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## Church of the Advent

*Celebrating 150 Years*

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### THE HAY WAGON, DUCATI SINGLE AND CALUMET FARM

The borrowed 250 Ducati, even by late 1960's standards, was seriously challenged. Its single cylinder seemed reluctant to stay awake, and though it generally fired when prompted by the throttle, more than infrequently it seemed to fall back asleep midst cycle. Riding south of Lexington, the only way to get above 60 MPH was to fully open the throttle as cresting a rise in the serpentine two-lane road, lay down flat (head marginally protected by a floral "brain bucket"), then hell-for-leather on the down slope, and hope! Contrary to some other motorcycle depictions, this two-wheel presentation was anything but intimidating, and actually verged on the absurd.

Late as usual riding from my job in Kentucky Corrections to undergraduate class twenty-five miles from work, I kept the throttle fully opened up, and down the twisting crests and vales. Some ten miles from campus, I noticed in the single cracked mirror, a hay wagon, methodically, menacingly, gaining on me. Laid out flat, throttle wide open, on a protracted down slope, the Ducati was doing all it could to keep both of us off the truck bumper. There were no shoulders on that road, just ditches, hedgerows, and periodic crude cutoffs to dirt paths in between miles of iconic white-fence defined fields. As the maniacal hay wagon was but yards from turning bike and me into hood ornaments, I spied a cutoff, jumped the ditch, and landed in a crumpled heap, actually in somewhat better shape than the Ducati. I never saw the driver of the truck through the tobacco smoke clouded windows, but I fervently hope he saw my raised "digit of distain."

Catching breath and picking up bike, I saw on the opposite side of my landing zone a well-paved lane leading up to a substantial complex. The Ducati and I hobbled up that immaculate road flanked on either side by pristine white fences and manicured fields, up to the entrance of a massive horse barn masquerading as a mansion. Leaving the bike laid out on roadside, I entered the "horse mansion" and called out a greeting. The only response was for a dozen or more absolutely magnificent thoroughbreds to poke their heads out of stalls, seemingly wondering who was this interloping alien intruder. Walking farther into the cool shade, I was

eventually greeted by the sole human occupant, a stable hand, who agreed to let me use a phone hanging on a wall next to an office door. As I placed the call for a pickup, I asked the stable hand my location. I will never forget his imperious response: “You sir, are at Calumet Farm.”

The light bulb went on! In my fear and relief over an almost intimate meeting with the hay wagon of death, I was totally oblivious to the fact that I had landed at the only horse farm in the world to have won both the Hambletonian (first leg of the Trotting Triple Crown), the Kentucky Derby (first leg of the Thoroughbred Triple Crown), and almost 600 other trophies. The looming hay wagon had obscured my initial appreciation and wonder of an unescorted, never to be repeated walk through the Calumet Farm horse barn!

And the point? There seems to be an almost universal foible when amidst a struggle for survival, be it business, family, emotional, financial, physical, or other critical challenge, to become so immersed in that immediate struggle that all sense of context, larger vision, and situational awareness is lost. Rather than sharpening tactics and strategy necessary to surmount such engaged survival threats, the exclusive, myopic focus upon the immediate challenge at hand can blind one to resources and options, cutting off access to critical reserves just when they are required most.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Manual defines six barriers to situational awareness, three of which stand out in this discussion: “excessive motivation, overload, and fatigue”. When caught up in a perceived survival threat, the classic Type A personality is especially at risk for these three blinders. Typically such driven, competitive people are extremely motivated to surmount obstacles to achieving their goal but not necessarily adept at taking their own pulse amidst the heat of engaging such challenges. Admitting to overload and/or fatigue may be seen as admitting weakness and giving an antagonist an opening to exploit. Ironically there are circumstances when a “stand down” to reflect and regroup is a vastly more successful tactic than simply continuing on “hammering the same rock with the same hammer.” Some clinicians suggest that these three barriers are at the heart of certain extraordinarily driven and determined individuals’ development of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Further, not only can such myopia limit essential threat evaluation and decision-making, it can preclude joy. As counter intuitive as that significance seems on first glance, it is often the experience of serendipitous joy that not only enlivens one at a time of great challenge and stress, but it can also be experiences of unexpected delight, beauty, and pleasure that actually re-inspire, re-energize, and re-ignite creative problem solving.

Openness to unanticipated joy breaking through the press of the moment can allow in the breath of fresh air that can enable one to rejoin the fray with renewed vigor and determination.

Hay wagons vs. Ducati singles abound in all of our personal and professional lives. The Calumets of life are replete as well. Beware lest the seeming

survival threat and demand of the former blind to the enriching, enlivening, refreshing delight of the latter.

## **UNITED THANK OFFERING**

The United Thank Offering (UTO) in the Episcopal Church is a way we thank God for the many blessings that we appreciate. All of the money collected goes toward missions and ministries in the Episcopal Church. In 2017, 47 grants, totaling \$1,169,969.55, were awarded to 34 Episcopal Church ministries and companion relationships, four international dioceses and provinces, and one to continue supporting our missionaries.

The Diocese of Arizona Companion Diocese of Jerusalem, in Zarka, Jordan, received funds to renovate the building used to educate youth in that area. The Diocese of Spain, in Pamplona, Spain received a grant to purchase and renovate a building that will provide a safe place for young people in the northern region of Spain. In Greenville, South Carolina, money will be used to adapt the nationally recognized “Thistle” Model, to achieve economic stability for women who have been abused. In Richmond, Virginia, UTO funds are being used to install an elevator, accessible bathrooms, and walkways, which are needed to aid an aging congregation. In the Navajoland Area Mission, also in Virginia, money is being used to purchase video equipment to record the beauty of the land, where this seminary is located, so it can be shared with others. The equipment will also be used to take footage of the “Blue Corn” program, making these programs and their benefits more available to the public. “If You Really Knew Me”, a series of conversations being facilitated in the Diocese of southeast Florida, has been granted funds to continue improving knowledge of the lack of diversity in that region. In the Diocese of Southern Ohio, the Union of Black Episcopalians is using grant money for young adult leadership development.

These programs are just a few examples of where this year’s UTO is being used. Much of it is benefiting youth as well as minorities. As it seemed to be a “reoccurring” theme of our congregation, as voiced in our meeting recently, this is an excellent time to reaffirm our commitment to give back, and help those who might not be as fortunate as we. Thank you for taking those UTO envelopes that are being provided. Please return them with a generous offering, thanking God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us.

*Karann Murphy*

### *Notes from the ECM*

The next breakfast meeting of the ECM will be Tuesday June 5. The meeting begins at 8:30 AM, with coffee ready by 8:00 AM. The cost is \$5.00 and all men of the parish are invited.

## **ISLAND BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club will not meet during the summer. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 11.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP**

Our Sunday school Scholarship is available to high school seniors who would like to continue their education, either in vocational or college level programs. If you are interested in being considered for this award, please email Mrs. Bourgeau at [bourgeau3@msn.com](mailto:bourgeau3@msn.com) and give a brief summary of your educational plans. Those who have already received this award may be eligible for a supplemental award as they continue their education. These students also should send a brief message to [bourgeau3@msn.com](mailto:bourgeau3@msn.com) describing their educational goals.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Plans are underway for Vacation Bible School at Church of the Advent. The dates are July 30 to August 3, 2018 and it will be held from 6:00 TO 8:00 PM. If you would like to be a part of the VBS adventure this year, please contact the church office at 884-3065 or [adventsecretary@comcast.net](mailto:adventsecretary@comcast.net). Many small tasks go into creating a successful event, so please do not hesitate to share your talents and interests! We begin our serious planning this month.

**THE NEXT VESTRY MEETING IS SUNDAY, JUNE 24 AT NOON IN THE UPPER ROOM**

## ANNUAL JUNE LUNCHEON

The ECW is sponsoring the annual June Luncheon for all church members. Each person may invite one guest. The Luncheon will be held Tuesday, June 12, at Noon at the Washington Inn. The cost is \$20.00 with entree choices of Delicately Sauteed Chicken Breast Topped with a Pecan Beurre Blanc Sauce with Roasted Red and Green Grapes or Plancha Seared Mahi Mahi Topped with a Light Lemon Butter Sauce, Tomatoes and Capers. There is a sign-up list in the back of the church or contact Carol Obligado (898-9699) or [cobligado@aol.com](mailto:cobligado@aol.com) by June 5.



## SID HICKS FUND

Parishioners are reminded that funds are available to partially defray the cost of education and learning activities, such as dance, music and art lessons, sports camps, and other developmental pursuits in the spirit of Sid Hicks' legacy to enrich children's lives. Contact Marrie Cassidy or any Outreach Committee member to learn more.

## ANNUAL CHOIR CAMP

Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey and Church of the Advent, the program's focus is on learning to use the gift of our voices and enjoy the art of singing. It is open to all youth ages 10 and up, whatever their faith home. The camp begins on Sunday, July 15 and ends on Thursday, July 19 with an Evensong service, to which the community is invited. For day students the camp will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 5:00 PM. The fee for the week is \$50 (scholarships are available). Students or parents who are interested should contact the church office (884-3065).

## **SUMMER OUTREACH PROJECT**

The Outreach summer project will be "Let's Bag It", which is specific food collection for the Presbyterian Church Food Bank. On June 17 we will distribute grocery bags with a list of needed items. Please fill the bag and return it and we will continue filling bags all summer. Our past record was 100 bags! Let's beat this record.

### **"Let's Bag It" Items needed:**

Laundry detergent

Shampoo

Paper towels

Box spaghetti or pasta

Peanut butter and jelly

Canned soup

Tuna

Canned corn, green beans, peas

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RECOGNITION**

Join us on Sunday, June 10, at the 10:30 service when we recognize the dedication of our Sunday school teachers. During the course of the year our Sunday school teachers have taken on the responsibility of teaching and leading our youth with Bible stories, projects, even a Christmas pageant. Now is the time to recognize these faithful volunteers.

## **PASTORAL CARE TEAM**

Join us on Sunday, June 17, at the 10:30 service when we recognize the dedication of our Pastoral Care Team. This group of parishioners serve all year by visiting and offering communion at local nursing homes, hospital and to our shut-in parishioners. Now is the time to recognize these faithful volunteers.

## **FIVE MARKS OF MISSION**

### **“Teach, Nurture, Baptize”**

In a previous article in the *Anchor* the *Five Marks of Mission* -to which our diocese has subscribed - were briefly described. Here, we consider Marks of Mission 2—that we be a learning, praying, and teaching Christian enterprise to inform, dwell on and impart the “Good News” of Jesus Christ to new believers. This means prayerfully learning our story and spreading it to those beyond the walls of our church building. How can anyone learn unless he or she is told?

Before we can tell our story to others, we must learn it for ourselves. We must dwell on the scriptures to learn about our religion, and we must study the history of our branch of the “Jesus Movement.” Through study and reflection, *we must decide how these messages relate to ourselves and our ability to see every person as a child of God.*

“At the same time how can we share the Good News unless we go out into our world? From the Gospel according to John –Jesus prays to His Father, “As You sent me into the world, so have I sent them into the World.” Of course, he was speaking of His disciples; however, we are the successors to these original followers and *we have been sent!* Thus, it falls to us spread the good news. Since the inception of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, this task has fallen, increasingly, to the laity (there are more of us), supplementing the work of the clergy who are given authority to baptize those who profess their faith upon hearing and professing the Good News.

The time will come when we will find ourselves in an unexpected circumstance calling for the sharing of our faith. These situations provide the opportunity to tell the Good News, either by deed or word. We must recognize and nurture these encounters. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus will show us the way to act on His behalf. **Will we be prepared?**

*Corbin Cogswell*

## **JUNE CHURCH DINNER**

The next dinner of this season will be Saturday, June 23. The menu is Roast Beef. There is also a vegetarian entrée. All dinners include coffee, tea and homemade desserts. Guests are welcome to bring beer, wine or soda to accompany their meal.

Table service begins at 4:30 PM and continues until 7:00 PM. Take-out meals are also available. The cost is \$15.00 at the door (\$6.00 for children). If you purchase your tickets in advance, the price is \$13.00 (\$6.00 for children). Consider purchasing our 10-meal ticket for \$120.00 (a \$150.00 value).

The dessert offerings have become so popular and guests look forward to the selections offered. If you are willing to supply a dessert for Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, please contact Jo Ann Armstrong at 884-1829 or email at [joyankees7@gmail.com](mailto:joyankees7@gmail.com). Thank you for participating in this enjoyable event.



## **TIMES OF REFRESHING**

In the heat of summer's day  
The ground becomes parched and dry;  
Then God sends the refreshing showers,  
The earth begins to beautify.

Sometimes our heart grows troubled,  
We tire from the pressures of life;  
Our vice cries out to the Lord,  
Asking for peace amid the strife.

It's then that our Father answers  
And claims our anxiety,  
Sending a blessing that refreshes,  
Helping us His goodness to see.

As we keep our heart open  
In tune with the Father's will,  
He will come and refresh us,  
His promise to fulfill.

*Freda Dehoff*