

A blog article recently posted by my friend, The Rev. Dr. Kirk Neely, in Spartanburg, SC.

The Truth is a Beautiful Thing

Sir Walter Scott, the famous Scottish author, wrote, "Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!"

The people of the United States are currently enduring what may well be one of the most contentious periods in American history. Approval ratings for the representatives of both political parties indicate widespread distrust by the citizens of our country. There is an overload of blaming and name-calling on every side.

Most historians agree that the first casualty of war is the truth. Truth has certainly been a casualty of this political climate.

My mother's punishment of choice was to wash out my mouth with yellow Octagon soap whenever I said a bad word, spoke ugly to or about another person, or told a lie. She often repeated my granny's refrain, "The truth is a beautiful thing." Granny was using a quote commonly attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson.

I recall a scene in the motion picture *A Few Good Men*. One exchange between actors Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson becomes especially heated. Nicholson, a marine colonel, is testifying in a military court-martial. Cruise is an attorney in the Navy. The two men yell at each other.

"I want the truth!"

"You can't handle the truth."

Then, as so often happens, the truth comes out.

I was taught that the ninth commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness," was more than a courtroom rule. It was for everyday life. Before I ever saw an episode of *Perry Mason* or *Matlock* on television, I was taught to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me, God. My grandfather used to say, "Always tell the truth even when it hurts, and a lot of times it will."

More than the continuous friction that produces more heat than light, the thing that bothers me most about our current political discourse is the poor example being set for young Americans. Has disregard for the truth become our national norm? Or does the first point of the Boy Scout Law hold any sway? A scout is, first of all, trustworthy.

One of the most intriguing guests to appear on the television program *To Tell the Truth* was Frank Abagnale. The show featured Gary Moore as host and regular panelists Bill Cullen, Kitty Carlisle, and Peggy Cass. Three contestants, all claiming to be the same person, were brought onstage. Only one was telling the truth; the other two were not. The panel was to discern, by asking questions, who was truthful and who was lying. When Frank Abagnale appeared as a guest on the program in 1977, he was the truth-teller. He was, however, the greatest imposter of them all.

Frank Abagnale wrote *Catch Me If You Can: The True Story of A Real Fake*, his autobiography. In the Steven Spielberg movie based on the book, Leonardo De Caprio plays the part of Frank. When this true crime story first



appeared in print in 1980, it made the list of best sellers in The New York Times Book Review.

In a period of five years, Frank Abagnale passed \$2.5 million in fraudulent checks in every state and 26 foreign countries. He did it by perpetrating one scam after another. He impersonated an airline pilot traveling around the world in the cockpit of jets, even taking over the controls. He also played the role of a pediatrician and faked his way into the position of temporary resident supervisor at a hospital in Georgia. Posing as a lawyer, he passed the Louisiana bar exam and conned his way into a position in the State Attorney General's office. He taught a semester of college-level sociology with a fake degree from Columbia University.

In reality, Frank was a teenage high school dropout following his parent's divorce. At first, his con game was a matter of survival. Then he became enamored with the challenge and the ego trip that came with playing important men. Both the book and the movie treat with humor his years of impersonations, swindles, and felonies. Abagnale was arrested and convicted of his crimes. He was released from prison after five years on the condition that he would cooperate with the government apprehending counterfeiters.

Most of us have taken our share of true-false quizzes during our school years. The simple fact is, we take them every day. Mark Twain said, "Lying is mankind's most universal weakness."

While those who are paid to do fact-checking of our politicians are busy trying to keep up with an avalanche of falsehoods, half-truths, or misleading statements, the rest of us have an obligation to model truthfulness and honesty for our children and grandchildren. That is not always easy. Consider the predicament of one pastor trying to teach his children the Biblical admonition to speak the truth in love.

The pastor had been trying diligently to teach his two children, an eight-year-old son and a six-year-old daughter, to tell the truth. One Sunday, after the morning worship service, his children were by his side when an elderly woman from the congregation presented him with a homemade cake. He took the cake home where his wife engaged him in conversation.

"Who made the cake?" she asked.

"Mrs. Hawthorne. It's her famous red velvet cake," the pastor replied.

"We won't be able to eat it," his wife said. "Just throw it away."

"Why can't we eat it?" the surprised reverend asked.

"It will be full of cat hair. You've been in her home. She has five or six cats. They walk all over the kitchen counters. She calls it red velvet cake, but it's actually a cat hair cake."

The skeptical pastor cut the cake. His children eagerly watched. Sure enough, the cake was full of cat hair. The thick icing was laced with feline fur. Even the red velvet cake was loaded with kitty fuzz. The disappointed children sighed. The sullied confection was tossed into the trash.

The following Sunday, the children were again standing by their father's side as he greeted people at the church door. Mrs. Hawthorne asked, "Preacher, did you like that red velvet cake?"

Now the pastor was in a quandary. Fully aware that his children were listening for his answer, the quick-thinking dad responded, "I'll tell you the truth, Mrs. Hawthorne. A cake like that just doesn't last very long around our house!"

The truth really is a beautiful thing.

Shared by Fr. Bill+

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd York, South Carolina				
6 months ending 6/30/19				
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance
INCOME				
Pledge Income	176,000.00	99,089.00	88,000.00	11,089.00
Plate Offerings	3,500.00	1,745.50	1,750.00	(4.50)
Special Offerings	3,460.00	1,716.00	1,730.00	(14.00)
Interest Income	40.00	18.67	20.00	(1.33)
TOTAL INCOME	183,000.00	102,569.17	91,500.00	11,069.17
EXPENDITURES				
Worship & Parish Ministry	94,634.00	44,094.98	47,317.00	3,222.02
Diocesan Pledge	27,748.00	13,876.00	13,874.00	(2.00)
Mission & Outreach	1,200.00	600.00	600.00	-
Christian Formation & Continuing Education	450.00	366.00	225.00	(141.00)
Facility Costs	52,268.00	28,374.04	26,134.00	(2,240.04)
Supplies & Miscellaneous	6,700.00	3,272.73	3,350.00	77.27
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	183,000.00	90,583.75	91,500.00	916.25
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	-	11,985.42	-	11,985.42

June operating activity resulted in a surplus of \$3,226. Year-to-date surplus is \$11,985. For the six month period ending June 30th, income is running favorable to plan at 56% while income is right about at plan levels at 49.5%. Market upswing has helped increase invested funds. Total funds at June 30 net of the Legacy loan balance equal \$389,865. Loan balance is approximately \$51k. Major expense payments coming up this summer are organ repair (funded by a donation already in hand) and painting of the sanctuary (to be paid from our capital fund). Thanks to all for keeping your pledge payments current during the summer months.

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

June, July and August — One service at 10:00am

We will return to our schedule on September 8th:
8:30 Said Service & 11:00am Choral Service

**DO YOU NEED COMMUNION BROUGHT TO YOU?
CALL THE OFFICE OR SPEAK TO FATHER BILL.**

OFFICE: 803-684-4021

FATHER BILL: 803-818-8257



**Sunday August 25th has been designated
as Bena Dial Scholarship Sunday.**

The loose offering on that day will be used by our Diocesan ECW to provide college scholarships to young people in our Diocese seeking to attend 2 or 4 year institutions of higher learning. Please be generous.

Our Painting Project

*The interior of the Nave and Sanctuary
is being repainted.*

*We may have some inconveniences, but
it will lead to a newly refreshed worship
space.*

*Please bear with us as the result will be
beautiful!*



Safe Church Training

There will be a Safe Church Training at Our Saviour, Rock Hill, on Thursday August 8th at 10am to 2pm. If you have not had this training or need to be re-certified, please attend if at all possible. If you are unsure if you need to attend, call the church office.

Call or email the office to be registered to attend. Lunch is provided.
Call at 803-684-4021; email at thegoodshepherd@comporium.net.



It's sooo hot outside I thought I'd give you a taste of something cool — crocus in the snow!!!

Summer is ending and fall will soon be here. Hope you've had a really good summer filled with family, friends and fun.

Antiques, Artisans & More is Coming!!

August 23 and 24 from 9 – 4 each day

The time for our annual Summerfest celebration is fast approaching and behind the scenes plans have been in high gear. We have many vendors coming in for the show and hope that you will visit and support their booths. We will need lots of help the days of the show in the following areas; kitchen, greeters, parking lot help, table clean-up, bake sale – both helpers and bakers, and more. Sign-up sheets will be available soon in the parish hall. Please consider signing up for one or more shifts.

We will again have our own Treasures booth which has been very successful in past years. If you have donations for the booth, they can be left in the classroom across from the parish hall, if you have items for consignment, please speak with Elaine Ness, chair of this booth. If you consign an item, Good Shepherd will keep 30% and you will receive 70% of the sale price.

All types of baked goods will be needed for the bake sale.

There will also be an Art Show during the event. Local artists will display and have their paintings for sale.

This is a fun event and everyone can get involved in one way or another. Please wear your Good Shepherd name tag if you are helping out during the show. We thank you in advance for your willingness to help out.

Jill (803-372-2433) and Randy Neff (803-367-6330) are the event chairs.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Randy Neff	8/3
Sara Whitehead	8/4
Wendy Beers	8/6
Ike Waters	8/9
Phylcia Burley	8/10
Wendy Duda	8/11
Bobbie Hawkins	8/12
Corbett Gibson	8/12
Mary Beth Tiblier	8/18
Elaine Ness	8/21
Henry McMaster	8/28
Marietta Morrison	8/30
Meade Wilson	8/31
Craig Wilkerson	8/31

Anniversaries

Sharon & Bill Greeley	8/16/1975
Maxi & John Mark Shiflet	8/28/2010
Becky & Don Kidwell	8/29/1986
Wendy & John Duda	8/30/1968
Joyce & Bob Ballard	8/31/1957

(If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please call or email the parish office with the information.)

2019 Vestry Members

Ron Carter, Junior Warden

Home: 803-324-0466

Cell: 803-323-8161

Email: rongailrhsc@comporium.net

Sudy Dressler

Home: 803-684-2494

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Susan Ferguson

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Randy Neff

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Michael Weinzierl

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Meade Wilson, Senior Warden

Cell: 704-641-1288

Email: meadewilson70@gmail.com

Selina Woodard

Cell: 803-579-3747

Email: selina.woodard.2011@gmail.com

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR GOOD SHEPHERD

Second Sunday: Finance Committee

The Committee will meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at Noon in the Conference Room, unless otherwise notified.

Fourth Sunday: Vestry Meeting

The Vestry's meeting time in August will be August 25th at 11:15 am in the Conference Room.

STAFF

Barbara Wilson, Parish Coordinator

Cell: 704-641-0302

Email: bwallwilson@gmail.com

Randy Neff, Treasurer

Home: 803-684-2251

Cell: 803-367-6330

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Hazel Somerville, Music Coordinator

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Lilly Duncan, Parish Nurse

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The Rev'd Dr. P. William Greeley

Priest in Charge

Cell: 803-818-8257

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Church of the Good Shepherd

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Office Phone: (803) 684-4021

General email: thegoodshepherd@comporium.net

Office Hours: 9am to Noon Monday through Thursday

ALTAR GUILD FOR AUGUST

Jean Comins, Jeanne Ferguson, Carol
Lassiter & Mindy McCrae

PENTECOST 8 **AUGUST 4**

9:30-11:30 Coffee & Donuts
Hosts: Susan & Tracy Ferguson

10:00am LEM John Duda
Acolytes: April & Heidi Weinzierl
Lector (Lessons & POP): Selena Woodard
Ushers: Michael Weinzierl & Meade Wilson
Greeter: Beatrice w/Michael Weinzierl
Alms: John Duda & Randy Neff

Vestry Person: Michael Weinzierl

PENTECOST 10 **AUGUST 18**

9:30-11:30 Coffee & Donuts
Host: Wendy Beers

10:00am LEM Ron Carter
Acolytes: Eli & Seth Elam
Lector (Lessons & POP): Lori Ray
Ushers: John Duda & Randy Neff
Greeters: Beatrice w/ John Duda
Alms: Ron Carter & Jim Knubel

Vestry Person: Selina Woodard

PENTECOST 9 **AUGUST 11**

9:30-11:30 Coffee & Donuts
Host: John Love

10:00am LEM Henry McMaster
Acolytes: Emily & Brooklyn Thielbar
Lector (Lessons & POP): John Shiflet
Ushers: Debbie & John Shiflet
Greeter: Beatrice w/John Shiflet
Alms: Libby Bradford & Glenn Gilbert

Vestry Person: Meade Wilson

PENTECOST 11 **AUGUST 25**

9:30-11:30 Coffee & Donuts
Hosts: Thressa & Scott Elam

10:00am LEM Glenn Gilbert
Acolytes: Aydan & McKenna Lawler
Lector (Lessons & POP): Michael Weinzierl
Ushers: Gail & Ron Carter
Greeter: Beatrice w/Ron Carter
Alms: Henry McMaster & John McNeely

Vestry Person: Ron Carter

**IF YOU ARE SCHEDULED, BUT ARE
NOT ABLE TO SERVE, PLEASE FIND A
SUB FOR YOURSELF. THANK YOU!!!**