice for you and I obeyed. You too, shall obey, not by the flesh, but by the Spirit. **ARISE!**"

"Yes... my Lord."

Arising with eyes closed in fear, dusting off tender bleeding flesh pricked by the stones. Reluctantly my eyes are opened. No longer is the horizon engulfed by the mountain. To the left I see plains, forests, rivers, and oceans. To the right, the same. Looking up I see the heavens, the stars, clouds, sun, and the moon. Looking down, a mere anthill at my feet.

I stand, bewildered yet relieved, unable to believe my eyes. What happened to that insurmountable mountain, of which a mere touch would render wounds? What happened to that fear that paralyzed me? The weight upon my flesh was lifted as a sense of freedom began to overtake me.

"As you stumbled over the obstacle placed by the Father of Lies, your eyes were clouded. Your perception became skewed. All you could see was the end of your nose as you lay prostrate, too fearful to trust me. That anthill is your mountain. Each lie whispered in your ear, you accepted as truth and your mountain grew. With each blink of your eyes you became blind to me. It was not I that blotted my presence from your senses."

How often have we blamed God for our unwillingness to be open to Him and to obey Him? I know for me it is far too often. I frequently allow myself to fall victim to the temptation to be powered by "Power of ME," not "Power of HE." Occasionally, God the Father is kind enough to remind me. Other times he lets me stick my fingers into the electrical socket. When we wake, let us remember Ephesians 6:10-18:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

Also, if you're musically inclined, I highly recommend searching out Chris Tomlin's Come Home Running. But take the time to step over that anthill.

LARKSPUR SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

by Bill Wimp

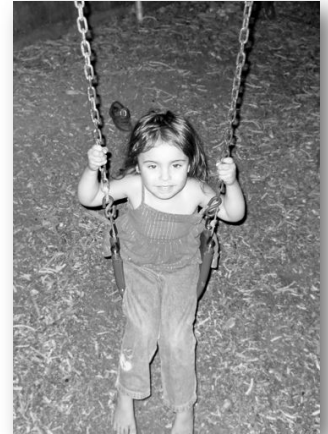
All Saints delivered a sizeable donation of school supplies to bless the first day of school at Larkspur Elementary on August 22. As usual, our church family was very generous. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies to make this outreach effort a success. We're making a difference in our community by serving God and sharing the love of Jesus with others. Thank you to [Carolyn Mayclin](#), [Terry Mayclin](#), [Gaya Hamilton](#), and Allen Hamilton for helping deliver the school supplies, and for praying over the supplies and the school.



STRONG FOUNDATION MINISTRIES

by Bill Wimp

This is a little girl who lives at Strong Foundation Ministries. Her name is Faith. How appropriate. Just seeing her smile and enjoy being pushed in a swing made my night. My prayer is that her life, and that of her family, can be transformed by the "Strong Foundation" that is Jesus Christ.



Come join our All Saints Men's Group, The Order of St. Timothy, and our wives as we spend "Kids Time" with the children of Strong Foundation Ministries while their parents are in recovery class. Our next outreach to Strong Foundation (414 N. Hackberry) will be Thursday, October 27 from 7:00-9:00pm.

2nd Blessing Thrift Shop

Daily Bread Ministries is pleased to announce that our "2nd Blessing Thrift Shop" is open for business!!!

3723 Blanco Road
(few blocks north of Fresno)

OPEN:
Mon-Sat
9am - 7pm

(210)
732-2255

16,000 sq. ft SHOPPING SPACE

100% of the profit goes to Daily Bread Ministries feed the hungry.

2ndblessingthriftshop.org

For Donation Pick-up, Please call 210-732-2255 or email Seth Kuehn at skuehn@dailybreadministries.org

ALL SAINTS FOOD PANTRY

The All Saints Food Pantry receives a majority of our food from Daily Bread Ministries (a Christian food bank). The food we receive is typically perishable and must be frozen or refrigerated. In order to supplement our pantry with non-perishable food staples, we are asking for donations.

The first Sunday of each month will be designated as "Food Pantry Donation Sunday." Each month a different a food staple that is needed to supplement our food pantry will be requested.

Sunday, October 2 is our next "Food Pantry Donation Sunday." Our donation request item for that Sunday is boxed cereal.



GET READY FOR THE ALL SAINTS FALL FESTIVAL!!!



Although the weather may not feel like fall, All Saints' annual Fall Festival will be here soon. The festival will take place on **Saturday, October 29th**.

The day will be filled with fun, food, and fellowship!

- Listen to some great music by talented artists at the **band festival** beginning at 10 AM. Father Chip has assembled an impressive array of musical talent from across the city to entertain festival goers.
- Eat, eat, eat. As always, there will be plenty of **delicious food**.
- Shop for great bargains at the **garage sale**—you're bound to find treasures in what someone else considered trash.
- Kids will enjoy face painting, a moon bounce, and other fun **children's activities**.
- **Vendors** will offer an enticing variety of arts and crafts, books, and other things you can't live without.
- **Fellowship** as you spend a delightful day on the grounds with the All Saints family.

For the first time, we will be offering **sponsorships** for any of the activities. The names of sponsors will be listed on the activities they sponsor. You can choose one of three levels of sponsorship:

- Silver level: \$25.00
- Gold level: \$75.00
- Platinum level: \$150.00

The Fall Festival is only a few weeks away, so start getting ready!

- If you have any artistic ability, **volunteer to do face painting**.
- If you or someone you know does arts or crafts or has something to sell, **sign up for a vendor booth** (or spread the word). The cost of a booth/table is only \$25.00.
- Do a little fall housecleaning and **gather items to donate for the garage sale**.
- **Volunteer** to help—the festival is a huge endeavor, and it will take a lot of folks participating to make it a success.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Carter Dreesman or Barry Kowald at

events@allsaintsanglican.net.

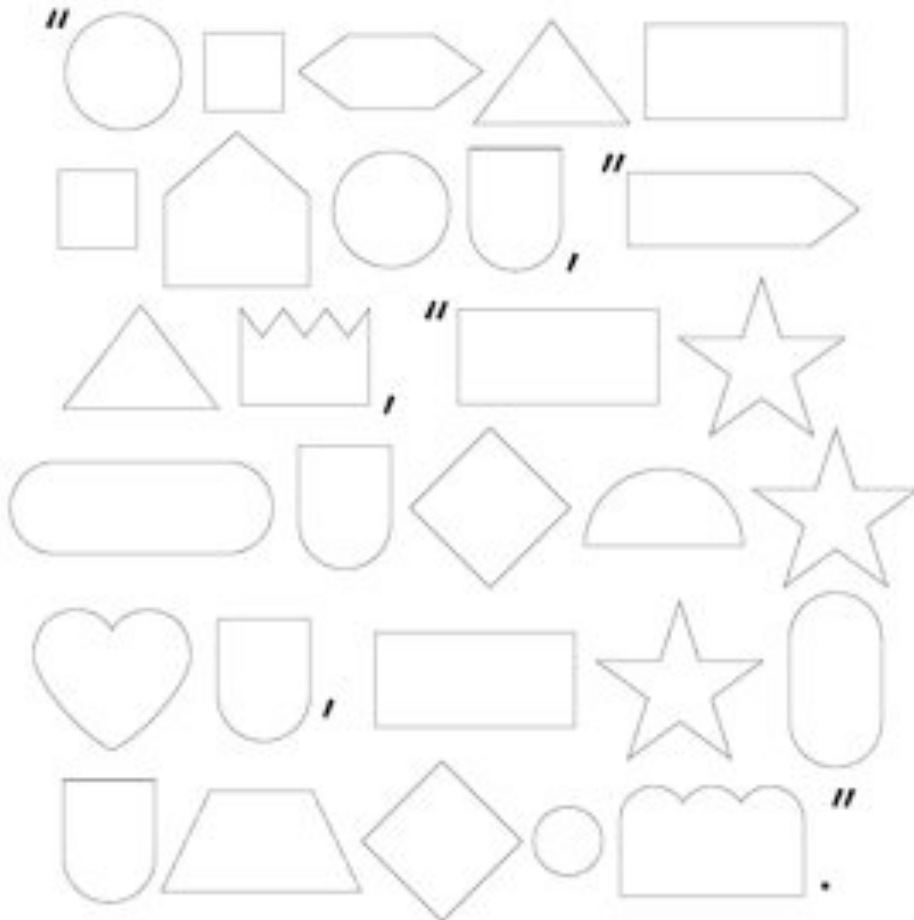
KID'S CORNER



GOD'S PLAN

When we ask God for guidance, he will show us his perfect plan for our lives.

Directions: Use the shape code to the right to write out Jeremiah 29:11, NIV.



Answers: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

A daily reminder

Make this bookmark to remind you that God is with you every day.

What you need:

- An old calendar
- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Glue stick
- Pencil or marker
- Stickers
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn



What you do:

1. Cut out the first line of squares from an old calendar, including the days of the week along the top.
2. Cut the cardstock into a rectangle a little larger than the calendar section.
3. Glue the calendar section onto the cardstock.
4. Write "God has plans for me" (Jeremiah 29:11) on the bookmark.
5. Add stickers or other decorations on the back.
6. Punch a hole on one end of the bookmark.
7. Loop some ribbon or yarn through the hole.



MAN PLANS...GOD LAUGHS

by Jason Dass

I was helping my buddy Dwight set up for a show downtown when we started talking about our wives. Dwight said he couldn't figure out how he ended up with such a kind, loving, beautiful wife. And it got me wondering how I ended up in the same situation! Dwight said: "God must really love me.... Or have a really strange sense of humor." My immediate response was to agree with God having a strange sense of humor. We are two chubby, bearded guys living in a world where being chubby and bearded would normally exclude us from having mates at all, much less attractive, loving mates. But that is when I really started thinking about God's sense of humor.

As I was driving home from work tonight, I was looking forward to getting home, relaxing, and getting some chow in me. Then God decided it's high time He poked His head in to disrupt my plans. Hence: Man plans, God laughs. I started thinking, God has an awesome sense of humor. But how many people know that? I'm blessed with a church family that is well aware of it, but a lot of Christians I've met have yet to figure that out.

Maybe they're caught up in the Old Testament passages where God is raining down punishment on a disillusioned and disobedient Israel. Maybe. But I think many people spend a lot of time thinking about how God is teaching them by poking them in the eye or giving them a little smack on the nose. They forget that He loves us. And if you love someone, you want to laugh with them. We spend so much time taking ourselves so seriously that we forget how silly we are. Just listen to me speak in pretty much any social situation. I stumble over my words, use words that don't make sense

(and most of the time I'm totally unaware of it), or just lose my train of thought mid-word. It's silly. Maybe it's because I'm Irish. Everything really is quite funny. And you think God wouldn't know this?

Take the platypus, for instance. It's some weird cross between a duck, beaver, and something with poison spurs. POISON SPURS! Would you look at an oddball creature that most people make fun of and think of as being cursed and expect poison spurs? I wouldn't. Now, I've gotta point out that the first person to find those things wasn't laughing very hard. Well, maybe, if they were Irish. They would laugh later at what seems to be the absolute absurdity of it and at their foolishness for not checking the thing for built-in weapons in the first place. I would, after I got done writhing in mind-numbing agony.

Now, let's take it a step further. Try to look at yourself the way God does. When I do this, I see a bumbling child absolutely delighted at discovering that there's something beyond my nose. AND IT MOVES!!! The whole world is a spinning, barely (if at all) comprehensible mass of things we really don't have a solid grasp on. But we claim to know it all. Oh, we can identify cells, cell components, atoms, protons, neutrons, electrons, quarks, gluons, and all sorts of interesting things. And we try to think our way through it. Then we argue because our way has to be right. Right? Then we kill each other. We commit foolish, stupid, ignorant, and sometimes evil acts, all in the name of being right. Then God picks us up, sets us on our feet, and watches us blunder to the coffee table and knock something else over. If you've got kids, you've gotta see the humor in that situation.

And look at our theories. We've got so many ideas that we can barely make sense of them. Evolution? Possible, maybe even probable, within a small, isolated community utterly separate from everything else. But on a large scale....There's a reason it's still a theory, folks. String, Superstring, Quantum Mechanics/ Foam and other assorted theories. They're genius! And we can't verify them. Ever watch a kid try to stuff a square peg through a round hole over and over again and catch yourself laughing? I do.

Then there's the other reason He laughs. Like when your child finds the square hole after hours of trying to make it fit. You laugh with joy. You are absolutely delighted that they learned. You think it's any different for God when we figure out that all we have to do is ask and He'll grant us eternal life along with a bucketful of other benefits? When we figure it out, nothing delights Him more. And He laughs. As much time as He spends heartbroken over our refusal to acknowledge Him, or our outright hatred of Him in some cases, I think He spends just as much time laughing with joy in His heart whether it's with us when we misstep and chuckle about it, or when we learn more of Him and His joy is beyond imagining.

You see, folks, God laughs. A lot. It's not all fire, brimstone and condemnation. In fact, most of the time, it's not. God's just waiting for us to open our hearts so He can laugh with us, share in our joy, and make a new creature from the broken things we pieced together ourselves. Go ahead, laugh with Him. It's delightful. And your life will be much the better for it.

The All Saints Epistle is published by All Saints Anglican Church ~ 11122 Link Dr., San Antonio, TX 78213 ~ 210-344-1920. We welcome submissions from all of our Parish members! Articles and news submissions should be sent to epistle@allsaintsanglican.net no later than the 15th of each month.